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Special points of interest:

- National Weather Service Skywarn Special Event operation—December 7, 2002
- Annual Holiday Dinner at Durango's Oak Fired Steakhouse on Apalachee Parkway, December 5 at 6:00
- Amateur Radio Training Classes coming in early 2003—trainers needed.

## President's QSO

**T**he annual TARS Holiday Meeting will be held on the normal first Thursday meeting night, December 5th, at Durango's Steakhouse on Apalachee Parkway in the vicinity of the Highway Safety building. We will gather starting about 6:00PM. TARS membership is not a requirement—anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a social event and I look forward to catching up with what you've been working on in your shack! Several menu items are available for under \$10. We have seating for at least 40 so bring the family.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CALL

Thank you for being a member of your local ham radio club. Although we often hear

about declining hamfest attendance and radio club membership, you can reverse this trend by renewing your membership or starting your membership with us. I personally believe that as TARS grows, so will our diversity, depth, resourcefulness, and reputation in the community.

Our Membership Chairperson, David Heupel (WE4RA), will log in members so that a club roster can be maintained, including a member's address, telephone number and e-mail address, if you have one. Please make your check payable to TARS and give it to David at the Holiday Dinner meeting or you can mail it to him at 1209 Richview Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301-3625. Please include your e-mail address in the memo field on the check if you have e-mail. Dues are just \$15 annually per household, or

\$7.50 semi-annually. Students are FREE—so just drop us a line or an e-mail and we will include you too!

### DONATION OF TOWER ANTICIPATED

TARS is *anticipating* the donation of a small, 37-foot crank up tower, model Hy-Gain HG37SS. Also included is a Ham-IV rotator. The tower has not yet become the property of TARS, and more information will be forthcoming. Please consider how we can best use this equipment.

### ANNUAL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY DECEMBER 7

The fourth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place December 7 from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. The Tallahassee National Weather Service will activate its amateur station, WX4TAE, and operators are needed to

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## VP's Corner

**T**here are a lot of exciting things happening in the local amateur radio community, and the momentum seems to be accelerating. Maybe it's because I have become so active in two clubs and now as the EC for Wakulla County, but it appears to me there are a more call signs appearing on the local nets (both VHF and

HF) and many new faces showing up for events. It's great to see a hobby that is not only so much fun, but also a service to our community, growing. My neighbor across the street saw my VHF antenna the other day (which isn't good since I live in an antenna restricted neighborhood...I hate it when the leaves die in the fall!) and asked me about it. I explained my involvement in amateur radio,

and after a brief conversation, he wanted more information about how to get involved in the hobby. We've made plans for him to join me this weekend in the shack so he can experience the thrill of talking from Crawfordville to north Tallahassee on 10 watts (I love the "less than a light bulb" comparison) or to Europe on 20 meters. Not only might I get some-

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"There are a lot of exciting things happening in the local amateur radio community..."

## Meeting Minutes—November 2002

The November 2002 meeting was called to order at 1911 EST.

There were 18 members and three guests in attendance.

Steve made an announcement early on about our annual Holiday Dinner, which will be held at Durango's Steakhouse on December 5, 2002, starting at 6:00 p. m. Come and enjoy the camaraderie!

### Treasurer's Report

Kent was out of town, so there was no official report – however, the Budget Committee, formed several months ago, provided the information on the spreadsheet found on page 4.

### Repeater Report

The 147.03 machine is up, but there is a slight problem with the machine, possibly due to the collocation of APRS equipment at the site. Midland is getting us some new VoIP equipment to test, which should improve the VoIP capabilities of the machine. The equipment currently used is from a different vendor. There is still a double-squelch tail on 147.03. 147.91 is up and running, and does not seem to be exhibiting any problems.

The 442.85 machine is up and operational. The 442.1 machine is beconing every hour, but appears to be a little deaf. Due to time constraints getting the equipment in

the building, this problem is likely due to a loose connection somewhere, and Randy will check into as soon as he can. Randy also hopes to get some photographs put together of all our repeater sites and put together a Power-Point presentation to provide at a future club meeting, perhaps at February's meeting.

Bob Crawford (KE4RFH) mentioned that the SPARC (Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club) will be bringing up a repeater very soon in Oyster Bay. The repeater will operate on a frequency of 145.450 output, negative offset, with a PL tone of 94.8 Hertz. They hope to have the machine on the air

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## Meeting Minutes—November 2002

*(Continued from page 2)*  
sometime in December, or early 2003. The machine will also, ultimately, be linked to the AE4S 146.655 system in Tallahassee. Once the two systems are linked, it is believed that one could talk as far North as Thomasville or Moultrie, Georgia, from St. George Island, FL, using a 10W mobile radio, or maybe even an HT with 5W and a decent antenna.

