



The April meeting will be the Spring Picnic at Tom Brown Park. Social begins at 5:30; meeting at 6:45 p. m. Also, visit the TARS website at: <http://www.k4tlh.org>; be sure to sign up for the Yahoo! Groups site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars>.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Heupel, KG4ACF

I had written an eulogy for AE4S/R, our beloved repeater systems, but due to some encouraging words on the March 25<sup>th</sup> ARES net, I was able to take the eulogy out of my column. What a nice spring present!

The uncertain future of the AE4S/R system (146.655) presents an interesting logistical problem regarding our largest annual event, the Tour of Scenic Rural Vistas - South, which occurs this month. Since we won't have the luxury of AE4S/R's large coverage area, we will be in need of operators more than ever. We will have to use more repeater systems with smaller coverage areas, and we'll have to monitor more frequencies. This logistical situation puts even more importance on the use of APRS this year, and we will need as much of this equipment as we can get our hands on! **PLEASE**, keep your schedules clear on April 21 and 22, so that you can help with this event, because we will need your help to pull off TOSRV 2001.

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Something to be mindful of is that TOSRV is also the closest thing to a widespread emergency or natural disaster that we could hope for, without experiencing any of the serious damage or casualties. This event provides an excellent opportunity for three radio clubs in distinct geographical areas to cooperate, and coordinate communications, medical, and technical support. No other event in the southeastern US that I know of can match the training opportunities presented by TOSRV. The skills honed during this operation will help everyone become the best radio operators they can be.

I certainly hope you are planning to be a part of it this year, because you are needed, and your participation will be greatly appreciated not only by me personally, but hundreds of cyclists, and dozens of other radio operators.

Please sign up for the TOSRV mailing list at <http://www.k4tlh.org>.

In line also with AE4S being removed from service is the relocation of the Capital District ARES net on Sundays at 8:00 p.m. (2000 hours). The Capital District ARES net is now meeting on the K4TLH repeater system on 147.03 (up .600). This repeater has a PL tone of 123.0 Hz, which will always be enabled.

A quick note about monthly meetings... Our meeting location is a State of Florida office building - the Claude Pepper Building. Considering recent criminal activities at my place of work, please be mindful of your surroundings, and be alert at all

times! Your safety is of great concern to me. Our meeting location is a secured facility, and as such, entry can be difficult, if nobody is at the door to let you in. Usually, we have someone at the door until 7:45 p.m., and a radio or two scanning the local repeaters along with 146.52 simplex. However, the radios are usually turned down/off once the meeting starts so that the program or business is not disrupted. Please, do try to be on time, as we cannot guarantee entry after 7:45 p. m. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve the entry process, please present them to Kent Hutchinson.

I still have beds available for anyone interested in going to the golden anniversary, 50th annual ARRL/Dayton Hamvention. Please contact me via e-mail, or at 850-321-3217 for details.

Until next month,  
73!

Dave, KG4ACF  
850.877.4046 – home  
850.321.3217 – cell  
[kg4acf@arrl.net](mailto:kg4acf@arrl.net)

## MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING MINUTES

Carliane Johnson, KG4CJT

The March meeting was the TARS Auction. Six guests and 29 members were in attendance. Amended minutes from the February meeting (needed to include the proposed budget table) were approved.

**Repeater report:** Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, reported that the 146.655 repeater goes off the air on March 31. No more discussions -- all resources have been exhausted. Equipment will need to come down such as some of the antennas but the cable will be abandoned. Few other sites are possible but they will have less coverage (from 650' high to 250').

*UPDATE: Further negotiations may have proven successful, and AE4S may end up staying on the air. For the latest details, tune in to the ARES net on Sunday nights. - Eds.*

Need to do some modifications to K4TLH on 147.03, and get the remote tied in. After relocation, the dropping out will go away. The K4TLH 146.91 machine is working well. The next shuttle launch is March 8 and we'll work accordingly.

The 6m repeater is up and KUDOS to Steve Welsh, AD4E for helping on that last weekend!!

*UPDATE: I believe that more work was done to get the repeater on the air, but it is not transmitting yet. The receiver is on-line, however. -Dave*

Anyone who is interested in amateur TV, Randy announced he has a brand new, \$36,000 VHF TV that was donated. Has channels 57-60, is cable-ready and can share our amateur frequencies. It also has 1000 watts of power but we'll probably back that down a little. Randy needs a working party to get the transmitter (it's not small) and people to take the lead on setting this up. Seems fairly complicated and time consuming but once its set up it'll be fine.

**Testing:** Next testing session is March 6, 7:00 p.m. at the ISS training room. For testing, please bring your license, a copy of the license, and copy of CSCE, if you have one. Contact Alan Terrell, N4KGT, or the club web site for more information on testing sessions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, reported there have been no changes to the treasurer's report since last month.

**New business:** Mrs. Brett Wellman provided, information regarding a Hurricane Awareness event to be held at the Tallahassee Mall on Saturday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to inform the public about hurricane safety, and they want to include ham radio operators' role in emergency communications. The TARS van could be brought inside the mall, and members indicated an interest in helping staff a booth.

Carliane Johnson, KG4CJT, announced that the newsletters will no longer be provided by mail after this month if club members have not paid their

dues. The electronic version will continue to be provided without charge.

**Old Business:** Dave Heupel, KG4ACF, said he still plans to look into the possibility of getting a gas card for the van.

March 17 is the Triathlon Club's race, which will take about 2 - 3 hours. Approximately 4 - 5 volunteers are needed beginning around 7:00 - 7:30 at Maclay Gardens. Contact is Steve Welsh, AD4E.

Ted Zateslo, W1XO noted that the Net will stay on 146.655 for the next couple of weeks and then an announcement will be made of schedule changes. Dave, KG4ACF, requested an email notice so he can broadcast the change via email.

March 24 is the Walk America event. Contact Randy Bishop, KD6UAN.

TOSRV is coming in April. Contact Dave Heupel, KG4ACF, or Dave Pienta, KG4DVW.

Tom Brooks, K4TB won the raffle pot of \$21. The remaining \$21 went to the club's coffers.

**GEORGE THURSTON III, W4MLE, SK**  
*Reprinted from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 20, No. 12*

Broadcast journalism pioneer, Amateur Radio writer and ARRL field volunteer George Thurston III, W4MLE, of Tallahassee, Florida, died March 20. He was 75. Thurston was editor of the first ARRL Radio Amateur's Operating Manual, the author of QST "Public Service" columns and at least 10 other QST articles from 1951 to 1994. He also won a QST Cover Plaque award.

A Virginia native and a victim of tuberculosis as a teenager, Thurston was first licensed in 1947. He went on to become a respected broadcast news reporter and print journalist who covered stories of national and international interest during his career. Retired ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM, who collaborated with Thurston on the first ARRL Operating Manual, called him "a great guy."

In the 1960s, Thurston and Andy Clark, W4IYT-now a Silent Key-who was then SEC of Southern Florida, put into place what is now the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Florida and established close ties with the National Traffic System. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Frank Butler, W4RH-then a section manager-had appointed Thurston as Section Emergency Coordinator for the old Western Florida Section. "Thurston did a great job in Florida," he said. "He was an all-around good ham, and an excellent CW operator."

Thurston later served as SEC of the Northern Florida Section-from July 1990 through November 1996 -- and is credited with helping to strengthen the ARES organization in the section. W4MLE also was an ARRL Official Relay Station and a past president of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society.

ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, called Thurston "a backbone in emergency communications in Florida."

Northern Florida Section Manager Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, said Thurston was dedicated to Amateur Radio and an experienced and knowledgeable operator.

As a free-lance broadcast journalist, Thurston spent two decades in the state capital press corps, including many years as bureau chief for the Washington Post-owned stations in Florida. Thurston's obituary in the Tallahassee Democrat notes that in 1959 he was the first broadcast journalist to cover the Florida Legislature full-time. He also inaugurated the first live television broadcasts from the legislative chambers. Thurston later covered the arrest, conviction and execution of serial killer Ted Bundy. He also worked as a correspondent for Time.

His wife, Maryjane, four children and seven grandchildren survive. A funeral service is set for March 24, 11 AM, at Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee.

## ANTENNA RAISING

*From: John Ryan, KD2NL*

I would like to take this occasion to thank the three gentlemen, David Heupel, Randy Bishop and John Reynolds, that helped, (they did most of the work), put my HyGain TH5MK2 (5El x 3Bd) up on my tower.

As luck would have it, the weather behaved. The rain went away by 9 am Sat. It was windy. But, thankfully, the wind was blowing in the right direction. After John Reynolds, everything clicked and up it went.

After re-educating myself in "How to tune a TS830," all over again, I worked Luxembourg and received a 5/9. I also worked a member of my old club on Long Island. As he said 10 over, both ways. Once again "Thanks for the help" and thanks for the use of the equipment.



## LINKS FOR TECHNOCRATS

By Shawn Wilson, KG4GXU

This article is intended to highlight some not so obvious web sites. The links provided here range from electronic to computer to radio oriented (of course). I invite you to email me any pages you think to be of similar quality to: [swilson@tfn.net](mailto:swilson@tfn.net) and I hope you enjoy reading this article as much as I enjoyed writing it.

- **The Hardware Book** - <http://www.hardwarebook.net/> - This page has a lot of information about computer oriented electronics; that is, wiring and explanation of pin outs (ie, ISA, EISA, PCI, etc.) of the PC. Though it doesn't seem to have the most information, it is well organized, and put together.
- **ePanorama.net** - <http://www.epanorama.net/> "The best view of electronics on the web." Well, that about sums up this site. They have the most technical information that I have found at any one place on the web. Everything from how to use a PC (RS-232) serial port to power a circuit, to information about making a room soundproof (such as for home media systems). But, be forewarned, this archive is HUGE, so it is very easy to get lost in here and forget what you were originally looking for.
- **MODS** - <http://www.mods.dk/> - The best amateur radio site I have found yet. They have projects from the "could be ugly if you mess up not for the faint of heart" to software (EEPROM) modifications, that are invoked by simply pressing the right buttons, and can be reset by a simple memory reset. I also use this site when shopping for a radio, because some have posted problems with radios and solutions. And, pictures are sometimes shown of the inside of the radio, which can give one an idea of how sturdy the product really is.
- **Cable X-Perts, Inc** - <http://www.cablexperts.com/> - These guys seem to have just about every type of cable you'd ever want for any job, and at a fairly decent price too. I haven't done business with them; however, they look pretty professional.
- **Cable reference chart** - <http://www.concord-elex.com/public/geninfo/> - This site has a bunch of reference charts from coaxial wire to screws. Seeing as how the company was good enough to put up some excellent reference charts, I thought I'd also note the business side of their web site <http://www.concord-elex.com> - which sells

everything from fuse holders to SMA, SMB, and SMC connectors.

- **Repeater Builders** - [http://www.cdi2.com/build\\_it/](http://www.cdi2.com/build_it/) - This page has a bunch of very technical information, and links to some cool pages that aren't too technical, such as a link to the National Frequency Coordinators' Conference, Inc. and to S.H.A.R.K.K. which has state-by-state links to repeater councils.
- **WM7D dot Net** - <http://www.wm7d.net/> - This website has the most useful ham radio links that I have seen on one page so far. There is everything from PSK31 and packet and other digital modes to antennas and propagation information.

## MEMBERSHIP AND EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Please remit \$25 for single membership or \$35 for the family to: Kent Hutchinson, 911 San Luis Road, Tallahassee, FL 32304. Make checks payable to "TARS" and include your call sign, mail and e-mail addresses, and phone number. Indicate whether you would prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. For further information, contact Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, at 574-4200 or [KC4TOC@earthlink.net](mailto:KC4TOC@earthlink.net).

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](mailto:carliane@msn.com).



TO:

## Activities/Events/Info

<b>DATE/TIME</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHERE</b>
April 4th, 7:00 p.m. April 21 & 22	Monthly Meeting TOSRV	Claude Pepper Building N. Florida & S. Georgia Bicycle Event <a href="http://www.k4tlh.org">http://www.k4tlh.org</a>
April 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	Hamfest & Computer Show	Alachua Co. Fairgrounds <a href="http://www.gars.net/hamfest">http://www.gars.net/hamfest</a>
Sundays, 8 p.m.	ARES Net	Freq.: 147.030
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	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars</a>