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Special points of interest:

- October meeting is the Fall Picnic—October 10, San Luis City Park on San Luis Road—6pm.
- Be sure to check out our new web site at: <http://www.k4tlh.net> and make use of the forums.
- Mark your calendars for Spaghetti 100 cycling event coming up October 19.

President's QSO

Please note that our next meeting will be delayed by one week to avoid conflict with an FSU night game at home. The next meeting will be a picnic-style function with an emphasis on good conversation and fellowship (oh, and food too!).

I will have one or two items of business to discuss, however, namely, the anticipated donation of a small tower to TARS from the FSU/FAMU School of Engineering, and what we should do with it. Recently, a log-periodic antenna was donated to TARS. That item was mentioned at several meetings, and was finally offered to the "highest bidder" with the proceeds going to our savings. Unless some-

one has a better idea, the same will be done in this case.

Speaking of donated equipment, TARS received a Yaesu FT-101 station. Although I've had the best of intentions to test this radio out and clean it up, that hasn't happened. Would someone be able to check this station out? – I'll deliver. Perhaps we could donate it to a local Scout Troop, high school or related youth oriented effort. I'll bet it works fine.

Concerning SKYWARN activities, I've been working with David Pimenta (KG4DVW), Dave Davis (WA4WES), Ted Zateslo (W1XO), and Paul Duval (KC7RAV) to get an HF antenna installed on-site for WX4TAE. At this point, we expect to erect a trap dipole for 80, 40 and 20 meters — the B&W AS-80. Hopefully this instal-

lation will be complete by the end of October. Hey, bureaucracy takes time.

One of the biggest events TARS supports every year is the Spaghetti 100, sponsored by the Capital City Cyclists (<http://www.cccyclists.org>). This year the event will be Saturday, October 19 at 7:00 a. m. We'll need as many volunteers for communications and logistics support as possible. If you can volunteer, even if it is just for a few hours, please let Carliane know. She can be reached at 539-9946. I'll be participating in the "off-road" version. For up-to-date information, please keep an eye on the Spaghetti 100 forum at <http://www.k4tlh.net/forum/default.asp>.

For the November meeting, we will have a program on "Homebrew

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VP's Corner

One of the most fantastic things about the amateur radio hobby, in my opinion, is how it is self-paced and self-directed. Once you pass that original technician exam, you are on your own to explore in whichever direction you choose. Some people enter the hobby knowing exactly what they want to do with their license, and others enter a world of communications with no expectations because they don't know anything about the hobby and what it has to offer.

My main experience with amateur radio was watching my older sister in Junior High School get her Novice ticket as a member

of the ham club. The only way she could reach the repeater with her Icom O2-AT HT was by sitting on the roof in one specific location. If that was the only way I could talk to someone, forget it! I filed away the idea of getting my ticket for a later time.

When my interest peaked again, it wasn't because of PSK-31, digital modes, or CW — I had no idea what those things were — but because I realized the importance of amateur radio communications in a time of crisis. I was working in broadcast radio and loved to get the message out to the public about severe weather, power outages, and traffic problems. Even still, I didn't feel I was able to do enough. With ama-

teur radio, I was going to be able to assist the community I lived in. But once I had my ticket, what did I need to do next?

Most of the people I asked gave me the same response: upgrade to General and get on the HF traffic and ARES nets. I couldn't believe this, I had just gotten my tech license so I could assist and now everyone was telling me I had to upgrade if I *really* wanted to help! Instead of immediately beginning to cram code into my brain, I took the Emergency Communications Level 1 course offered online by the ARRL. This opened my eyes to what people were talking about. I found the class quite ful-

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"Some people enter the hobby knowing exactly what they want to do with their license..."

Meeting Minutes—September 2002

Called to order at 7:07 p.m. Twenty-one members, and 2 guests were in attendance.

Program

David Heupel (AG4UQ) presented September's program, which was a presentation of several logging and digital mode operation software programs for use on your Windows-based computer. All of the software men-

tioned and demonstrated during the program, and more, are available from the club's web site at <http://www.k4tlh.net>.

Treasurer's Report

Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) reported that there is approx. \$3000 in the treasury, with a pending \$500 deposit graciously donated by the Capital City Cyclists Club <http://www.cccyclists.org>. We thank them profusely for their gracious donation.

