



Inside this issue:

President's QSO	1
VP's Corner	2
Monthly Meeting Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	4

Special points of interest:

- National Weather Service Skywarn Special Event operation—December 7, 2002
- Annual Holiday Dinner at Durango's Oak Fired Steakhouse on Apalachee Parkway, December 5 at 6:00

President's QSO

First, thanks to all those who helped out with the Spaghetti 100 event.

After the event, a representative of the Capital City Cyclists (CCC) expressed appreciation to me of our ham radio support. The CCC has also shown their appreciation for our support in the form of several monetary donations to us over the years. This event is an excellent way to practice our field deployment skills and exercise our equipment and mobile communications post (TARS van). For any event lasting several hours I believe that the load should be shared amongst many. In this way, the time commitment by any one person is less.

I sure enjoyed our fall cookout at City Park San Luis and I hope you did too. It was nice to make some new friends and

see old ones. BIG thanks to John Love, (NZ4QJ), and Jim Giles (K4VRT) for making this happen—you guys are great! We will have another cookout in the spring, so think about where you'd like to have it.

Speaking of social events, TARS will be having its annual Holiday Dinner at Durango's Steakhouse for its December meeting. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. Durango's is located on the Parkway, across from Tallahassee Camera and Image Center. I will be there with my family, so please bring yours!

Our November meeting program will be "Homebrewing—Is it for you?" and will be presented by Carl Wells (AG4UT, ex-N9FYG). Also on the agenda for the November meeting will be further consideration and a possible vote

on lowering membership dues.

In conjunction with this notion of lowering our dues, a Budget Committee was formed in September to review the financial status of TARS. Kent Hutchinson, John Love and Steve Welsh reviewed all bank statements, deposits, and expenditures over the past year. Furthermore, we reviewed checkbook and ledger entries over the past several years. It was observed that our yearly balances averaged \$2,000. Our current balance as of October is very close to \$3,200. Total expenses for 2002 thus far are \$1,125. We plan to present a proposed budget to the club for your approval at the January meeting. Your input is encouraged and sought—so please speak with one of us.

(Continued on page 3)

VP's Corner

Shortly after I received my ham ticket, I heard about a special event that was going on in Tallahassee out at the airport. I remember it was a rainy, cold Saturday. I hadn't really met anyone from the club yet, so I was a little apprehensive about stopping by. The emergency communications van was parked outside the airport, and as I approached it, a door swung open and someone invited me in. I remember sitting in the cramped, warm van with unending noise coming out of the speaker. Turns out, I was in the presence of Dave & Dave, Heupel and Pienta. I was given a crash course on how to log a contact and was put in charge of the laptop. Although I only stayed about an hour, it was an experience I will never forget.



"Also on the agenda for this meeting will be further discussion of lowering our dues."

December 7th will be another NWS/ARRL Skywarn Recognition Day, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC, and WX4TAE is missing from the roster of stations to be contacted by operators throughout the United States. I'd like to see this changed. Now that Dave Davis (WE4WES), and others have worked so diligently to get both a VHF and HF station operational at the National Weather Service, I'd like to see us use it for an event. What better way to both put the equipment through the paces, and a great opportunity for operators to become comfortable at the controls of that equipment and to get to know some of the people at the NWS.

If you would like any more info on this event, check out www.hamradio.noaa.gov, or page 83 of the No-

vember *QST*. Call me if you would like to operate for a while and we'll get things rolling to be a part of this annual event.

Speaking of the NWS and Skywarn, I was saddened to hear that Dave Pienta (KG4DVW) is moving on to the great state of Maine, so he is resigning from the position of "Skywarn Coordinator" for the Capital District. His enthusiasm and efforts with the Skywarn program are to be applauded. Dave has been an inspiration for many in our area to become more involved with Skywarn and NWS. Good luck, Dave!

