



Inside this issue:

Field Day 2002-Wrap-up	1
President's QSO	1
VP's Corner	2
Monthly Meeting Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	8

Special points of interest:

- August meeting at the Love Building on FSU campus. Program will be a tour of the new National Weather Service Office on the 4th floor of the Love Building. Parking and entry on the West side of the building.
- Be sure to check out our new web site at <http://www.k4tlh.net>.
- Mark your calendars for Spaghetti 100 cycling event coming up October 19.

President's QSO

Our September program will discuss software as related to logging/contesting, digital-mode operating, and radio control. Note that our Fall Picnic will be held on October 10, a week later than our usual meeting date—this is to work around the scheduled FSU football game on October 3. The picnic will be held at the San Luis city park on San Luis Road, between Mission Road and Tarpe Street. All are invited regardless of membership status. November's program will address homebrew construction techniques. If you have any experience you'd like to share with us related to these topics, PLEASE DO, because we are interested. Make contact with Brett Wellman, KG4KLR. Also, let us know what programs would be of interest to you, and we'll do

our best to make it happen. The programs are what really make the meetings!

For our August program, we were given a tour of the National Weather Service Tallahassee Office. We witnessed the release of a helium-filled balloon into the sky. Attached to the balloon was instrumentation, which transmitted back to the NWS office various meteorological data. After the tour of the main forecasting center, a Q&A session was held. It is TARS' objective to build a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship with the NWS, especially with regard to SKYWARN and ARES. TARS SKYWARN and ARES contacts are David Pienta, KG4DVW, & Dave Davis, WA4WES, respectively. Representing the NWS were Paul Duvall, KG4xxx, & Bob Goree (he is studying for ham license). In case

you missed it, photographs and a video of the program can be viewed at our web site.

Theo Titus, K4MVL, had a successful operation from the St. Marks Lighthouse using the special event call sign of W4M. Two stations were set up; one for voice and one for digital modes. The weather was perfect, with a nice breeze coming in off the Gulf. I rode the motorcycle down and enjoyed fellowship with several area hams, including Bobby, N4KXL, and Mike, KE4FGF from Thomasville. The Wakulla County boys had both of their communications trailers on-site, and it was interesting to see how they were set up. I prefer Ed's, KC4MHM, though—it has an air-conditioner!

There is still a surplus of TOSRV T-shirts in the
(Continued on page 4)

VP's Corner

About a month ago, Randy Pierce (AG4UU) made an announcement on a net that he was going to a lighthouse in Key Largo for International Lighthouse Weekend and anyone was welcome to join him. Immediately I had visions of working the world from the top of a lighthouse, the cool ocean breeze and sunshine making it a picture-perfect weekend. I quickly let my dream fade away, knowing my XYL would never go for a thing like this and would certainly never let me go for a weekend to the Florida Keys without her along.

About two weeks later I had my 2m radio on in the

house and she overheard a conversation about the lighthouse DXpedition and wanted to know why we weren't going. I was floored! Not being one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I bought airline tickets and arranged for a hotel room for Friday and Sunday night (we'd be on the lighthouse that Saturday night) before I went to sleep that night. Now my imagination was in high gear...pitching a tent on the beach, cooking out over a campfire and going for a midnight swim under a full moon, then going back to operating all of those hams that want to contact me at this one lighthouse. What could be better?

When I called Randy to find out some specifics of the terrain around the lighthouse, it took him about a minute to quit laughing before he could tell me some details. As it turns out, Careysfort Reef Lighthouse is a stand-alone lighthouse, six miles south of Key Largo... meaning there is no beach to pitch a tent, nowhere to make a campfire. I was sure this news was not going to fly well with Alicia, but once again, she surprised me with her exuberance and excitement for the adventure. "Anything is good, let's just have a fun weekend."

The week of the DXpedition, Randy broke the bad news to me...the light-

(Continued on page 5)



It is TARS' objective to build a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship with the NWS...

Meeting Minutes—August 2002

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. Twenty-one members, and 3 guests were in attendance.

Ed: The acoustics of the room where we met after the program were such that the audio tape did not come out very well. My apologies for any omissions/mistakes in the minutes.

Program:

August's program was a tour of the new National Weather Service Office in

Tallahassee, on the campus of Florida State University. For information about the program, please visit the club's web site.

Steve Welsh, AD4E, mentioned some upcoming programs – namely a tour of the new National Weather Service office at the Love Building on FSU campus; and a program about homebrew projects.

Treasurer's Report:

Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, was not present at the meeting.

The July minutes as published in the newsletter were approved by a majority vote.