Remember Spaghetti 100 is coming up on the 19th! - Ed.

A vote regarding the approval of the August minutes as published in the newsletter was not taken.

Announcements

The next meeting will be on October 10, 2002, in-

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Meeting Minutes—September 2002

(Continued from page 2)

stead of October 3. It will be our Fall Picnic, which will be held at the Tallahassee city park on San Luis Road. David (AG4UQ) will post a map on the web site.

Steve (AD4E) again mentioned his desire to lower membership dues to around a flat rate of \$15 a household. A vote will be taken at a future meeting.

Steve is also working with John Love (NZ4QJ), and Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) on a budget committee, and if anyone would like to assist with this endeavor, please contact any of them.

Testing

A couple of Scouts got their tickets at the September testing session, and John Howell (KD4MOB) also upgraded to General class. Congratulations to everyone who passed their exams!

Education

Phil Ashler (N4IPH) is going to be presenting a class to Scouts and Scoutmasters. For more information, contact Steve Welsh (AD4E), or Phil Ashler (N4IPH). Also look for an e-mail from Steve that will provide more specific details.

Special Events

Carlhane Johnson (KG4CJT) our Special Events Chairperson was not in attendance.

Repeater Report

Randy Pierce (AG4UU) talked about some projects that are going on — specifically, the voice over IP (VoIP) project on the 147.03 repeater, as well as working with local hospitals with this project so that they can all talk to each other via radio and/or VoIP links.

Randy will need a working party of 3 or 4 guys to assist with some maintenance—please contact Randy to make arrangements to help him out.

ARES

Dave Davis (WA4WES) spoke a few moments about ARES and SKY-WARN, and establishing an HF gateway system for relaying information into the National Weather Service Office, much like is done during an activation for the State Warning Point at the State Emergency Operations Center (<http://www.floridadisaster.org>).

Break

There was no raffle drawing at this meeting.

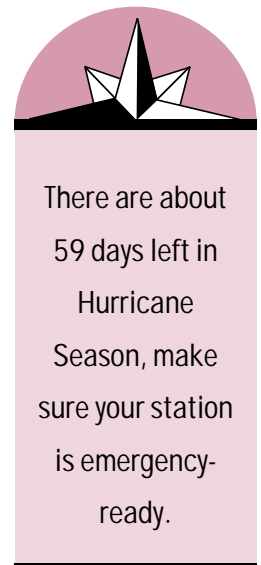
Old Business

Steve again mentioned that he would really like to see a reduction in the membership dues. Bill Frieder (N4QNF) mentioned that student memberships are free. Steve hopes to have this issue wrapped up before the end of the calendar year, so expect a vote to be taken soon. Be sure to come to the meeting and vote on this issue.

New business:

David Heupel (AG4UQ) will be the TARS membership chairperson. From this point forward, the membership chairperson will accept all dues checks, so that dues-paying members' information such as your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address if you have one, are accurately recorded into the club's roster. Students need only provide this information in a letter or e-mail to the membership chairperson. If you would like to pay your dues early, please send them to the TARS Membership Chairperson, 1209 Richview Road, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301-3625.

The meeting was adjourned at 2120 EDT.



There are about
59 days left in
Hurricane
Season, make
sure your station
is emergency-
ready.

President's QSO

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Construction" presented by Carl Wells, AG4UT (ex-N9FYG). Also on the agenda for this meeting will be further discussion of lowering our dues. My objective is to grow our membership, and I strongly believe that more affordable dues will help achieve this. Currently our dues are \$25/\$35 per year (individual/family respectively), and I'm proposing \$15 per year for a "household". Students remain FREE! As Bill- (N4QNF), reminded us at the last meeting – thanks Bill! Work on developing a budget related to this subject has been slow, and I'd

like to move forward with lowering our dues by January, provided you the members are supportive of this. But, it's not up to me, it's up to you, so come to this meeting and let it be known what YOU want. For the dues to be lowered, someone will have to put forth a motion of such.

For December, we will have our annual Christmas Dinner at Durango's Steakhouse on Apalachee Parkway. Festivities will get underway at 6:00 p.m. No reservations are required, and you may order off the menu, or simply enjoy a cold one (811) at the bar. Please join us and bring the family. I will be there

with my XYL Tersha, (K4HIM), and beautiful toddler son (one year and ten months now), Christopher Welsh (CW), call sign TBD.

