

October 2001



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Soldering Class Shows Us How Its Done

By: David A. Heupel, KG4ACF

September 8th brought a couple of Randy Pierce's (KC4YWP) friends into town to present a very informative program on something many of us hams do a lot of - soldering.

We have to solder PL-259 connectors on coax cable all the time, and

many of us do board-level component work, or build kits, or home-brew antennae and other equipment. Having the right tools and materials, knowing the proper techniques of soldering, and which to use for the current job are essential for making equipment that will last the test of time & use, or a repair that stays repaired, versus one that will break again.

Ken Ward, from Simmons Chemical Corporation (www.simchem.com) in Sarasota, Florida, and Jeff Bengile,

along with a colleague, of Telecom Industries, right here in Tallahassee, Florida came over to the TPD conference room to pass along some important information about the proper tools, materials and techniques used in soldering today. They also had a display of some of the latest tools available from a leading manufacturer, ranging in price from \$8 to \$800.

Attendees watched two half-hour videos with question and answer sessions after each

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Special points of interest:

- Approximately 15 attend soldering class.
- Tropical weather season in full swing.
- Skywarn training scheduled for first Saturday in October.
- Spaghetti 100 cycling event coming up on October 20.

President's QSO

October is Spaghetti 100 time, and I hope many of you will be able to participate in this year's event. If I'm not mistaken, the event is Saturday, October 20. Please mark your calendars, and try to keep the

date open, as we'll need all the help we can get, especially if you have APRS equipment. The APRS mode of operation has proven to be very valuable in these cycling events over the past couple of years, and if

you are APRS capable, I hope you plan to work the event this year.

I've also heard from David Pienta, KG4DVW, that he has lined up another Skywarn/Severe

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VP's Corner

The recent terrorist attack on our nation has dominated conversations ever since it happened. This is certainly something that has effected every American, no matter what your occupation or where you live. Immediately after the attacks many of my co-workers and friends we anxious to assist those in New York and Washington, D.C., but didn't know what to do other than donating

blood or giving cash donations to assist the families of the victims. Although we may not be able to give hands-on assistance without actually traveling to the World Trade Center or the Pentagon, we can play a major role in the events that appear to be unfolding as the days progress.

As amateur radio operators, we enjoy communica-

tions. By possessing an amateur radio license from the FCC, even that of a technician class license with no code, you can join the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) and play a role in keeping our troops in communication.

MARS is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and

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

Meeting Minutes—September 2001

Called to order at 1932 EDT.

There were 21 members present, along with 8 new members and guests: Joe Giangrosso, KG4OMM (works for TPD - Mitch Miller is supervisor); Bob Burns (no call yet - just interested); Theo Titus, K4MVL (long-time ham); Charlie Kunz, AA5QJ (from Las Vegas but works in Tallahassee every other week); Clyde Gaskins, KE4ICA (was a novice a long time ago and just getting back into ham radio); Ben Casteel, K3JQP (has been into ham radio for a while and wants to get General license); and Rick Mayfield, K8KJB (just moved down from Ohio). [WOW!! Welcome to all,

and come back next month!]

Program

"How Amateur Radio can Work with Red Cross Operations"

Gary Botts, Capital Area Chapter, American Red Cross

Red Cross has a Memorandum of Understanding with TARS and others regarding their respective responsibilities. The Red Cross radio frequency is 47.42 MHz. Radios are in the shelters, and Emergency Response Vehicles, and also has a "shack" set up in the office. Red Cross

needs to move fast to keep in contact in the field, and for quick coordination/scheduling efforts at the shelters. Emergency Command center at the office needs 2-3 hams to work when there is an event. The only requirement is to attend the Introduction to Disaster Assistance class, which qualifies ham operators for communications work wherever they may be needed. Mr. Botts suggested that the introduction class could be offered during one of the TARS meetings, if there was enough interest. A show of hands so indicated a sufficient level of interest. Mr. Botts mentioned that the Capital Chapter needs

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Meeting Minutes—September 2001

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 latitude/longitude coordinates for all the shelters in Tallahassee.