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Minutes—August 2002 (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

Announcements:

The next testing session will be on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Next Tuesday will be the inaugural edition of the North Florida Powder Puff Net, which will meet Tuesdays at 8:00 p. m. on 147.03.

Randy Pierce, AG4UU, is planning on being down south at the Careysfort lighthouse, off the coast of Key West.

Special Events:

Carliane Johnson, KG4CJT, our Special Events Chairperson was not in attendance.

Repeater Report:

Randy Pierce, AG4UU, is on military duty and was unable to report on the status of the repeaters. However, comments were made that it appears all club-owned machines are up and running just fine.

Testing:

No report.

Break

There was no raffle drawing at this meeting.

Old Business:

Steve (AD4E) and John Love (NZ4QJ) will be working with Kent (KC4TOC) to get a budget established for the club.

Steve mentioned that he would really like to see a reduction in the club's dues, and hopes to have this issue wrapped up before the end of the calendar year.

Jackie Gray (AG4UR) commented that the club dues in Milton, Florida are \$15/year.

Steve commented on the new club web site; www.k4tlh.net, and that content is needed, even if it's just links to other web sites. Please send your ideas/data to the webmaster at: webmaster@latenight.net.

Membership drive:

David Heupel (AG4UU) ran a query on the ARRL web prepared a list of all licensed hams in Tallahassee, as recorded by the FCC. David divided this list into six chunks, and gave a section to: Carlton Wells (AG4UT), Steve Welsh (AD4E), Nick Adams, Randy Pierce (AG4UU), Brett Wellman (KG4KLR), and Joan Heupel (KG4CJU).

The objective is to contact as many people on this list as possible, talk to them

and invite them to a club meeting—try to get them involved in the hobby again—become a participating member.

New business:

All other new business was tabled until September's meeting due to the time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2120 EDT.



There are about
89 days left in
Hurricane
Season, make
sure your station
is emergency-
ready.

President's QSO

(Continued from page 1)
 Club's possession. I will bring these shirts to the next meeting; so if you need or want one, take one. All shirts MUST go!

David Heupel, AG4UQ, recently generated a list with all Tallahassee hams on it. He went the extra mile and wrote the phone numbers for all the people on the list that he could find. About a half-dozen of us have been calling these folks (who aren't already TARS members) and letting them know of our existence, inviting them to a club meeting, and informing them of our recently overhauled web site, www.k4tlh.net. As I write this, I've personally contacted about a dozen people, and the conversations have been rewarding. I sincerely hope to see some of these folks at an upcoming meeting.

For the upcoming "Share the Road Rally & Florida Bicycle Summit", September 26-29, Pat Lightcap, WD4ODB, EC for Madison County has requested communications assistance. The event will feature bicycle rides, bicycle clinics, workshops, meetings and other activities. Bike Florida and the Florida Bicycle Association are sponsoring the event. Between 500 and 600 riders

are anticipated on bikes for the last full weekend in September. Events are planned beginning at 1:00 p. m. on Friday, September 27. They will need coverage on that Friday from 1:00 p. m. until at least 5:00 p. m. Then on Saturday, September 28 events begin at 7:00 a. m. and coverage is needed until 5:00 p. m. The final day of Sunday begins at 7:30 a. m. and communications is needed until 4:00 p. m.

The events consist of designated bike routes on county and state roads covering much of the county's 703 square miles. There are five rest stops and one headquarters building identified. The rest stops are not all in service all of the time. Eight volunteer fire departments have been invited to work with the hams to supplement communications, and test their capability for repeater and simplex operations from various parts of the county. They will be co-located at rest stops and HQ. We will also use them for "roving patrols" along the various routes. Ham's will be needed to do the routes also. Pat sees this as an opportunity to test our Amateur Radio ability to set up countywide communications on VHF and

test our VHF link capabilities back to Tallahassee. We could also try an HF station or two. Madison County's Emergency Manager, Jim Stanley, has given permission to work out of the Madison County Emergency Operations Center where Pat is in the process of installing UHF, VHF and HF antennas and radios.

Pat also states that this could be a good test of the portable repeater and the communications van at a location outside of Leon County. Pat is open to ideas and our help is greatly appreciated. If you can assist, please contact either Pat at lightcap@digitalexp.com, or myself at ad4e@arrl.net

Incidentally, the Spaghetti 100 is scheduled for October 19. Someone is needed to coordinate this event from the Miccosukee Community Center. Use of our communications van is a given. Yours truly will be riding.

