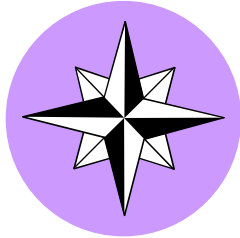




February 2002



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Special points of interest:

- Steve Welsh, AD4E, is looking for ideas on the future direction of TARS.
- Tropical weather season in full swing.
- Meeting time changed to 7:00 p.m.

Where Do We Go From Here—Part 2

By: Steve Welsh, AD4E

In the November *Printed Circuit*, I discussed four primary service areas for TARS:

1. Public service;
2. Public awareness;
3. Technical and operational training;
4. Camaraderie and friendship for its members.

My intent is to promote discussion (brainstorming) on how we can improve in these areas, and agree on

what should be priorities for TARS. As a result of setting priorities, TARS will then have goals to shoot for. The first two months of the year are a logical time to bring forward fresh ideas for consideration. In March and April, the focus can shift to implementing items that attract support.

The follow-through and success of any item depends on the amount of volunteer support that it attracts. Little volunteer support means the item is currently not very important and is not worth-

while for the Club to pursue. If you see an item, or have an idea you think is important, help it become reality by volunteering to support or coordinate it. Although some items will be tackled anyway, others may be tabled for later consideration.

Often, all it takes is someone to act as a point of contact, and additional support will come forward. There is no reason for someone to handle everything involved with a given

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President's QSO

I can't believe it's February already. Time sure flies by. The 2002 Tallahassee Marathon is behind us, and our next big event is, of course, the Tour of Scenic Rural Vistas (TOSRV) South. We are already getting in

high gear with planning the event. Brett will be at the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club meeting the first Saturday of February, along with the TOSRV ride director, Larry Pushor. I've been told that about three

people from the Albany Amateur Radio Club will also be in attendance. I am very glad to hear about that. I have assured Brett that I will be able to get maps to the Thomasville and Albany

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VP's Corner

It hardly seems possible to me that another year has started, and now we're already one month into it! With January came the annual Tallahassee Marathon, and once again the Gulf Winds Track Club looked to the amateur radio operators in our area to provide communications throughout the street course. The amount of radio operators that volunteered for the event was terrific, and the number of

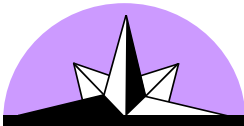
people that came out the day before to ensure all of the equipment was properly assembled and in good working order was impressive.

For the first time in a couple years, we used APRS throughout the day. There was a monitor placed at the start/finish line so spectators and fellow runners could watch both the lead runner and the tail end of the race as they

progressed. During the limited time spent outside of the communications van that day, I couldn't believe the number of people I overheard mentioning how impressed they were with the technology.

Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the role of net control for the event. This was the second operation that I had the opportunity to run as net control, and I

(Continued on page 4)



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

Meeting Minutes—January 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. Twenty members present. An announcement was made that dues for 2002 are now due. There was no program due to the football game.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters:

Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, reports all is fine but there is not much activity on 147.03, we need to use it more. A broadcast engineer is going to work with Randy on the TV antenna we have. It would be even better if we can broadcast a NASA net.

Testing

Alan Terrell, N4KGT, re-

ports next testing session is January 8. The Wakulla Club is going to try to start a testing session on the off months, and Alan is in discussions about that with John Ryan, KD2NL.

Special Events:

No report

Old Business:

David Heupel, KG4ACF, said he needs a work party to get the radio tower but if not, he will call the owner and decline the tower. Will do it on January 26-27.

-President's note: A crew of 12 was requested to tackle the project, only 6 signed up. Therefore, the club will not take ownership of the tower.

Website is back up and

sports a new look. Thanks to Doug Ferrell, KD4MOJ, for his work on this.

Events:

Tallahassee Marathon is January 20. March of Dimes' WalkAmerica is also coming up -- contact Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC for more information about WalkAmerica.

For TOSRV, Brett Wellman, KG4KLR, will attend the February 2 Thomasville club meeting, and will try to attend the Albany club's meeting on February 26 at 7:30 (<http://www.isoa.net/aarc>).

Need to find out from Doug Ferrell what APRS equipment is available for

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Meeting Minutes—January 2002

(Continued from page 2)
TOSRV.

David Pienta, KG4DVW, reported that a Introduction to Skywarn class will be held on January 17 at the SPARC meeting in Wakulla County. He will provide further notification when the advanced class is scheduled. A Skywarn web site is also available

at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh/severe>.

