



The September monthly meeting will be held at the Claude Pepper Building (3rd floor), which is on the corner of Duval and Gaines Street. Social begins at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

Also visit the TARS website at: www.k4tlh.org.

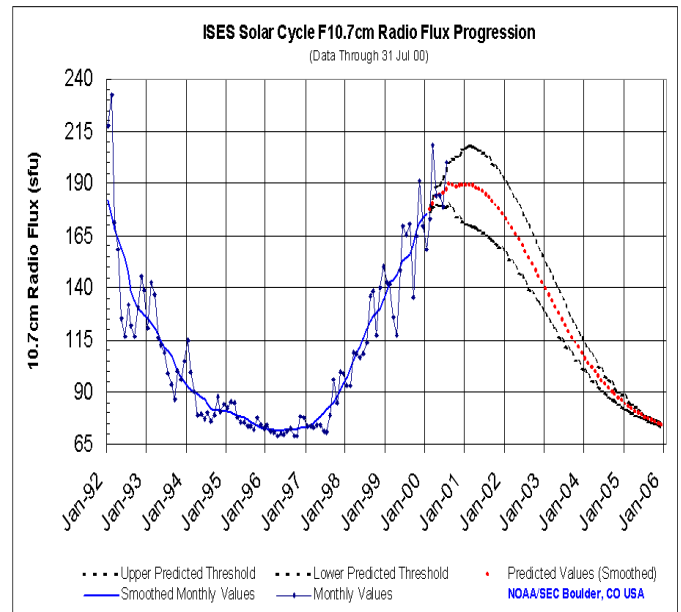
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF
TARS President

OK, remember last month's column, where I emphasized that we need to do what we can to protect our spectrum allocations from commercial interests? Well, just arriving in my e-mailbox was notice that the FCC has granted an experimental allocation to a San Diego, CA company on 2300-2305 MHz for a wireless Internet service. Amateur radio has a secondary allocation, the lower portion of 13 cm. The company is called ArrayComm, Inc., and the FCC issued them call sign WB2XIK. Write, e-mail, and call the FCC, ARRL, and your congresspersons to voice your opinion on this issue.

Summer is officially here, and things are really heating up, weather and radio-wise. Solar cycle 23 is in full swing, and from the looks of it, analysts are right on track predicating a peak in the cycle next Spring. For excellent information regarding Solar Cycle 23, and geomagnetic activity, take a

look at <http://www.spaceweather.com>, <http://sec.noaa.gov>, and of particular interest would be <http://sec.noaa.gov/radio>. You will find a plethora of information here, including cool charts and graphs like this one:



Events coming up soon include the Spaghetti 100, a one-day bicycle ride event with a 100-mile route covering the North Florida/South Georgia area in late October. The race begins in Miccosukee, Florida. Stay tuned to the Sunday night ARES net at 2000 hours on 146.655 for information regarding Spaghetti 100 event times and dates. Your participation is needed and would be greatly appreciated.

Also coming this month are the All Asian DX Contest (SSB), Worked All Europe (WAE) Contest

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(SSB), the ARRL VHF QSO Party, North American CW & SSB Sprints, and the 2000 6m Activity Contest, among others. A great resource for contesting information, if that's your gig, is <http://www.contesting.com>.

It seems to me that QSL-ing goes hand in hand with contesting, so Steve Welsh, AD4E, and Ken Reecy will present this month's program, AC4TO. They will present a topic that is somewhat elusive to me, QSL-ing to foreign stations. Information about routing QSLs through a QSL manager, or foreign bureau will be covered. Additionally, I recently found out about a benefit we have of being an ARRL affiliated club, which is sending our QSL cards to the ARRL bureau in bulk – and they will explain how this works.

This is a short column this month, as I've been busy; working the Lighthouses-on-the-Air event a few weekends ago, and last weekend, I was busy upgrading the Capital District ARES web site server. It looks like everything is working OK, so now I just have to get those update queries working and it will be in great shape. Look for an update in October's newsletter regarding Ham Radio in the area schools.

Until next month, 73!
Dave, KG4ACF
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CURRENT EVENTS

David Pienta, KG4DVW
TARS Vice-President

Two items of note:

An advanced SKYWARN class will be offered Sept. 28th at 7 p.m. in the Claude Pepper Building.

The National Weather Service was recently awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce's Silver Medal. This is the second highest award given by the agency. NWS won the award for the effort, teamwork and readiness related to the South

Georgia tornado outbreak in February. SKYWARN was mentioned in the letter that was sent to Washington. Both ARES and amateur radio were also thanked for their help. A copy of the letter will be posted soon on the TARS web site.

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AUGUST 3 MEETING MINUTES

Randall Bishop, KD6UAN
TARS Secretary

32 members in attendance and 2 guests: Palmer Carr, KK4UW, and Thomas Stull, KG4ISE.

Meeting called to order at 19:40

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report was available but one was printed in the newsletter.

Testing: Next testing session is on Sept. 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the State EOC.

