



The February meeting will be held at the Claude Pepper Building. Social begins at 7:00; meeting at 7:30 p.m. Also, visit the TARS website at: www.k4tlh.org/; and the E-Groups site at: groups.yahoo.com/group/tars.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF
TARS President

All month long, I wasn't sure what I was going to write about for this month's column – until just a little while ago. I got myself out of bed a little earlier than I normally do on a Sunday, and turned on the HF rig (a Kenwood TS-690S if anyone is curious), and opened up the DX Summit web site. Lo and behold, A41KJ – Saddiq in Musalat, Oman was on 10 meters. Ironically, the radio was even already tuned to the frequency he was on – ok well, I was about 450 kHz off, but I could hear him. After I got him completely tuned in, I answered his next CQ, and worked him on my first call – how very neat! He had many stations calling, and at least one was running lots of power, I could tell. I was running barefoot, and we had a nice QSO. We exchanged the customary information, and I let him know he was my first contact in Oman, so he cheerfully provided QSL information.

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So, why have I gone on about this one contact? Well for one, it was on 10 meters, and it just reminded me that we are very close to the predicted peak of Solar Cycle 23. Conditions on the higher bands will begin to wane over the next 18 – 20 months. Ten meters (along with the other HF bands) has been a lot of fun for me, and I really enjoyed the 10-meter contest. My point is this – if you have even once considered upgrading your license to obtain HF privileges, now is the time to do it – don't wait any longer, study and upgrade. If you need materials such as code practice computer programs, let me know – I have a couple I can copy for you. There are also on-line practice exams, which I found to be very helpful when upgrading to General class. A good site for this can be found at <http://clicktron.com/ham/>.

We have some events coming up, which will be detailed in KG4DVW's column. However, I would like to mention the annual Tour of Scenic Rural Vistas (TOSRV) which we'll need lots of operators for. I believe it will be held the weekend of April 14-15, 2001, so mark your calendars. This is a "calling all hands" type event, as most of you already know. Stay tuned to the ARES net on Sundays at 8:00 on the AE4S 146.655 repeater for information, and to sign up.

That's all I have for this month – Until next month, 73!

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CURRENT EVENTS

David Pienta, KG4DVW
TARS Vice-President

Hello ladies and gentlemen. Unfortunately, my plans for having Dr. Thaggard come in and speak fell through; he never replied to me. This brings up a good point. I have not gotten anything in writing giving me ideas from you all about ideas for upcoming presentations at meetings. Please take the time out to write out what you all would like to learn more about so we can make the club work for you.

We have several events that are quickly approaching...

In the month of March we have the March of Dimes Walk America. I do not have a verified date for this yet but I do know it is in March.

March is also the annual TARS' auction. I need a volunteer to be the auctioneer. Please go through all the stuff and determine what you would like to put up for auction.

Please do not forget that TOSRV is fast approaching! We will need as many people to participate in that event as possible.

If anyone has any more ideas or events for the club, please let me know. Take care and have a great month!

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TARS Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2001
Carliane Johnson, KG4CJT

Guests and New Members: Bob Crawford, KE4RFH; David Myers, W4USA; Brett Wellman, KG4KLR; Bill Lueck, KF4KHJ; and Frank Smith, KB4EDA.

New Business:

Dave Pienta, KG4DVW is trying to arrange for Dr. Norm Thaggard, FSU, to speak to TARS about NASA's amateur radio activities -- hopefully for February's meeting.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters:

Randy Pierce, KC4YWP – lots of interference on .91. All sites are now toned to 123. Transmit tone to be included with that and should be up by this weekend. Primary site is carrier squelch. Two remote sites are the Copper Top (DEP) Building and FAMU College of Engineering. Will be meeting with Mitch and City of Tallahassee to set up third remote site. Remote site for .03 is up and running and will eventually drop that as the primary site. At that time, then it will also be toned on 123. The UHF machine is doing fine. When using it, identify as “K4TLH UHF Repeater”. Nothing has been done to the equipment on the 6-meter machine but we'll eventually get to it. On January 19, the shuttle will be up again with STS98.

Matt May, KC4WCG (as reported from Jerry Kessler) – The 146.655 machine is losing its home. He was able to negotiate fees down to \$250/month but that's still too much. The equipment hasn't been kicked out yet but it could be taken offline at any time, and things are critical. We need to determine whether we want to keep this site for the price. Everyone is working as hard as possible to keep it going.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$394.81 in checking and \$1,314.87 in savings. This is the best the club has been in a while at year's end.

Testing:

A testing session was supposed to occur on January 2 but only 2 VEs were at the testing location (3

were needed). So, the test was rescheduled for January 9 at 7:00 in the ISS Testing Center [Directions: from the fire station at Pensacola and Appleyard Dr., go south on Appleyard one block to Municipal Way. Turn left (east) and cross Dupree St. to the dead end. The building on right is the ISS Center but there are no signs.] The testing fee beginning in 2001 has increased to \$10.00. However, if you pass one test, you can still continue taking the tests during the same session for one fee.