Field Day is June 22-23. Steve Welsh, AD4E, will be the TARS 2002 Field Day chairperson, and will start planning now. He would like to consider purchasing a tri-band antenna, and will look for a used one. A motion was requested that \$400 be set aside for

purchasing a new one or refurbishing a used one. Carl Hayes, NN5I opposed stating there was still plenty of time (the motion passed) but offered the use of a stand and room in his back yard for testing the antenna.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Where Do We Go From Here-Part 2

(Continued from page 1)
item; thus if someone does volunteer to support an item, and doesn't receive help as needed, the initiative may be postponed. Remember, this is a hobby, and the activities chosen for support should be fun; it should not turn into an overwhelming responsibility.


1. In the area of **Public Service**, our goal here is to provide support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other cooperative activities. TARS is the largest club in the Capital District which covers eight counties. The AE4S and K4TLH repeaters are made available for ARES nets, and

activities. These repeaters offer backup communications support to affected agencies including the American Red Cross, and law enforcement. If you are able, please participate in the Capital District ARES Net (8 PM Sunday nights on 146.655 MHz, PL=94.8 Hz, AE4S repeater), and the North Florida ARES Net (9 AM daily, except Sunday, on 3950 KHz).

Amateur radio operators frequently work in conjunction with the National Weather Service (NWS), and the State Emergency Opera-

tions Center (SEOC). David Pienta, KG4DVW, coordinates the WX4TAE Skywarn station. When severe weather requires activation, operators are needed to report to the Tallahassee NWS Office. Skywarn spotters are also needed to give weather reports from the field. Members are encouraged to make provisions to operate using backup power (generator or battery) when utilities fail. High-priority calls for assistance can be routed to agencies using an Amateur Radio network.

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

VP's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

have found both experiences extremely rewarding. I have also come to realize it is an experience that everyone should have the opportunity to try. I encourage anyone that is remotely interested in being the net control for an event to speak up the next time something is being planned. Many operations require more than one operator at the helm, and most people gladly welcome any assistance offered. Who knows, you could have an incredible knack for it... you won't know without trying!

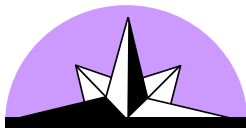
As for this month, I had plans to upgrade from a Tech+ to my General Class license. Unfortunately, I am being sent to Atlanta for the week when the testing session is being offered in Wakulla County. I see this as an opportunity, rather than a loss. I will upgrade my license in March, and in the meantime, delve into the world of QRP operation. I have already started planning a few ideas for a 40-meter CW transceivers

and wire antennas that I can drape around the hotel room. If anyone has any experience with this type of an operation, please let me know. The more advice the more likely I will be at making this happen. I'd hate to be stuck for a week with no way to operate except with my 2m HT.

The program this month should be a great one. Jack Heiss, WB0VMZ, has graciously volunteered to discuss some of his homebrew antenna projects, including his 10-meter dipole. Everything that he is going to discuss and display for us was made using parts that can be found at Home Depot or Lowe's. If you've never built your own antenna, this will get you started; and if you think you're an old pro, you might be surprised at what you learn!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting...

73,
Brett Wellman, KG4KLR



If you haven't already, please send in your dues for 2002—or better yet, write a check at the next meeting.

President's QSO

(Continued from page 1)

clubs at least two weeks prior to the event. It is my intention to have maps available to them sometime near mid-March.

Until next month,
73!

Editor's Note:

I apologize for not getting this newsletter out on time. The carpet was replaced in the house on January 21, and all the electronics had to be moved, as the carpet in-

stallers would only move furniture. So, I took the opportunity to "rebuild and reconfigure" the ham shack. I got my computer back up on the very afternoon of the February TARS meeting, and I was unable to get the newsletter completed prior to the 20th, when I had to take the PC down.

The membership present at the February meeting voted to move the meeting time up a half-hour to 7:00 p. m. It was further

agreed that I would amend the bylaws to reflect this, and it was further suggested that the bylaws undergo a thorough revision. I will work on this, and do my best to provide the revised text to you in the next newsletter.

Where Do We Go From Here—Part 2

(Continued from page 3)

Additionally, TARS regularly offers support to the Capital City Cyclists (<http://www.cccyclists.org>), the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, and other similar events. Volunteers are needed to support these activities.

