

President's QSO

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Special points of interest:

- Your articles wanted for the newsletter.
- Dues are due this month, be sure to bring your check-book—\$25 individual membership, \$35 family/household membership.

The New Year has come, and I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2002. I hope everyone had a safe, and very Merry Christmas.

Our first two events this year will be the Tallahassee Marathon, coming up this month on the 20th, sponsored by Gulf Winds Track Club, and the March of Dimes' WalkAmerica event, which is usually the Saturday of the last full weekend in March. Those of you who can participate in these events, please do so. We usually need about ten or so operators for the marathon, which is typically a 7:00 a. m. – 3:00 p. m. event. The WalkAmerica event usually calls for about eight or so operators, and is a half-day event usually running from about 7:30 a. m. – 1:00 p. m. I asked Carliane to have a report ready for the January meeting regard-

ing the marathon. I'm certain more details will be forthcoming as the WalkAmerica event nears.

Of course our big event is TOSRV, coming up in April. Most of you know, TOSRV is a twp-day, two-hundred mile bike ride event sponsored by the Capital City Cyclists Club, and runs a whole weekend. As always, we need as many operators as possible to cover this event—especially on Sunday. If you can spare even just a few hours on Sunday afternoon, it would be a big help having some folks covering the "homestretch leg" of the ride. We're gearing up for TOSRV early this year, and try to make it one of the best TOSRV events ever.

I've also been contacted by the science department teacher at Woodville Elementary School, and they are interested in having a radio put in

for monitoring the space shuttle flights. There wasn't enough lead time for this past mission, STS-108, but I hope to get them something set up for the next launch, STS-109 in February. If anyone would like to assist me with this project, I would be very grateful.

I want to take just a moment to express my gratitude to Brett for organizing the North Pole Network for the children at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, as well as John Sample, K4ZNC, and Bob Moody, W4WSZ, for bringing Santa to an area elementary school via amateur radio. I understand everyone had a great time, especially the kids. It was a lot of fun listening to John & Bob while I was at work.

I suppose that is all the important stuff for now, so...until next month,

73!
David

VP's Corner

November marked my one year anniversary as a licensed ham radio operator, and what a year it has been for me! I was visiting family in Ohio for the holidays and remember making a contact on a repeater in Brunswick, just outside Cleveland. What a thrill to drive around town and talk with other amateurs on the local 2m repeaters! One year later and the hobby is just as exciting, but in so many

new ways. As for my latest adventure in amateur radio, I think it will go down as the most personally satisfying I will ever encounter.

The first week of December, I was reading about the North Pole Network on the ARRL website. It's a wonderful idea that is used throughout the country to bring Santa into the hospitals via amateur radio to find out what the sick chil-

dren would like for Christmas and to lift their spirits. There was some interest by other operators at the TARS meeting, so I began to make some phone calls to see if we could make this happen. As luck would have it, I got in contact with a person in the public relations department at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare that didn't know anything about amateur radio, but loved

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Mark your
calendar...
January 20th,
Tallahassee
Marathon

Meeting Minutes—December 2001

Attendance: 24; Guest was Michael Dunning, GDOHYM, from the Isle of Man.

Treasurer's Report

Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, reported that the only expenditure since last month's report was \$146.00 for the van. A substantial amount of work was done for a very reasonable price by Bill Cayson's Auto Service (878-3931).

Mintues

November meeting minutes were approved.

Repeater Report

Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, has been called to active duty so David Heupel, KG4ACF, reported that all

TARS machines seem to be up & running.

Testing Report

Alan Terrell, N4KGT, said there would be a testing session on January 8 (at 2631 Municipal Way) since the first Tuesday of the month is New Year's day.

Special Events Committee

Carlaine Johnson, KG4CJT, gave an update of the committee meeting that was held and discussions that have ensued between committee members thus far.

Announcement

David also noted that he recently attended a Red Cross Disaster Assistance Class where he mentioned

the benefits of ham radio communications. The attendees from the class were teachers, who expressed an interest in ham radio and said they might attend some club meetings in the future.

New Business

K4TLH web server is down. The domain name expired and TARS owes Doug Ferrell \$35.00 for the registration. Steve Welsh, AD4E, offered to look into QSL.net because it's free. The K4TLH.org site, however, is down for an indefinite time. No one is sure what happened but law enforcement is involved.

K4TLH.org is back up & running —Ed

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Meeting Minutes—December 2001

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Raffle and door prize

The raffle (\$12.50) and door prize provided by John Decoteau, KG4GXT, was won by Brett Wellman, KG4KLR.

Open Mic

Brett also notified the group about an article on the ARRL website regarding hams setting up radio communications between Santa Clause and kids that are in hospitals during the

holidays. If he can get some volunteers and if the local hospital agrees, he would like to do this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46.m.

VP's Corner—cont'd

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the idea. I explained the basic concept of setting up a radio-op ("Santa") in an office down the hall, and some operators would walk from room to room and call for Santa on the radio. When Santa replies, he knows what bed his elves are standing at, therefore he knows the name of the child and other pertinent information, making the QSO very believable.

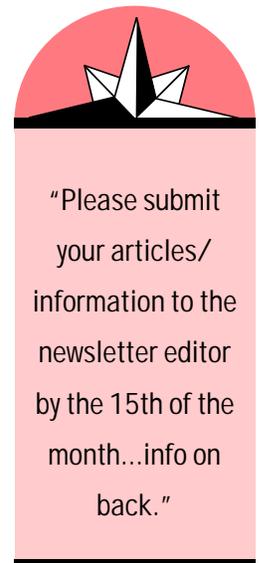
The outpouring of donations to make this project a reality from the amateur radio operators in our area was overwhelming. Since the event had to be in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week (we had to play by the hospital's rules), we were quite limited by the number of volunteers that could assist. Luckily, John Love NZ4QJ, Carl Hayes NN5I, and Kent Hutchinson KC4TOC were able to make time in their busy holiday schedules to join my wife and I as we brought the North Pole Network to life in Tallahassee. Santa talked with all of the children on the pediatric floor that day that were old enough and well enough to speak to him, and one child in intensive care. Everyone we spoke with received a stuffed animal, a coloring book, and crayons. It was an incredible afternoon, one in which I found it difficult to do anything else for the rest of the day due to the magnitude of

the event. I was able to put my amateur radio skills to use for something that thrilled so many people. Even more thrilled than the kids were the parents and nurses, who see these kids everyday that don't feel well, and all they want to do is be normal, play outside, and have Santa visit them with toys. Our visit offered the kids a new reason for hope and to get well. It proved to them that Santa knew who they were by name, and that he cared about their wants and wishes. What we did that afternoon was inspiring to everyone, especially me.

The North Pole Network was a success, and an event that I hope we will continue every year for a very long time. Events such as these are not limited to the holiday season, but can be done anytime. All it takes is a little imagination, a few phone calls, and a couple of hours. What better thing can there be than to bring such joy with a hobby that you love? If you ever have an idea for an event such as this, please tell me about it and I'll do everything I can to help make it a reality.

Happy New Year!

73,
Brett Wellman, KG4KLR
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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
January 8, 2002, at the
regular testing session
location on Dupree St in
Tallahassee. For more
information, a map and
directions, visit <http://www.k4tlh.org>.

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. East-
ern.

North Florida Phone

Net: Every evening,
on 3950 KHz at 2330
UTC.

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,
KG4ACF.