



The January meeting will be held at the Claude Pepper Building, 111 West Madison Street. Social begins at 7:00 with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information about TARS, go to: www.K4TLH.org.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF

TARS President

Well, `tis the holiday season, so there is not much to report. I had fun working the 10-meter contest, even though I started coming down with Tallahassee Upper Respiratory Disease during the contest weekend. I worked the contest as a high-power, single op, phone-only station. I managed to work 636 other stations, in 49 US States (Wow! Almost WAS, I really needed Missouri – where were they?), 9 Canadian Provinces, and 61 current DXCC entities, for a total score of 151,368 points. I only have a few more days to file my results to the ARRL for credit. I guess I need to find a converter program to take ADIF format files from the Logger program (excellent freeware, by the way) and convert them into the ARRL Cabrillo format. If anyone knows off-hand where I can find one, please let me know at the meeting, or before January 7. If you would like to try the Logger software, send me

an e-mail, and I’ll send you the file. There is also an e-groups group for Logger users at <http://www.egroups.com/hamlogger>.

Phase3D, now known as AO-40, was again heard on Christmas day – certainly a fine gift to the worldwide Amateur Radio community. Sometime near the middle of last month, AO-40 disappeared, and it was unknown if the satellite would be salvageable. Apparently, the AO-40 ground-team sent another reset command to the satellite, and it finally responded with a system-wide reset, and the bird’s 2.4 GHz transponder was back on the air. Initially, signal reports on the 2401.305 MHz frequency were said to be around an S6. Since then, however, signal reports on the transponder frequency appear to be showing a weaker than normal signal, around an S2. Although no cause for the drop in signal strength was reports, perhaps recent solar activity could account for the weaker signal reports. In any event, many are pleased to hear the satellite back on the air, but it remains to be seen if AO-40 will actually become fully operational – much work remains to be done.

That’s all I have for this month – I hope everyone has a fantastically fun, safe, and Happy New Year! Until next month, 73!

Dave, KG4ACF
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NOVEMBER 2 MEETING MINUTES

Randall Bishop, KD6UAN

TARS Secretary

Meeting was brought to order at 1930.

There were 18 attendees with one visitor, James Messer KE4LAY.

Committee reports: Testing session will be held on Election Day. The testing location was also changed to the ISS training building off of Dupree Street on Municipal Drive at 19:00.

Repeater Reports: 442.85, 146.91, 146.655, 147.03 are up but no new information concerning 146.655. Mention was made about changing the light bulbs on the receive site for the 146.91 repeater on the copper top building. The KS4JW repeater is working well. 146.865 at 94.8 tone. Providing handheld coverage all over FSU and the downtown area. Randy Pierce KC4WYP has requested that the club purchase 100 fathom spool of tower rope in anticipation of future tower work that the club may need. A motion was presented for \$100.00 toward the purchase of rope. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report: There is \$386.60 in the checking account, and \$1,314.87 in the savings account. The insurance bill has been paid and we are in good standing for the end of the year.

Tires for the communication van was discussed since the van is in desperate need of tires. Several options were presented to ascertain the cost and vendor of the tires. This item was tabled until January meeting.

Old Business: The six-meter repeater is basically on hold because of radio interference at the repeater site. The machine could have been re-crystallized but the cans would have to be re-tuned and that would cost about \$360.

New Business: Spaghetti 100 wrap-up. Kudos all around. NWS Event Dec 2, 2000. Friday night

through Saturday. Festival of Lights in Tallahassee. Dave suggested putting lights on the van and putting the van in the parade to enlighten people about ham radio.

NWS received a grant to provide the equipment for APRS weather stations. The equipment is in and locations for the stations are being selected.

Tailgate reminder. Tailgate will be held at Gilchrist elementary school on Nov. 11, 2000.

SILENT KEY

Stan Ferguson, N4KGS, died on December 17, 2000. Stan had been an active member of TARS since the early 1980s and he will be missed. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

TALLAHASSEE MARATHON

Carlhane Johnson, KG4ACF (with technical jargon obtained from Bert Put, KG4BEC)

For the second year, TARS has been asked to provide communication support for the Gulf Winds Track Club annual Tallahassee Marathon on Sunday January 14 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Similar to last year, TARS is going to include both voice operators and hams with APRS (Automatic Positioning Reporting System). APRS uses GPS (Global Positioning System) to determine station location. The GPS works by sending a continuous stream of data to a TNC (terminal node connector), which in turn is transmitted via the radio. The TNC transmits UI (unconnected information) packets containing position data. These packets are relayed back to the base of operations via digipeaters.

An APRS station is very compact consisting of a radio, TNC and GPS. Although a PC or laptop is required to program the TNC, once that task is done, the PC is no longer required to operate APRS. Last year, a laptop remained connected to the TNC while running the APRS software with DeLorne Street Atlas v7.0 so that race organizers and spectators could "see" the lead runner's location.

This display was located near the finish line and generated a lot of interest. We hope to have at least one TNC following the lead runner and another one at “tail-end Charlie.”

Another feature well-liked by race organizers last year was an operator calling out race numbers about 30 seconds before the runner reached the finish line. This allowed the announcer to call out the runner’s name, hometown and any other interesting information to the crowd. Race director Gary Griffin is especially interested in having ham operators relay the race numbers because this year the finish line is not in direct sight of where the runners enter the nursery from Thomasville Road so there will be no way for the announcer to see the runners ahead of time.

The course will have six aid stations and the TARS communication van will be set up the night before the race. I am very thankful to already be receiving assistance and advice from other TARS members. If you would like to help or if you have equipment that we could use, please send an email to carliane@msn.com. Thank you!

AMSAT OSCAR 40 UPDATES

News Provided by Randall Bishop, KD6UAN

Spacecraft is again functioning after successful reset

- Telemetry transmissions have resumed, S-band (2.4 Ghz) only.
- Upload of full control system software is in progress.
- Some temperature and possibly current sensors appear to have been damaged; cause unknown.
- Satellite controllers are starting to investigate possible causes of the original December 13th failures.
- The 2-meter transmitter will remain off for the near future (in case its usage is related to the system failure of Dec 13th).

AO40 software has been reloaded and telemetry has resumed transmission!!! The following is from Peter, DB2OS:

More good news...

ZL1AOX successfully uploaded IPS and we have now first telemetry. We are currently investigating the telemetry to determine the status and health of the spacecraft. The spacecraft will only transmit on S-Band and we will not switch TX configuration to V-Band until we have a better knowledge of the s/c status.

More later. . .

73s Peter

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TALLAHASSEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.

Please remit \$25 for single membership or \$35 for the whole family to: Kent Hutchinson, 911 San Luis Road, Tallahassee, FL 32304. Make checks payable to “TARS” and include your call sign, mail and email addresses, and phone number. We also need to know whether you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email or snail mail. For further information, contact Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, at 574-4200 or KC4TOC@earthlink.net.

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.



TO:

Activities/Events/Info

| DATE/TIME | WHAT | WHERE |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| January 4, 7:30 p.m. | Monthly Meeting | Claude Pepper Building |
| January 14 | Tallahassee Marathon | Tallahassee Nurseries (contact: carliane@msn.com) |
| Sundays, 8 p.m. | ARES Net | Freq: 146.655 |
| Sundays, 8:45 p.m. | APRS Net | Freq: 144.390 |
| Fridays, 11:30 a.m. | Lunch | Kosta's Subs & Salads, S. Adams & Oakland |
| Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast | Golden Corral, N. Monroe Street |
| Any Time Chat | TARS E-Group | http://www.egroups.com/group/tars . |
| Capital District ARES | Web Site | http://latenight.net/ares |