In support of these Public Service activities, we rely heavily on local VHF repeaters. These repeaters provide critical communications support, and as such, TARS should focus on maintaining at least one repeater system. In conjunction with the AE4S VHF repeater, excellent communications coverage is provided in the Capital District. Also note the Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) is constructing a repeater in Wakulla County which will enhance communications into adjacent coastal areas.

In this regard, it is important to note that any repeater system requires maintenance. TARS currently sponsors five "K4TLH" repeaters: 147.03, 146.91, 442.10, 442.85, and a 50 MHz repeater (under construction) all with a PL tone of 123.0 Hz. Our repeater chairperson, Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, has been very generous in volunteering his time and effort to support these systems. It is my opinion that TARS should focus on one or two systems and optimize them. If you would like to learn more about these radio systems, please get with Randy to offer your support.

2. In the area of **Public Awareness**, our goal here is to promote growth of the hobby, and TARS as a result. To achieve this, four things are

needed: (1) development of a flyer to promote Amateur Radio, and attract new hams; (2) printing of the flyer; (3) identify locations where flyers should be posted and/or handed out; (4) distribution of flyers. Bulletin boards, Radio Shack stores, and our Public Service events are where prospective hams are most likely to see them. Each committee member could be responsible for a geographic area.

Other examples include setting up an information table in a mall; offering licensing courses and examinations; donating copies of *Now You're Talking* to selected public schools and libraries; announcing our meeting time and place in the Democrat, on FSU and FAMU's campus radio stations, and on Comcast's City channel; and promoting our <http://k4tlh.org> web-site for news and information to the general public on club events such as meetings and scheduled FCC examination sessions.

A committee chairperson is needed, along with several committee members. Attend a TARS meeting or send e-mail to ad4e@arrl.net to volunteer.

3. In the area of **Technical and Operational Training**, our goal here is to promote good operating technique, and further our technical understanding of the hobby. Persons are needed to assist newly licensed hams with getting on the air. These folks would be known as "Elmers." Also, meeting programs are a perfect opportunity to present subjects of interest.



Where Do We Go...

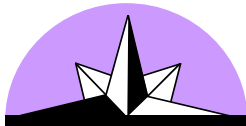
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We need presenters for future programs. Talks may be as short as ten minutes—even some non-ham subjects may be relevant, especially for short programs.

4. In the area of **Camaraderie and Friendship**, the goal is self-explanatory. Besides our monthly meetings, we have our bi-annual picnics, Holiday dinner, and informal gatherings at various restaurants (and pubs—hoho).

Again, these are my own opinions, and I offer these ideas as a starting point for TARS to consider. To be an effective club, I believe it is vitally important for TARS to have an agenda. With this in hand, we can then proceed forward with direction, and focus. As mentioned earlier, this is a hobby, and the activities chosen for support should be fun; it should not turn into an overwhelming responsibility. Having been in the hobby for over 25 years, I have no intention of making it a "job."

73, Steve –AD4E



"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Florida's Version of PRB-1 Legislation Up For Possible Vote

From Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP

Whereas: A system of volunteer amateur radio operators are vital in providing emergency communications during natural disasters;

And Whereas: Amateur radio operators save lives and assist police, fire and other traditional public service organizations in communicating and providing services to victims of natural disasters;

And Whereas: The effectiveness of amateur radio operators is affected by the ability to erect and use

outdoor antenna systems;
And Whereas: Private land use regulations are pervasive and unfairly restrict volunteer amateur radio operators in performing vital emergency communications through restrictions to erecting outdoor antenna systems;

Let It Be Resolved: That the Florida Legislature recognizes the importance of amateur radio and the need to accommodate amateur radio emergency communications through erection of outdoor antennas of reasonable size and height.

Section 1: Any local ordinance, land regulation, deed restriction, or covenant involving the placement, screening or height of antenna structures shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio communication and shall impose the minimum regulation and restrictions necessary to accomplish clearly defined objectives of the local government, association or property owner.

Section 2: This act shall take affect on <date>.

Important Announcement

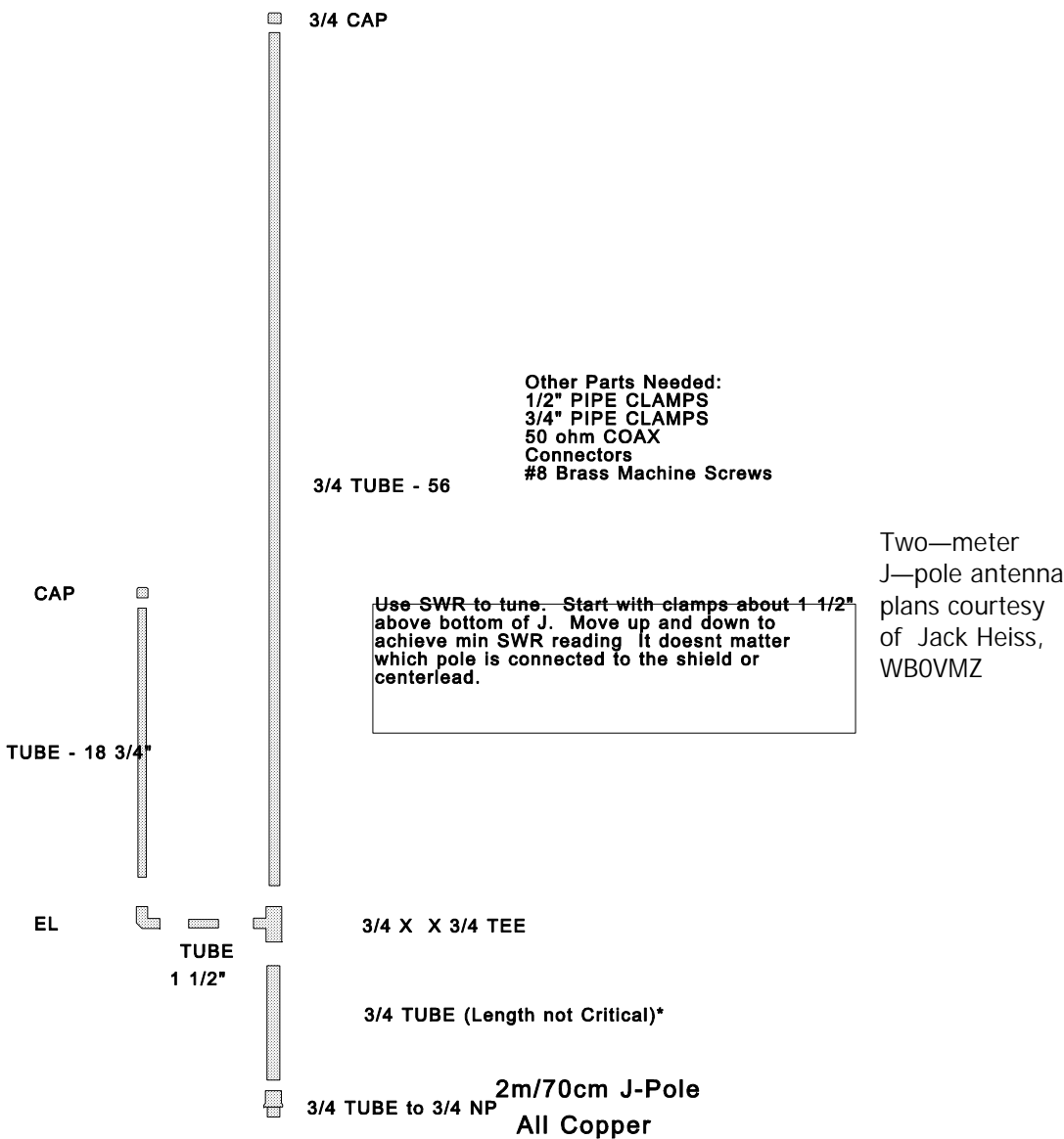
Beginning in March 2002, the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society will begin meeting at 7:00 p. m. Please make a note of the new meeting time.

Field Day 2002 – Mission San Luis, June 22-23

The K4TLH TARS Field Day will be again held at the historic Mission San Luis Park and Historical site. We anticipate running three stations this year. Each station will be band specific, rather than mode specific. For example, we could run one station dedi-

cated to 40/15-meters, one station devoted to 20-meters, and another station devoted to 10-meters. This will simplify the setup of antennas, and provide more flexibility in choosing between SSB and CW. Volunteers are needed for station captains, power,

food, publicity, and satellite operation. Co-captains are encouraged to share the load. Please contact Steve Welsh, AD4E, to volunteer as a resource captain, or offer other support.



*3" works but any length will probably work as well.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



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
March 5, 2002, at the
regular testing session
location, 2631 Municipal
Way 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 9:00 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
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the following month's
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