



Where do we go from here?

By: Steve Welsh, AD4E

The reason I'm writing this article is to ask you (our members) to step back for a moment, and consider where our Club is, where we'd like to go, and what we'd like to accomplish in the future. Make no mistake, I'm very proud of TARS and its accomplishments. I'm simply interested in keeping an open dialogue with our members on the subject of what we want our club to be for us.

With that said, please ask yourself the follow-

ing: with respect to ham radio, what is important to you? What do you enjoy participating in? What's fun for you? After all, Ham radio is a hobby! What I offer here are some of my own thoughts on this subject and please, if anyone has comments, suggestions or new ideas, let's discuss them at a future meeting.

Concerning our Club's "purpose," I see it as serving in four primary areas:

1. Public service;
2. Public awareness;
3. Technical and operational training;

4. Camaraderie and friendship for its members.

Public service includes not only providing communications in times of emergency, but also our faithful support at bicycling and foot race events—we excel in this area. Public awareness includes educating the public about amateur radio and the services we are capable of providing, along with the recruitment and training of new amateur operators. Technical training would include learning more about the "nitty-gritty" of radios, anten-

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Special points of interest:

- Ideas solicited for future direction of TARS.
- Spaghetti 100 cycling event huge success.
- ISS shows up in the early morning skies over Tallahassee.

President's QSO

The 2001 Holiday season is right around the corner, which means that the fall and winter HF contests are here. Contesting is a great way to rack up a bunch of QSOs, possibly work that

elusive DXCC entity, and have a great time doing it! Ten meters has been really open lately, as I have been able to work all kinds of great DX on my breaks at work. I've recently worked stations

from Italy, Russia, Poland, and Dominica on my two 15-minute breaks during my workday. I really enjoy the ten-meter phone contest in December, and plan

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VP's Corner

October 20th marked the 18th Annual Spaghetti 100 bicycle event through North Florida and South Georgia, and once again the amateur radio community was involved by providing communications throughout the course. The event was spectacular, from the beautiful fall weather to the worst injury not being much more than a scraped knee and a bruised ego. What was so

significant to me was the way the radio operators worked together, even if they had never spoken to the person on the other side of their speaker. The spirit and enthusiasm to assist from everyone involved left me with a great sense of pride.

Alan Terrell, N4KGT, and I were net control operators for the southern part of the course, which included

a total of four separate bike events. With volunteers arriving at 7:00 a. m., we dispersed them throughout the countryside, sending them to remote areas they had never been to before, and that were difficult to find on even the most detailed map. No one ever complained about their positioning, no matter how out-of-the-way it ap-

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Volunteers
needed to help
with repeater
maintenance.
Contact Randy
Pierce, KC4YWP.

Meeting Minutes—September 2001

Called to order at 7:35
EDT

Attendance: 24 Guest:
WBOVMZ, Jack Heiss.

Program

AD4E provided an informative program and discussion on towers, grounding them, safety while working on them, guying properly, etc.

Treasurer's Report:

Ordered tone reeds (123.0 Hz) for 442.1 machine. Money situation is pretty much the same as last month.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes as published in newsletter, seconded, and passed.

Repeater Report

No repeater report.
442.10 machine on the air.

Testing Report

Testing session November
6 at 7:00 p. m.

Auction

Carl Hayes, NN5I, donated a nice US flag (approx. 10" x 6") to auction off, with 100% of the proceeds going to the club. The winner was Warner Garrison, KG4MIU, for a bid of \$6.00.

BREAK

Reconvene at 8:45.

Announcement

Dave Davis, WA4WES, discussed Capital District ARES, passed out index

cards to get information on local operators and their capabilities. Dave Davis can be reached at 850.562.3660.

Old & New Business:

Gas card

Disapproved by Tosco, Inc. – they said that we would not be buying enough fuel from them to make it worth their while to issue us a fleet card.

Radio Tower

Dave is still working on this, and hopefully will have something to report at the next meeting.

Tailgate

Jim Giles provided some

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Meeting Minutes—September 2001

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additional information about the upcoming free tailgate on November 10. Bob Crawford volunteered to take the TARS van to the tailgate to help increase exposure.

Renewing ARRL Membership

Kent, KC4TOC, mentioned that if you wait until the last minute to renew your ARRL membership, you might be able to get a free book to put in your library.