Old Business:

Van Tires – Planning to look into whether the club can get used ambulance tires but still need to contact Doug and someone at TMH.

Budget – several items were discussed such as tires, tower rope and possible equipment for field day. Anyone who needs money from the club should make a written request. After the meeting, the four TARS officers met to develop a reasonable budget.

Radios – Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, had Radio Shack 2-meter radios available for a closeout price of \$99.00 but there are no more left. The Radio Shack manager agreed to request any remaining stock and may even donate some for the club's use.

NWS Weather Stations – Dave Pienta, KG4DVW, the National Weather Service wants data collection sites (APRS to transmit and will want to get rain, temperature, humidity, etc.). Station will need antenna and radio but the rest will be provided. The radio recommended for the weather equipment is the Yaesu 2600.

ARRL/NWS Special Event – Dave Pienta, KG4DVW, 170 stations were contacted in approximately 10.5 hours, which was during the last half of the event.

Field Day – TARS scored 23rd in Class 2A stations, which was the top 10%, and third in Florida.

Ticket Sales – This past year, \$150 has been donated to the club from the meeting raffles. Shawn Wilson, KG4GXU, won \$17.50 at the January meeting with the other \$17.50 donated to

the club coffers. Thanks go to John Love, KE4TCX, for starting this prosperous tradition!!

Tallahassee Triathlon – Saturday March 17 at Maclay Gardens. Will need about 6 operators between 7:30 and 9:30 during the 18-mile bike ride. Nice t-shirts will be provided.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Hams Aid in Aftermath of Central America Quake

Ham radio operators joined rescuers in search of survivors in buried homes after a powerful earthquake struck El Salvador and Guatemala on Saturday, January 13th. We have more in this report:

Rescuers in El Salvador now put the death toll from the January 13th quake at over 700 and fear the number could rise as excavations continue.

The quake was centered off the Salvadoran coast, about 65 miles southwest of San Miguel. This, according to the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado.

Measuring 7.6 magnitude on the Richter scale, the temblor also rocked Honduras and Guatemala. Buildings swayed as far away as Mexico City.

But most of the damage was centered in El Salvador. Around the city of San Salvador and its suburbs the quake shattered buildings and knocked out utilities. It also temporarily disrupted telephone service and most other normal lines of communications. Because of this, early reports by radio from hard-hit outlying areas were described as sketchy. Several news reports cited ham radio operators and other radio hobbyists becoming a lifeline to these regions in the minutes and hours following the quake.

Another kind of radio almost helped save one man's life. He was buried under rubble for thirty-one hours before raising someone on his cellular telephone to let them know where he was. News reports say that he is in critical condition when taken to a San Salvador hospital suffering from

kidney and heart failure. He died on Wednesday the 17th.

As we go to air, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network is making available a health and welfare inquiry form via its website. Go to: www.qso.com/saturn to find out more.

And while no formal net has been called up, Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network volunteers are in stand-by mode on their net frequency of 14.265 MHz. Meantime, Rafael Estevez, WA4ZZG, of the SIRA group in Miami tells Newline that another net is on 7.090 MHz is handling what can best be described as internal communications. Other reports say that Salvadorian hams will remain on alert until all telephone service is restored and they are told to stand down. For Newline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. *A 1986 earthquake centered near San Salvador killed an estimated 1,500 people and injured an additional 8,000. (Newline, SIRA, others)*

Indian Hams Assist in Quake's Wake

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 26, 2001--Amateurs in India have begun responding in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake January 25 in the State of Gujarat in Western India. Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, reports the quake measured at least 6.9 on the Richter Scale. Tremors were felt in neighboring Pakistan as well as in all of northern and western India and as far away as Nepal.

"The worst affected area is Bhuj, about which very little is known as all communication links are down and roads and bridges damaged, sealing off the entire area," Majumdar said. "Official reports speak about 1000 casualties in the State of Gujarat."

Casualty figures were expected to increase. Some 300 to 400 casualties have been reported in Ahmedabad, which was severely affected along with other cities such as Gandhinagar and Surat. Majumdar says all telephone links are down in Gujarat.

Majumdar says VU2YW has been on the air from Ahmedabad and VU2SL is operating from Valsad, some 300 km from Ahmedabad. "There are still no links from Bhuj," he said. Since the disaster took place in western India, many hams from Mumbai (Bombay) in the neighboring state of Maharashtra are moving into the affected area, Majumdar said.

"We have heard that a team from Bombay will reach Ahmedabad today at 2 AM Indian time, and teams from the National Institute of Amateur Radio are expected to move in tomorrow afternoon," he said. Stations were monitored today on 14.155 MHz.