Upcoming Hamfests include the "Grand Daddy of them all" in Shelby, North Carolina—its always Labor Day weekend. Huge tailgate & worth the drive if you enjoy hamfests. I speak from the experience of several times attending.



Share the Road
 Rally & Florida
 Bicycle Summit—in
 Madison County,
 September 26–29
 Check k4tlh.net and
 the ARES net for
 more information.

VP's Corner (con't)

house was condemned and we couldn't go near it, so he wasn't going to make the trek to South Florida.

Not giving up, I immediately wrote e-mails to every ham and club I could find in the Keys to let them know of my arrival and that I would appreciate them letting me stop by their setup to operate for just a few minutes. Even though I never received one response, we

flew down to Miami, full of optimism for an eventful weekend on HF.

Little did we know that almost every lighthouse in the Keys is located offshore. How do I know this? With my patient wife beside me, I drove 480 miles looking for a lighthouse. At one point, I felt like Charles Kuralt. We would stop at a local watering hole, get a drink, and ask for directions. After a few chuckles and

whispers, the general consensus was to "go south". Where would south of the southern tip of the United States be? Exactly, out into the ocean.

Long story short, I didn't make one amateur radio contact, but I contacted a whole lot of people throughout the weekend about amateur radio.

73
Brett Wellman
KG4KLR

President's QSO

(Continued from page 4)
Flyers for the Melbourne Hamfest have been sent. Date is Saturday, Sept. 14th at the Melbourne Auditorium; 625 East Hibiscus Blvd. This is a week later than the usual date. Tickets are \$5 in advance or at the door and tables are \$25 each. Tailgate spots are \$15. Check <http://www.pcars.org>

From the NOFARS Balanced Modulator comes news of the second Jacksonville FREE Hamfest on Saturday, October 5th at Jax Raceways. Interest is up this year with dozens of sellers and hundreds expected to attend. The first FREE hamfest was held last October and drew

around 300 persons. Admission and tailgating spots are free for those selling ham related and computer items. Refreshments and food will be offered by the committee for a donation. Prize tickets will be sold. Hourly drawings start at 9AM and the grand prize drawing will be at noon. A dual-band portable radio will be among the prizes. An auction will occur at 11AM along with a SEDAN network demo at 10AM. Other specialty forums may be scheduled. The site is near the I-95 Pecan Park Rd. exit about 3 miles north of JAX Int'l Airport. Also, a huge Flea Market is just across from the hamfest on I-95. Gates open at sunrise. Arrive

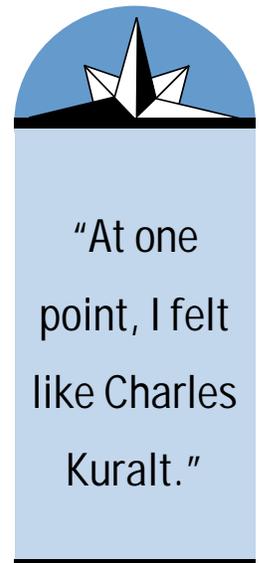
early for a good tailgate spot. See www.nofars.org for more info.

73 – AD4E

ARRL in NPSTC

Info provided by Carlton Wells, AG4UT

You may have seen it in the QST magazine or ARRL newsletter; but, just in case not, the ARRL now participates in the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). The NPSTC "...is a federation of associations representing public safety telecommunications. Go to <http://www.npstc.gov> and click on ARRL in the list of charter organizations.





Amateur Radio
Around the
World

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



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

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Upcoming Events/Nets

Testing Session:
7:00 p. m. EDT on the
first Tuesday of odd
numbered months, at
2631 Municipal Way in
Tallahassee. For more
information, visit [http://
www.k4tlh.net/testing.
htm](http://www.k4tlh.net/testing.htm).

TARS Meetings: Every
first Thursday of the
month at 7:00 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 Monroe St.

**Capital District ARES
Net:** Every Sunday,
8:00 p. m. EDT on the
AE4S repeater
(146.655).

**North Florida ARES
Net:** Every morning,
except Sunday on 3950
KHz at 9:00 a. m.

**North Florida Phone
Net:** Every evening,
except Sunday on 3950
KHz at 7:30 p. m.

Editorial Policy

Submitted material re-
ceived by the editor
from dues-paying mem-
bers in good standing,
on or before the 15th of
the month will appear in
the following month's
newsletter as space per-
mits. Articles published
in *The Printed Circuit*
are not representative
of the views or opinions
of the whole organiza-
tion, and such views
and opinions are of the
individual author(s).
Currently, the editor is
David A. Heupel,
AG4UQ.