Business

Treasurer's Report

Checking	\$728.89
Savings	\$1329.73
Total	\$2058.62

Expenses were approximate as follows: \$61 for filing fee, \$180 reimbursement to Kent for gas in the van, \$20 for newsletter, \$300 for Field Day. The liability policy is due in October (\$330) and we should get equipment replacement insurance for the van. Dues are half price (\$12.50 for individual and 17.50 for family) for

the rest of the year. Kent wrote a check to David A. Heupel, KG4ACF, in the amount of \$21.40, for newsletter postage for July, August, September 2001.

John Decoteau paid family dues.

Minutes of August approved.

Repeater Report

Randy Pierce, KC4YWP reported that .03 is up and operating. Some preventive maintenance is scheduled. There was some water damage at the remote site so we might want to raise that a bit. The .91 repeater is at 4 sites but some are not up completely. New machine is going up on WTWC-40 tower (~500') at

442.1/447.1; tone 162.2. Randy's expenses of \$105.62 for crystals was approved. Another motion was made to donate 450' of 7/8" hard-line cable to the Wakulla club on the condition that it be returned to the club if no longer needed. The main concern was that the cable should be kept intact. The 6m repeater is half working. Randy went to Sarasota recently to pick up the station. Will be 446.875 simplex (UHF to 6m) with tone at 123. The next shuttle launch is scheduled for November 12 (.91 will be up). Tallahassee Community Hospital has requested that it would like to have a formal plan if anything should affect their communications. A letter was considered

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Soldering Class Shows Us How Its Done

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 video. The videos were fabrication industry grade training materials, that were chock full of great information applicable to most all of the typical soldering jobs in which an amateur radio operator would engage. Attendance was around 15 persons, and a ten-dollar fee was collected from those present to cover their transportation costs.

Ken Ward has invited all TARS members to take a look at Simmons Chemical Corporations web site. They offer excellent products, and precision tools designed for close in component level work, which a lot of us do. There is also a possibility of a club discount if we were to pool an order of tools and/or materials. I will let Randy Pierce speak further on

this possibility at a future TARS meeting.

Everyone was grateful for the excellent information presented in the videos and Q&A sessions, and I believe everyone walked away with a greater knowledge of proper soldering techniques.



Help Wanted:
 Volunteers needed
 to help with net
 control duties for
 North Florida
 ARES/Phone nets
 on 3950 KHz

VP's Corner

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operated program by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. To join you must hold an amateur radio license from the FCC, be at least 17 years of age, be an American citizen, and have a radio capable of operating on the MARS frequencies.

I know some hams in our area have been a part of the MARS program for a number of years. Kent (KC4TOC) is one

that I have spoken to on numerous occasions about the program and I'm sure he'd be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. The Army, Navy, and Air Force MARS programs differ slightly, but the general idea is the same: to assist our armed forces by way of communications as a civilian. What an incredible opportunity to use our skills.

Brett Wellman
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 TARS Vice-President
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 Work: 850-574-5872
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Negotiations
 to acquire
 commercial
 radio tower
 continue.

President's QSO

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Weather training session for those of you who are interested. The event is scheduled for October 6, from 1 – 4 p. m. in room 101 of the Love Building on the FSU campus. Contact Dave Pienta at weatherman_fsu@yahoo.com for additional information, or to register for the class. I've taken these classes already, and learned a great deal about the formation of severe storms, and how to interpret radar data. If you haven't attended one of these sessions, I highly recommend it!

Brett Wellman, KG4KLR, our vice-president has done a great job so far with lining up some informative programs. I be-

lieve he has another one scheduled for this next meeting, so we will be meeting at the Claude Pepper Building this month. I hope everyone can make it. Give Brett a pat on the back the next time you see him, as he is not only our vice president, but has been a key player in helping organize our sister club, the Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) in Wakkulla County. He is very busy with both clubs, and deserves everyone's appreciation and recognition.