The ARRL Newsletter addresses a change concerning the Morse code testing procedure. To pass the Morse code exam you have to have solid copy of 25 characters or fill in the blank questions. No more multiple guess questions. This policy will be in effect next July 1st (see page 4).

Repeaters: 146.91 is ready but needs to be installed. The weather was a factor the last time a crew was assembled to install the repeater. The six-meter repeater site has a problem with the antenna, and possibly some of the crystals.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Raising: No report

Club-owned equipment: Randy KD6UAN has donated space for the storage and collection and cataloging of the club-owned equipment. The suggestion was brought forward that the newsletter

should have a request for anyone who has club owned equipment to contact Randy and let him know about it. Randy can be reached at 402-0949 or by email at kd6uan@aol.com.

EVENTS

Lighthouse Keepers' Event: This event will be at the St Marks Lighthouse on Saturday the 5th of August. This event is to commemorate lighthouses through amateur radio. This is not really a contest but we will be trying to make contacts with as many other lighthouses as possible. John Reynolds AD4DO is sponsoring this event.

NEW BUSINESS

Sky Warn: Dave Pienta KG4DVW is starting and sponsoring both beginners and advanced SKYWARN classes and asked if anyone was interested in attending these classes.

July Minutes: The minutes for the July meeting were motioned and accepted.

E-groups web site: Jim Monaghan KE4HYQ has set up an account with e-groups for the club. This site provides online chat, a message base, and an archive base for old newsletters. The site is at <http://www.egroups.com/group/tars>.

Electronic distribution of the newsletter: A list of email addresses was collected of people who wanted to receive the TARS newsletter by e-mail. The people who agree to this would no longer receive a hard copy of the monthly newsletter, unless requested (see page 5).

The meeting was adjourned at 21:33.

NEW SOFTWARE PRODUCT FOR HAM RADIO OPERATORS Submitted by Steve Brown, KD5ON

DX Propagation Assistant for Windows offers the following great features.

1. World map display. As mouse is moved

across map, antenna bearing and range is constantly updated.

2. Click anywhere on map, and 24-hour propagation prediction is displayed.
3. Special 24-hour propagation prediction for simultaneous display to key worldwide QTH's.
4. QTH lookup by Prefix, QTH, Zone, Grid Square or 10-10# (USA only for 10-10#), & US callsign.
5. Print list of antenna bearings/range from your QTH.
6. US Callsign database (in MS Access format).
7. Over 400 detail Country, State and Province maps and associated fact pages.
8. Extensive prefix and prefix x-ref file.

And MORE!!!! Visit the KD5ON website <http://hometown.aol.com/kd5on> for a slide show of DX Prop's features and to download a fully-functioning copy of the software with no obligation or time lit on usage.

The download will include a subset of the US Callsign database (all the KD5's) and a representative selection of the maps.

If you like the program and the hundreds of hours it took me to put it together, registration is available which includes all the maps, full callsign database on CD-ROM. If you download the program and would like the map of your own QTH, e-mail me at kd5on@aol.com and I will send via return email the graphics back to you.

I have also put some freebee stuff and cool links on my web page including my own US Callsign server with callsign, QTH and 10-10# lookup.

THE LAST OF CARL'S QUIZES *By Carl Hayes, NN5I*

This is a semi-monthly feature, which propounds upon a single question connected somehow with Amateur Radio, usually technical, procedural or historical in nature. Answers will appear the following month, along with a new question for

your consideration.

AUGUST'S QUESTION WAS: WHY do hams use ES for "and" and where'd it come from?

ANSWER: The code that we nowadays call "Morse code" is not the original Morse code. The code we use, more properly called the Continental Code or sometimes Continental Morse, is composed of characters made up of dits and dahs. All dits are the same length and dahs are three times as long. The space between dits and dahs within a single letter is always the same length as a dit.

There was, and is still in some places, an earlier code, similar in many ways, called American Morse or sometimes Landline Morse because it was used in wire telegraphy. In Landline Morse the spaces between parts of a letter were not always the same; some characters had longer spaces (equal to two dit-lengths, usually) within them. Also some characters included extra-long dahs. Nor was the character set the same. One character that was represented in American Morse but is not included in our modern Continental Code is the character called AMPERSAND, or &, which of course means "AND".

The American Morse for AMPERSAND was a dit followed by a two-dit-length space, followed by three dits spaced one dit-length apart. It sounds a lot like ES sent in modern Continental Code with not quite enough space between the E and the S. When you use ES as a ham radio abbreviation for AND, you hearken back to the earliest origins of ham radio. Use it, and enjoy the historical perspective it gives you.

Incidentally, Samuel Finley Breese Morse, who is usually credited with having invented the Morse Code, invented only the concept of signaling by interrupting a current in a wire. The actual code was invented by one of Morse's assistants; Morse stole the credit! The part Morse did invent, of course, was the greater of the two inventions.

There is no question for September. NN5I is retiring from the quiz business for a while.