By the way, if you have any equipment you'd like to offer for sale, or are looking for, please post it on the Hamfest forums on K4TLH.NET, or let the newsletter editor know so it can be made more public right here!



"I would like to move forward with lowering our dues by January..."

Jacksonville "Poor Man's" FREE Hamfest

The Jacksonville FREE Hamfest will be October 5. Hourly drawings will start at 9AM. Winning tickets must be presented to claim hourly prizes. If brisk sales continue, other grand prizes may be added. First prize is a dual band mini-HT. Admission is free and tailgate spots for those selling ham related gear also are free. The main attraction will be ham and computer equipment that dozens of tailgaters will have for sale or trade. The huge Pecan Park Flea Mar-

ket (free admission) is just across I-95. The schedule of events includes:
 6:45AM--Hamfest Opens, Acres of Tailgate Area
 9:00AM--Hourly Prize Drawing
 9:00AM--"Meet Your Emergency Coordinator"
 10:00AM-Hourly Prize Drawing
 10:00AM-SEDAN Demo
 11:00AM-Hourly Drawing
 11:00AM-Auction
 12 Noon-Grand Prize Drawings
 12:30PM-Clean Up Drawings

Check the Balanced Modulator Online <http://www.nofars.org> and click on BALANCED MODULATOR as the date approaches for more events and late information. In case of heavy rain, the hamfest will be Saturday, Oct. 26th.

VP's Corner

filling and it prompted me to begin studying for my code test. A few months later I was on the Novice bands, trading dits and dahs with people around North America (Canada is the furthest DX station I've worked on code so far).

In the meantime I was lucky enough to be net control for a few events that TARS assisted with, allowing me the opportunity to learn and grow as an operator. With only 18 months in the hobby, I held a General Class license and was participating in the North Florida Phone Net on 3.950 MHz, passing traffic and learning new skills. Much to my surprise, I was

approached about the Emergency Coordinator position for Wakulla County, which brings me to the present. Having just taken on this responsibility, I realize that I decided on a direction in the hobby, and continue to strive for it. It was emergency communications that fascinated me from the beginning, and that is where I have concentrated the focus of the hobby. For some, it is working satellite, or slow-scan TV. No matter what you choose to do with the hobby, just be sure you enjoy it. Amateur radio is a hobby full of growth potential, and there is always room to move. Make the most of it.

For more information on various aspects of the hobby, go to the following links:

Digital Modes: <http://home.teleport.com/~nb6z/>
 Emergency Communications: <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>
 Homebrew: <http://www.ac6v.com/homebrew.htm>
 Boatanchors: <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/8701/hamlynx.htm>
 Anything HAM Radio: <http://www.arrl.org>

Digital Conference in Tampa, October 5, 2002

The ARRL West Central Florida Section invites ALL Amateur Radio operators interested in Digital Communications to a Digital Communications Conference. This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2002 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Com 70 Conference Center, STH 70 in Bradenton.

The purpose of this Digital Conference will be to focus on:

- a.. Digital Messaging needs
- b.. "Last Mile" Connec-

tivity for EComm
 c.. Making Networks User-Friendly
 The Com70 Conference Center is located on the South side of the road, approximately 1.5 mi. WEST of I-75 on STH 70. Talk-in will be on the K4WCF Repeater System (145.43, 146.76 and 442.95 PL 100.0).

For more information, contact Darrell Davis - KT4WX, WCF Section Technical Coordinator at kt4wx@arrl.net.



"...and others enter a world of communications with no experience, because they don't know...what it has to offer."



Amateur Radio
Around the
World

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



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

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(850) 576-4200

Secretary:
David Heupel, AG4UQ
ag4uq@arri.net
(850) 321-3217

Upcoming Events/Nets

Testing Session:
7:00 p. m. EDT on the
first Tuesday of odd
numbered months, at
2631 Municipal Way in
Tallahassee. For more
information, visit [http://
www.k4tlh.net/testing.
htm](http://www.k4tlh.net/testing.htm).

TARS Meetings: Every
first Thursday of the
month at 7:00 p. m.
EDT, unless otherwise
announced.

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.

**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.

**North Florida Phone
Net:** Every evening,
except Sunday on 3950
KHz at 7:30 p. m.

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,
AG4UQ.