Another person deserving recognition is our local #1 Elmer, Ivan Cook, K4SRB. Unfortunately, we haven't seen him at meetings lately, as he has been taking classes to further his

knowledge about electronics. However, he has consistently found time, and opened his home for the education of new hams, and helping other hams upgrade. Last month's testing session bore the fruits of his labor, as there were two new licensees, and a couple of upgrades. Be sure to welcome and congratulate our new friends on the air when you hear them. Many thanks to you, Ivan, for finding the time to encourage others to get involved in Amateur Radio, and equip them with knowledge to succeed on the tests. We all hope to see you again soon at our meetings, Ivan.

Until next month,
 73!

Meeting Minutes—September 2001

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appropriate and David will arrange with Randy on sending a letter from TARS to TCH. Need trustees for the repeaters when Randy is out of town. Also, the club should send a "thank you" letter to Ric Sims who purchased voice software for the repeater and was the only one who offered to help Randy with maintenance on the repeaters. **UPDATE:** *New UHF repeater is now live, and on the air!*

Testing Report

Alan Terrell, N4KGT said there were 6 people who tested at the last session. Five upgraded or passed. John Ryan, KD2NL became an Extra; there were two new Techs and two Generals. Next session is Tuesday, November 1st, at the ISS Testing Center on Municipal Way (see <http://www.k4tlh.org/>). There may be another testing session in Wakulla.

Raffle

Charlie Kunz, AA5QJ, won the raffle, with the other half (\$15) going to the club.

Old Business:

1. Gas card - not finished with paperwork. (UPDATE – Tosco's bank has declined to issue us a card, unfortunately. – Prez)
2. Preventive Maintenance for TARS van - would like to speak with Casey's Garage to look over the van, and change the oil and brakes. Expenses of up to \$300 for PM on the van were approved.
3. Radio Tower – David was unable to contact the tower owner before the meeting.
4. Vests - no update.
5. Tailgate - there was some misunderstanding about the last TARS meeting about the club's participation in the Tailgate. There was no intention of making with a club

event. Just wanted to get the van there and try to increase exposure and participation.

6. Tower sections - Carl Hayes, NN5I requested to purchase 7 sections of the Rohn 25G tower at \$25/section, which was approved.

New Business:

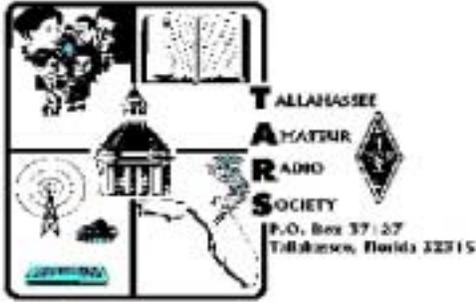
1. Need complete dues paying member roster from Kent.
2. Doug Ferrell to create equipment database? Doug not in attendance to comment...
3. David, KG4ACF, mentioned that the club's fiscal year (January 1 – December 31) is not aligned officers' terms (July 1 – June 30). Wondered why that was, and if a change is appropriate. Members' comments suggested no change is necessary; it is set up like that so incoming board of directors should have some cash on hand to operate with.
4. Jacksonville Ham Fest (NOFARS) is coming up October 6.
5. Request by Randy Pierce to purchase controller for UHF repeater (\$154) was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2145 EDT.

For Sale

Force 12 C 19 XR 20, 15, 10-meter terrific beam. Must sell to buy lighter weight beam, which will work better for my fold-over tower system, excessive weight in the horizontal stresses rotor housing. About one year old and would prefer to sell locally. Also for sale is an MFJ Versa Tuner V (986C) – the BIG one. Call 644-8176 during the day or 668-9297 in the evening, or email at sampleassoc@nettally.com. John Sample K4ZNC.





Amateur Radio
Around the
World

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



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

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Upcoming Events

Testing Session:

7:00 p. m. EDT on July 3, 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.