Majumdar said that because today is Republic Day—a national holiday—and government offices and business are closed, many are just becoming aware of the situation, as the news has begun trickling in.

"Here in Calcutta, the Calcutta VHF Amateur Radio Society has already started its Calcutta Amateur Radio Control to cater to anxious relatives and friends who are desperate to hear about the well-being of their near and dear ones," he said. Right now, much is still unknown, and ham radio remains among the primary information links with the affected region.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and will act accordingly as the situation demands," Majumdar said.

Spectrum Allocation: New Inter-Service Frequencies Assigned

One of the reasons that hams are called out in emergencies could begin to disappear in 2006. This as the FCC directs that spectrum be made available that will let disaster relief agencies to communications to communicate without the need of third parties. Newline's Bill Burnett, KT4SB, has the details:

With various public service agencies and government branches using different radio systems, those in charge had to share information through a third party before relaying it to onsite personnel. In many cases, the only way to do this was using ham radio operators. This has made hams the universal

relay system for many years. But that soon may be a thing of the past as the Federal Communications Commission acts to create thirty-two radio channels that public safety officials from various agencies nationwide could use to communicate directly. The communications headache the system is meant to solve the situation that plays out in the wake of severe weather, at airline crashes, school shootings and other major incidents. Since each participating agency has its own radio system operating on its own assigned frequencies, it is rare that one agency can communicate with another. By making available spectrum for inter-agency linking, third parties are eliminated. For example, federal disaster relief workers could coordinate by radio with local police authorities when on the scene of a major preplanned event or unexpected emergency.

The agency already has designated the frequencies to be used. All are in the 700 MHz band. States or a regional committee would administer the interoperable channels. The final goal is for state, local and federal officials to use radios that can talk with each other on the seamless communications network.

There is one fly in the ointment. The spectrum space set aside for this purposes is currently occupied by broadcasters operating analog TV stations between channels 60 to 69. These broadcasters eventually will move to different parts of the airwaves as they switch to digital transmission. Broadcasters are supposed to return their analog channels by 2006 or when digital television reaches 85 percent of the market— whichever is later. Until this happens, the new inter agency channels will only be available in parts of the country where broadcasters are not already occupying the frequencies. For Newsline, I'm Bill Burnett, KT4SB, reporting from Miami.

What does this mean for amateur radio? Nothing immediately but by 2006 hams may need to find a reason other than public service communications - if it wants to exist in 2010.

(Published news reports, FCC, Newsline)

THE TOWER

By John Ryan KD2NL

John Ryan, JSRYAN28@AOL.COM



First the hole, 3'x3'x3', is dug. (Not by me.)

Then the first section of the Tower with the Short base for the foundation are put in and trued up. Then you wait a couple of hours for

the truck to show. And, the pouring begins. All done by wheelbarrow. (Again, not by me.)



Little by little, the hole fills up. That white thing you see in the hole is the cable from a satellite dish. You know, "Perfect shot, right in the hole."

Keep going until it's filled. Let it set for

a little bit.



Then, the finishing touches. Make sure it doesn't puddle. Get this, this guy has an Accountant degree. But, he makes more money in construction. And he is good, too.



Wait another couple of hours, till it sets. Then take the forms off.

Wait 24 to 48 hours and begin the erecting of the tower.



First put up the second section. This one is easy. I could do all the aligning and bolting from the ladder. The next step needs the BELT.

Then pull up the third section and align and bolt it.

Next step was to install the Guy Bracket. Just above my hands in the picture. Then put the Guys on.



At present, the fourth section is up. I have finished the guy ends for the top. And the rotator is installed into the top section and checked out. Next step is to pull up the top section and guy it. Then the antenna can be set up. The regular

sections are about 40 lbs each. The top section, with the rotator install, with 100' of cable, weighs in at about 80lbs. That will be interesting.

The rebuilt Gin Pole worked OK. The T Handles were a little hard to use. So I got a small section of pipe and used it as a wrench. I didn't have a line large enough or long enough to go for the Top Section. With the Rotator, it weighs about 75 or 80 lbs. I don't have a clue as to how to put the antenna up there. I think it needs a 3/8" Nylon line at least 150 ft long.

Hey John, a whole lot of this project was done "not by me!" Who did you get to do all the "dirty work" hehehe... - Eds

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 TARS, 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.



TO:

Activities/Events/Info

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
February 1 st , 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	Claude Pepper Bldg – 111 W Madison Rm 302
Sundays, 8 p.m.	Capital District ARES Net	Freq.: 146.655
Sundays, 8:45 p.m.	APRS Net	Freq.: 144.390
Fridays, 11:30 a.m.	Lunch	Golden Corral, N. Monroe Street
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Golden Corral, N. Monroe Street
Any Time Chat	TARS E-Group	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars .