



Tallahassee Field Day 2002

By: David A. Heupel, KG4ACF

Yet another Field Day event is behind us, and the next major TARS event (other than hurricane season) won't be until October, the Spaghetti 100 bike ride. This year's Field Day Chairperson, Steve Welsh, AD4E, did a commendable job in organizing the event.



6-meter and UHF yagis on the van's tower at Field Day 2002.

Photo ©KG4ACF

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As a Class 2A operation, this year's Field Day event included two HF transmitters, with an additional HF GOTA station, a VHF/UHF phone/Amateur Television sta-

tion, and a specialty satellite station.

Operators on site Saturday evening enjoyed a dinner of barbeque pork smoked turkey, baked

beans, and cole slaw from Banjo's. Carl Hayes, NN5I, also brought a 26 pound smoked turkey (*which blew away Banjo's—Ed.*),

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Special points of interest:

- 20/10 meter station logs near 800 QSOs
- TARS Field Day enjoys first satellite QSO in four years, satellite station brings in 105 points.
- Meeting on July 11, not July 4!
- Mark your calendars for Spaghetti 100 cycling event coming up October 19.

President's QSO

First off, thank-you electing me as your president. When Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, first proposed the idea to me, I responded "you must be out of your mind—I've got too much going

on already," but, after some discussion, I agreed that maybe its not a bad idea. The impetus for becoming president of TARS has been in the works for some time now, and had

developed through conversations with a handful of other hams including Randy Pierce and David Heupel. The discussions centered around how can we increase the level

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VP's Corner

There have been quite a few topics to write about this month, so many in fact, I have waited until the last minute to write my column because everyday brought about another experience with amateur radio I wanted to share. Finally, last night, it became clear to me what this column's theme was going to be.

While acting as net control for the weekly simplex net in Wakulla County, there was a new call I'd never heard before, KG4TZE, Joe Carter. Just two weeks earlier, Joe had passed his written exam for a tech license and his calls had just appeared on the ARRL website. I was his first amateur radio contact.

I cannot describe to you the thrill I got out of hearing someone crack the mic for the first time and make a contact, from Lake Talquin to Crawfordville, on simplex! The excitement in his voice was overwhelmingly contagious. We talked for a few minutes, then many others joined in with saying hello to the new ham. You could tell from his voice he was trying to make a mental note of everyone's call sign and their name, all the while wondering how in the world he was ever going to remember all of this.

Joe told me he was borrowing an HT from a friend, KG4LFT, and that he didn't actually own any equipment yet since he

was just getting started. As luck would have it, I recently changed out my discone antenna for a Ringo Ranger (thanks to the great generosity of a local elmer) and didn't have a need for it. I have slowly acquired a lot of stuff since being in this hobby, and every time my wife wants me to clear a lot of it out, the excuse she lets me get away with is that I am saving it to give to a new ham when he first gets his ticket and can't get on the air. Well, finally, that day had arrived.

This morning I loaded the discone into my truck, along with a 30 watt amp for an HT, and brought them to Joe. It was great

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Be safety conscious and analyze your station for RF exposure.

Meeting Minutes—June 2002

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. Twenty-five members, and 3 guests were in attendance.

Program:

Carlton Wells, N9FYG, gave a presentation on Radio Frequency Exposure Safety."

Treasurer's Report:

Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, wrote one check for \$67.50 for the fictitious name renewal. The checking balance is \$867.97, and savings is \$2,278.35. Still owe \$100.00 to Steve Walsh for the Yagi antenna.

May minutes were approved.

Repeater

Report:

Randy Pierce, KC4YWP, reported that the .91 machine still has the Space Shuttle up right now for the next 17 days. First item is that Randy received a call from Frank Butler, W4RH, of the Florida Repeater Council regarding an Ocala repeater on 147.03 MHz

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Meeting Minutes—June 2001 (con't)

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with the same PL tone as ours. The compromise is to change the PL tone on our machine to a new tone (94.8). There wouldn't be any cost just a little time, and people would need to reprogram their radios. Motion to accept the new PL tone was approved. Second item is that Doug Ferrell was asked to set up an APRS digipeater at the Blairstone site, and Randy would also like to put a UPS on there, but he needs 4 batteries at \$40 each. Carl, NN5I, said that he had a 1500VA UPS that died but the batteries are still good. Randy will check

with Carl to see if the batteries will work.

Testing:

Alan Terrel, N4KGT, said there was nobody at the May testing session but it will probably be busy at the session on Field Day, which is 2:00 p. m. Saturday, June 22.

Also, the Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club (SPARC), is providing a testing session this Tuesday (June 11) at 7:00 at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

Field Day:

Steve Walsh, AD4E, along with other TARS members, conducted a site survey at Mission

San Luis, on June 1. There will be a couple of air-conditioned trailers available for accommodating operating positions. Many thanks to the American Red Cross for providing one of the trailers we will have on site.

The club has acquired a 4-element yagi for 10-meters, and is still making other arrangements for more antennae. Set-up will begin around 8:30-9:00 a.m. so that stations can go on the air at 2:00 p. m. On another item, Steve reported that Tim Rozzelle, WB4GTY, has decided to donate his

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Tallahassee Field Day 2002 (con't)

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as well as a couple of homemade pumpkin custard pies. Everyone raved about how good Carl's turkey was, and there were a few brave souls that sampled the supercharged Carl/Kent Texahassee Chili. Sunday morning brought bananas, orange juice, bagels, and some homemade cookies (awesome!) to help revitalize the hard-core over-nighters, and welcome the Sunday participants. Let

us not forget Rhett White, who provided much needed coffee for the event.

Many thanks to the VEs who put together an exam session at Field Day. Seven people upgraded their licenses on Field Day, with six people passing exams during the exam session at Field Day on Saturday afternoon, and one person qualified for a no-test upgrade to General class.

All in all, Field Day was again, a great success, and all had fun. Complete Field Day data will be published in next month's newsletter. There were some lessons learned, and if you have a suggestion to make next year's event even better, bring it to the post-mortem at the next meeting.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to next year's Field Day already.



Meeting Minutes (con't)

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log-periodic antenna to TARS. It was believed that a used antenna like that could be sold for at least \$150.00. Randy Pierce is interested in buying it, so a motion was made, and passed, to sell it to Randy for \$150.00.

Elections:

Nominated slate - President, Steve Welsh; Vice President, Brett Wellman; Treasurer, Kent Hutchinson; Secretary, David Heupel. No nominations were submitted from the floor; motion to accept the slate of officers was approved.

Announcements:

A SEDAN (Southeastern Digital Amateur Network) Class: will be presented at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office on June 29 in the Wakulla EOC room.

TARS express its gratitude to Pete Wright, WA4NEB, for the donation of an Ameritron AL-

811 amp, and to David Myers, W4USA for a B&W folded dipole antenna for the upcoming HF station at the American Red Cross Capital District chapter house.

Business:

Revisions of by-laws will be discussed and voted upon at next meeting.

Tower climb for light fixture change on the tower at TCH, Saturday June 8 at 8:00 a.m.

The raffle (\$14.50) was won by David Heupel.



There are at least 152 days left in Hurricane Season. Are you prepared?



Henry, N5HF, Shawn, KG4GXU, and Carlton, N4FYG, operating in the trailer provided us by the American Red Cross.

President's QSO

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of local participation in amateur radio. Also noted was that we need to make a concerted effort to recruit young people into the hobby. Although most of you already know why ham radio is such a good hobby, especially for young people, I'll briefly list them again here:

1. improves conversational & interpersonal skills;

2. provides communications assistance to public service agencies in times of emergency or disaster;
 3. provides real-life, real-time examples of the geographic, political, and cultural area of the world;
 4. provides an excellent platform to expand technical knowledge;
 5. promotes international goodwill through communications.
- Another less mentioned benefit includes giving youth a positive hobby to engage themselves with.
- So, with the foregoing in mind, I believe that it is worthwhile for TARS to seek growth in our own Club. By growing TARS,

VP's Corner (con't)

seeing the excitement in his eyes as I was explaining how to put the antenna up and how to wire the amp.

My experience with electronics is very limited, and having only been in this hobby for 1½ years, I would not consider myself to be a wealth of knowledge, but I was able to assist someone that day, just as so many others helped me out when I first got started, and still help

me as I venture into HF and digital modes.

Everyone has a lot to give, especially through their experiences. I encourage everyone to share some of their stories of the hobby with other hams, because you never know when you might be able to assist someone. And keep an ear out for Joe, I'm sure he's got a lot of questions for everyone as he discovers why amateur radio is such a great hobby.

Brett Wellman, KG4KLR
TARS Vice President
kg4klr@arrl.net
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The testing session proved to be quite busy as many people sat for the Extra exam before the new question pool is released July 1, 2002. Six hams passed exams, congrats!

President's QSO

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we will serve to grow the hobby. To grow TARS, we need to attract new members. This can be accomplished by developing a club that provides benefits, camaraderie, and fellowship for its members; has

interesting programs, and gives back to the community; is fun to be a part of, and is affordable to be a part of.

Although this is a rather broad overview of how we can attract new members,

we can lay out very specific objectives that can be easily accomplished. Even though I am proposing a few of my own ideas here, I'm sure you have a few too; so write them down, and share them with the board. We can discuss them at our monthly meetings, and determine which initiatives have the most support. Please take a minute to consider the following:

1. Lowering the club's dues. Although I can afford \$35 for the family membership, to me, this amount seems a bit high. I propose that we lower our dues to \$15 per year for both individuals and families, offer a student



OK, I'm gonna get this damn antenna in the air if it's that last thing I ever do!

Former TARS vice-president lands job in Tallahassee, remains SKYWARN coordinator for Tallahassee NWS office.

President's QSO

membership for \$10, and pro-rate dues monthly. We currently have approximately \$2,900 in the bank. If we deplete our funds, we could have a one-time fund-raising effort, or we

3. Promote more use of the club's web site, www.k4tlh.org. Just a few items that are on our web site now include meeting details (with map), local repeater information,

the time requirement on those who maintain our repeaters.

5. Set-up a simple public information display in a mall, library, large retail



Photo ©KG4ACF



"...we need to make a concerted effort to recruit young people into the hobby."

Steve Welsh,
AD4E

Pictured here is the TSOC—TARS Satellite Operations Center, good for 105 points!

can always increase dues later. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

2. Attempt to schedule meeting programs. This way, we can promote each program ahead of time and come to a given program with good questions. Maybe two months out would be a good place to start.

and local FCC exam info. Additional information that could be included are a membership roster, local ARES activities, SKYWARN information, etc.

4. Continue to optimize our club's repeaters. I believe we should focus on only two repeaters: one for wide-area coverage and one for city-wide coverage. This would lower our expenses, and ease

outlet or public park, and do this once every three to six months. Provide hand-outs supplied by the ARRL, and even those produced by us; possibly have one or two copies of "Now You're Talking" available for sale.

6. Continue our support of public service events.

President's QSO

My primary goal is to grow TARS. By growing TARS, we should have the added benefits of increasing local participation in amateur radio—on-the-air activity, education, ARES, SKYWARN, homebrewing, and the list goes on. Although this is a straightforward goal, it will take a concerted effort from all of us; and, the more of us who are working towards this goal, the easier it will be accomplished!

As for a little history of myself, I received my ham ticket at age 12 while living in Pittsburgh, PA. After moving to Jacksonville Beach in 1976, I became involved with the North Florida Amateur Radio Society. I attended Florida Junior College in Jacksonville for a good while (let's just say more than 60 hours) and then trans-



Hmm... doesn't this look familiar to everyone? Storm clouds on Field Day!

ferred to FSU where I completed my degree in Electrical Engineering. After several career moves, I'm now with the Department of Management Services, working with telephone & data networks. I'm married to Tersha, K4HIM, and we have a

seventeen-month old toddler, Christopher (note his initials. CW). I also enjoy riding bicycles.

If you have suggestions related to growing our club, or would like to help with some of the initiatives outlined above, please share them with me at our next club meeting or drop me a line at: ad4e@arrl.net

73,
Steve, AD4E



"Man, I gotta take this thing down already? It sure was working real well."

"My primary goal is to grow TARS."
Steve
Welsh, AD4E



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 2, 2002, 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 7:00 p. m. EDT. **NOTE—Due to Independence Day, this July's meeting will be on July 11.**

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 Monroe St—every Saturday.

Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. EDT on the AE4S repeater (146.655).

North Florida ARES Net: Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:00 a. m.

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 David A. Heupel, KG4ACF.