73,
Brett Wellman – KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net
Work: 574-5872
Home: 926-9662

Meeting Minutes—October 2002

Our October meeting on October 10, 2002 was actually our Fall Picnic, held at San Luis Park on San Luis Rd in Tallahassee. We enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, with side items and some chips and desserts, until sunset. Only a few announcements were made during the picnic:

Thanks to Jay Reid (KG4OJJ) for coming to fellowship with us at the picnic. Jay is from Albany, but makes it down to Tallahassee fairly regularly. We enjoyed having you with us, Jay!

Steve had brought along some equipment which was state surplus property,

donated to the club. Anyone is welcome to the property, otherwise it will be dumped.

Don't forget about the Spaghetti 100 cycling event, coming up a week from Saturday, on October 19. If you can help with the event in the morning,

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Minutes—October 2002

(Continued from page 2)
plan to congregate at the Miccosukee Community Center between 7:00 – 7:30 a. m. on the 19th.

Further discussion will ensue at the next meeting regarding club dues. For

several months now, there has been discussion about lowering membership dues to \$15 per household – and we learned at the September meeting that student memberships are free. Please attend the November meeting to join

the discussion on this issue, and perhaps pay your [lower?] dues early for calendar year 2003.

We also had a new member join our ranks, Mike Shepard (WD4DMT). Welcome to TARS, Mike!

President's QSO

(Continued from page 1)

This year we have received dues from approximately 50 members including individual, family, and partial-year payments. Receipts from membership dues totaled \$1,045 which, when divided by 50 equates to \$21 per member. Note that at current membership levels, dues alone won't cover expenses. However, we have received non-recurring donations from Capital City Cyclists and private parties that, when combined with membership dues, cover our expenses.

My goal is to grow our membership for 2003 to 100 dues-paying members. (Recall that students are free). It's my position that TARS should lower its dues to \$15 per year per household so that membership will be an easier "sell." Hey, not everybody is committed to ham radio

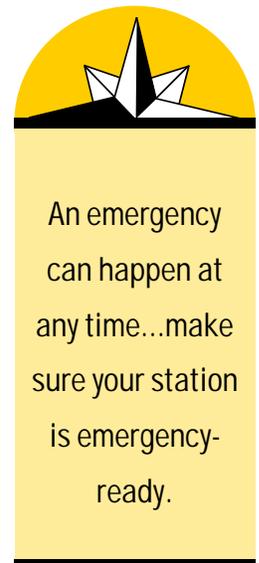
as you and I -- they just don't know! And quite frankly, \$15 comes off the wallet easier than \$25. If we grow to only 70 members, that would generate funds to cover expenses typical of this year (\$1,050). It's that simple for me: more affordable dues means one less impediment for those pondering membership. Also, if we did in fact lower our dues and it turned out to be a disaster, we have several options: 1. Increase our dues; 2. Request donations; 3. Dip into our savings.

I'm planning to begin an aggressive ad campaign to grow TARS membership to 100 (dues paying) members. TARS is an organization dedicated to ham radio and is worthy of membership because of its quality programs; its camaraderie and fellowship; the communications support it provides to the public; its repeaters which

provide reliable communications for the region; its dynamic, user-friendly web-site, and its affordable dues. Another significant benefit of growing TARS membership is that we will have more people representing a wider variety of interests in the different aspects of the hobby. This campaign will involve getting the word out in at least four ways:

1. Public service announcements (PSA) on local public radio stations;
2. Distributing flyers in break-rooms, libraries, Radio Shack, Dell Electronics and so on that give a brief overview of what ham radio is and how to become involved;
3. Announcements in local newspapers of our meetings and web-site; and
4. Contacting local hams on an individual basis.

I'll need your help in achieving this goal, so please do whatever you can in this regard.





Amateur Radio
Around the
World

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



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

Frank Butler
W4RH
ARRL Southeastern Division Director
323 Elliott Rd SE

Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548-7225

Your Officers

President:
Steve Welsh, AD4E
ad4e@arrl.net
(850) 656-2725

Vice-President:
F. Brett Wellman,
KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net

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

Secretary:
David Heupel, WE4RA
ag4uq@arrl.net
(850) 321-3217

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, unless otherwise
announced.

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,
WE4RA.