Club Issues

Steve, AD4E, mentioned that advertising in club newsletter might be ad-

vantageous. He further spoke about repeater maintenance – does the club need to maintain so many repeaters? What is the cost? Steve is looking for information, ideas and opinions on the subject.

Spaghetti 100

Elizabeth Moss will be unable to oversee this year's event due to circumstances beyond her control. A volunteer is needed for this year's event. Brett Wellman volunteers to take over event.

Open Mic

- Rhett White, KB4CTV, talks

about miracle gelatinous rubber material that he has plenty of for everyone. Contact Rhett if you want some.

- Hamvention 2002 – Dayton, OH – if anyone wants to go, let Dave, KG4ACF know!
- Palm Vx in like new condition for sale with screen protectors, hard shell case, travel kit - \$225.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Where do we go from here?

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nas, peripherals, and supporting software; operational training would teach us how to use all this stuff! Additionally, our club provides camaraderie and friendship we can all benefit from and appreciate.

Public service generally falls into two categories: local and regional. On a local basis we typically use a VHF/UHF FM repeater to cover Leon and its adjacent counties. On a regional basis, we typically use HF SSB for reliable communications through-

out the state of Florida, and as a bonus, additional communications with Alabama and Georgia is also realized.

Public awareness (growing our club and the hobby) is a very broad concept, and could be accomplished in many different ways. Examples include setting up an information table in a mall; offering licensing courses and examinations; donating a copy of *Now You're Talking* to selected public schools and libraries; announcing our meeting time and place in the

Democrat, on FSU and FAMU's campus radio stations, and on Comcast's City channel; and promoting our <http://k4tlh.org> web-site.

Although not as frequently discussed as the other three areas, technical training should be emphasized. As amateurs, our knowledge of communications equipment and operating modes is generally expected to be above average. Certainly, the digital modes (e.g., SEDAN and APRS) can enhance our

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VP's Corner

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peared. Most of the operators were asked to leave their position after a certain period of time and go mobile to ensure all bicyclists were accounted for, and once again there were no complaints. The willingness to not only participate, but the attention to detail to ensure the job was done thoroughly, was impressive.

The event lasted six hours and the volunteers worked approximately eight hours, some more. An entire Saturday passed by, a day when any ham would love to be out working on erecting a tower or hanging their new wire antenna, but instead they were volunteering. The event was great practice in being a part of a controlled net, and it was

great to work with the folks from South Georgia that participated. They were incredibly helpful...especially when one of our operators got lost and seemed to be half way to Quitman!

Thanks to Alan, Carliane Johnson (KG4CJT), Shawn Wilson (KG4GXU), Jack Heiss (WB0VMZ) and his wife, John Decoteau (KG4GXT), Roger Heupel (KG4BNO), Joan Heupel (KG4CJU), David Heupel (KG4ACF), Jackie Gray (KG4CZX), Bill Harmon (AF4WP), and Bob Crawford (KE4RFH), and all of the operators from South Georgia that assisted. These people showed me that it's the individuals that really make amateur radio so much fun.

Brett Wellman, KG4KLR (kg4klr@arrl.net)
Work: 850-574-5872 Home: 850-926-9662



"The willingness to not only participate, but the attention to detail to ensure the job was done thoroughly, was impressive."

President's QSO

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to operate at the family house near Havana. Hopefully, the rotator will be repaired and returned with enough time left to get that last section of tower in the air, and hang the antenna. I hope solar activity keeps up the way has lately; so ten-meters is wide open on contest weekend, December 15 and 16.

Contesting is somewhat like Field Day, and there are all kinds of ways to operate, depending on the rules of each contest. For example, the ten-meter phone contest allows for single operator QRP/QRO, multi-operator, multi-

transmitter, and all sorts of options in between. Of course, the objective of contesting, other than having a good time, is to rack up those QSOs as fast as you can, and score the most points. I suppose I enjoy contesting because of my competitive nature, the skills I build upon during the operation, and learning how to operate my equipment more efficiently. If you have never participated in a contest before, I highly recommend it. It is a sure-fire way to hone your operating skills for both phone and CW. A great web site for all kinds of contesting and other information of interest to hams is [http://](http://www.contesting.com)

www.contesting.com. There you can find contest calendars, discussion forums, pictures of ham shacks, QSL cards, informative articles, and all kinds of great stuff.