REVISED MORSE TESTING STANDARDS

ARRL Newsletter, July 27, 2000

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has voted to set up revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US.

Under the revised standards, examinees would have to show 25 character-count solid copy on test sheets or successfully answer seven out of ten questions of a fill-in-the-blank quiz on the sent text. The plan would bar multiple-choice tests for Morse code testing.

Morse examinations would specify use of a Farnsworth "character speed" in the range of 13 to 15 WPM. Morse code audio pitch would have to be between 700 and 1000 Hz. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed could be administered only as a special accommodation.

The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1, but VECs may implement them sooner.

The NCVEC vote came July 21 during a meeting of VECs in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

1999 Hurricane Frequencies (As of 9/18/99)

From: Kc2aup@aol.com. Submitted by: John Reynolds, AD4DO

There have been many posts of lists of frequencies to listen to when hurricanes threaten, but the vast majority of them are badly out of date (if they list the old AT&T stations or the National Hurricane Center HF network, it's a dead giveaway – both have been dead for some time). This is a great list for reference.

Since the list is 10 pages long, a copy should be available soon at the TARS website (www.k4tlh.org) or you can email the newsletter editor (carliane@msn.com) to get a copy.

WARNING: License Renewals & ULS
*Submitted by: John Reynolds, AD4DO, through
the Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion*

From: Marshall Emm, N1FN
Milestone Technologies, Inc.
(303) 752-3382
<http://www.mtechnologies.com>

A friend of mine wanted to request a vanity callsign via the FCC's ULS system. When he attempted to register with ULS he was told that he was already registered. When he attempted to log in, he was asked for a password, which he did not have. Here's what happened—

From the QRZ license renewal page, he had filed for a renewal and change of address, through W5YI VEC, which has some association with QRZ. He paid the \$6 fee for this service.

In performing the update, W5YI registered him with the ULS, but did not obtain a password for the ULS system.

This all became apparent when my friend wanted to apply for a vanity call, which was reaching the end of its 2-year hold. He was unable to access the system, and unable to apply for the vanity call.

He called W5YI and was told somewhat “shortly” that he would have to take it up with the FCC – fax them some identifying info and request a password. When he complained that W5YI was registering him with ULS but not giving him access, and which he would need for any changes later, he was told “that’s ok, you can do it through us.” After paying a fee, of course.

He called the FCC and was told that the only problem was that phone numbers come through on only one W5YI registration in ten. The FCC officer also advised him to send a paper application overnight. But of course three other hams had applied for that callsign in the meantime, electronically, so time, effort, and money (FedEx is not cheap) were wasted. Just for the record, the FCC officer actually said “I don't know why

someone would pay these guys \$6 when we have made it so easy for you to do it for free.”

Bottom line warning – if you pay \$6 to QRZ/W5YI to have them process your renewal or a change of address, you really should register yourself with the ULS *first*, so that a password will be assigned and you can have access to your ULS account. Of course, if you can do that, you might as well do your own filing and keep the \$6.

EDITORIAL POLICY

ANY and ALL submissions made by members in good standing will be printed as space permits. These articles are in NO way to be taken as representing the opinions of the group as a whole but only as the opinions of the author whose name and call will be clearly stated in each article. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: carliane@msn.com.

TARS E-NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Many members have indicated they would prefer to get the newsletter by email and will no longer receive the hard copy. The advantages to getting the newsletter in an electronic format is that you can click on the hyperlinks; you get the color version; you can print it (if you desire) at your leisure and save the club postage and copy costs; and you will receive the newsletter much quicker by email than snail mail. If you would just like to try this out first before deciding, while still receiving the hard copy, just let me know at carliane@msn.com.

THE BELL CURVE OF LIFE

Submitted by Matt May, KC4WCG

At age 4...success is.... not peeing in your pants.
At age 12...success is.... having friends.
At age 16...success is.... having a drivers license.
At age 20...success is.... having sex.
At age 35...success is.... having money.
At age 50...success is.... having money.
At age 60...success is.... having sex.
At age 70...success is.... having a drivers license.
At age 75...success is.... having friends.
At age 80...success is.... not peeing in your pants.

It's called a bell curve...



TO:

Activities/Events/Info

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
September 7, 7:30	Monthly Meeting	Claude Pepper Building
September 5, 7:00 p.m.	Testing Session	State Emergency Ops Center (EOC)
	(contact Alan Terrell at terrella@nettally.com)	
September 9-10	2000 Melbourne Hamfest	Melbourne Auditorium (talk-in: 146.25/85)
September 22-24	ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference - Orlando, Florida	
September 28	Advanced SKYWARN Class	State EOC
	(contact David Pienta at weatherman_fsu@yahoo.com)	
Sundays 8 p.m.	ARES Net	Talk-in: 146.655
Sundays 8:45 p.m.	APRS Net	Talk-in: 144.390
Fridays at 11:30 a.m.	Lunch	Kosta's Subs & Salads S. Adams & Oakland
Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Golden Corral, N. Monroe Street