Speaking of the Holiday Season, it looks as though this year's Holiday Dinner Party/Meeting will be at the Western Sizzlin' on North Monroe Street in Tallahassee, Florida. Many thanks to Jim Giles, K4VRT, for getting this all set up for us. Everyone can order whatever they want from their bill of fare. I sure hope that everyone can make it!

Until next month, 73!

Where do we go from here?

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communications effectiveness in times of emergencies.

Besides our monthly meetings, we have our bi-annual picnics, Christmas dinner, and informal gatherings at various restaurants (and pubs-hoho!). These gatherings are always fun.

The question is how can we improve in these areas? Also, what initiatives can (or should) our club financially support? I'll offer my thoughts on these matters next month... what are yours?

73, Steve -AD4E (ad4e@arrl.net)

Watching out for IFOs (Identifiable Flying Objects)

By Rick Ainsworth, KF4MS

Well it is just after 6:00 this morning, Wednesday, August 01, 2001. I just came back into the house from the golf course watching the International Space Station (ISS) fly over (5:53-5:59). Six minutes may not sound like much, but when viewing a satellite, it is a very long time as they usually streak by unnoticed by most. I always walk out on to the course whenever an event such as this occurs as it offers the most unobstructed view in all directions. Meteor Showers are best viewed there, you can see it all.

I got out there, just the mosquitoes and me, and looked into the NW early dawn sky, and there it was coming right for Tallahassee. I was expecting something grand with all the hype, but must admit I was initially disappointed.

A bright light moving just as NASA had predicted

over Tallahassee, Florida, very visible to the naked eye, yet ordinary at first glance. If you did not know this was the ISS you would have thought it was just an airplane, then you would notice there were no flashing lights, then maybe you would think it was just another one of the thousands of satellites we have orbiting our planet. But wait, this was much brighter than any ordinary satellite you have ever seen. A full six minutes of viewing, almost straight over Tallahassee at 5:58 this morning.

As a lot of us do, I pre-judged the ISS into something reality could not live up to. After thinking about the achievement of putting such a structure in space in the first place I once again felt better about what I had just witnessed.

Just as in life, we should not pre-judge anyone or anything. If I practiced this beforehand, I would

have never been disappointed initially at seeing the ISS. Well if you haven't already realized this is about more than just the International Space Station, it is about life.

Just in case you would like to cut and paste this link so as to see the ISS here it is. This link is just for Tallahassee, FL: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdatasightings/SSapplications/Post/SightingData/Tallahassee.html>.

Use this link for cities throughout the US: http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdatasightings/SSapplications/Post/SightingData/sighting_index.html

I have the link in Internet Explorer and use it to predict when I am going to get up early to watch.

Enjoy
Rick





Amateur Radio
Around the
World

We're on the Web!
<http://www.k4tlh.org>



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars>

Your Officers

President:

David A. Heupel, KG4ACF
kg4acf@arrl.net
(850) 321.3217

Vice-President:

F. Brett Wellman,
KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Kent B. Hutchinson,
KC4TOC
kc4toc@earthlink.net
(850) 576-4200

Secretary:

Carlaine Johnson,
KG4CJT
carlaine@msn.com

Upcoming Events

Testing Session:

7:00 p. m. EDT on November 6, 2001, at the regular testing session location on Dupree St in Tallahassee. For more information, a map and directions, visit <http://www.k4tlh.org/testing.html>.

TARS Meetings:

Every first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p. m. EDT.

Friday Lunch: Every Friday, 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on North Monroe St.

Saturday Breakfasts:

Every Saturday, 8:00 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on N Monroe St.

Capital District ARES

Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater (146.655).

North Florida ARES

Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:30 a. m. Eastern.

North Florida Phone

Net: Every evening, on 3950 KHz at 2330 UTC.

Editorial Policy

Submitted material received by the editor from dues-paying members in good standing, on or before the 15th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Articles published in *The Printed Circuit* are not representative of the views or opinions of the whole organization, and such views and opinions are of the individual author(s). Currently, the editor is KG4ACF, David A. Heupel.