Steve (AD4E) took a moment just before the Break to thank everyone who assisted with the Spaghetti 100 event. David

(WE4RA) presented Steve with a letter he received that day from the president of CCC, Larry Pushor. Steve read a few lines from Larry's very nice letter, and they are also quoted in his column this month.

### BREAK

Steve has some equipment that was state of Florida surplus. He has some computer monitors, computer related equipment, and similar items. Please take what you can use at the conclusion of the meeting. The equipment

is in Steve's and Carl's (AG4UT) vehicles. TARS also anticipates the donation of a Hy-gain crank up tower in the near future. Please stay tuned for this and other future donations.

### Old Business

A final discussion ensued regarding the lowering of the club's dues to \$15.00 annually per household. Many good ideas were brought to the table, including fundraisers, hat-passing, etc. A motion was put before the mem-

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## President's QSO

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man the station. Scott Mentzer, NOQE, who's the meteorologist-in-charge of the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas, is the creator and annual organizer of SRD. "There are currently 92 stations officially registered to participate," Mentzer says. This is the day that Amateur Radio operators set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices, and contact other operators around the world. The ARRL and the NWS sponsor the event. This is not a contest, but an opportunity to collect special QSL cards from some of the participating NWS stations. It also strengthens the bond between Amateur

Radio operators and the local National Weather Service offices. Anyone interested in visiting WX4TAE should contact Dave Davis (WA4WES), or Brett Wellman (KG4KLR). More information is available at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

### HOMEBREW PROGRAM WELL RECEIVED

Carl Wells (AG4UT) presented November meeting attendees with a fine program on homebrewing amateur radio equipment. Carl had a PowerPoint presentation, which started off with a picture of a pair of Eimac 4-400 power tubes. He also brought two projects, a portable HF antenna for 40 through 10 meters, and a

remote-controlled coax switch. Thanks for a great program, Carl!

At this time, the January Program is open. Please let us know if there is a particular topic you're interested in or if you would like to host a program.

### CAPITAL CITY CYCLISTS EXTENDS THANKS FOR SPAGHETTI 100 SUPPORT

The CCC has extended a sincere "Thank You" to all amateurs who gave their time in support of the recent cycling event, the Spaghetti 100. Larry Pushor, President of CCC wrote in a letter dated November 4 to TARS, "On behalf of the CCC and the 300 riders who rode Spa-



An emergency  
can happen at  
any time...make  
sure your station  
is emergency-  
ready.

## Meeting Minutes—November 2002

### 2002 Financial Statement\*

Balance Forward	\$ 1,800.00
Deposits - Dues & other non-recurring donations	\$ 1,050.00
Capital City Cyclists	\$ 1,150.00
Expenditures	\$ (1,125.00)
	<b>\$ 2,875.00</b>

### Expenditures

Postage, Insurance, Filing fees	\$ 600.00
Field Day	\$ 300.00
Van Maintenance	\$ 150.00
Antenna Supplies	\$ 75.00
	<b>\$ 1,125.00</b>

\*These figures are rounded. The club's ledger is available for inspection at anyone's request. To inspect the ledger and other financial documents, please contact Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC).

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bership; and it was seconded, debated, and carried by a majority vote of the members in attendance. Beginning fiscal year 2003 (in January), annual membership dues for TARS will be \$15.00 per household. Students can be members for free, simply by asking, and showing their valid student ID to the Membership Chairperson.

### New Business:

David (WE4RA) talked a few moments about strengthening our relationship with the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, and at the same time strengthening the presence of Amateur Radio in our community. Beginning in 2003, hopefully starting sometime in

mid-January, TARS will be presenting amateur radio license training at the ARC conference room. The classes will be geared toward the entry-level Technician licenses. The ARC believes that they would not have a problem getting a dozen people in our first class. The classes are open to the public.

David (WE4RA) is working with Dave Davis (WA4WES) and Brett Wellman (KG4KLR), to bring this project to fruition, and we'll need people to assist in the training effort. Randy Pierce (AG4UU), John Love (NZ4QJ), and Steve Welsh (AD4E) all said they would be willing to assist in the training effort.

David Davis spoke a few moments about the up-

coming Skywarn Recognition Day event at the Tallahassee National Weather Service Office (WX4TAE). WX4TAE will be activated for the event, and operators are needed to work the station during the event, which lasts from 0000 UTC December 7, until 2400 UTC December 7, 2002. You can get more details on-line at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Steve would like to remind everyone that dues are due soon, and that TARS now has a Membership Chairperson. David Heupel (WE4RA) will accept dues payments to gather your information (name, address, phone, e-mail) before forwarding your checks on to the Treasurer. Please submit dues, payable to TARS, to David Heupel, 1209 Richview Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301-3625.

Jim Giles, K4VRT, said a person is needed at the state EOC. Contact Dave Davis (WA4WES).

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

### New Members

New 2003 individual memberships this month: Alan Terrell (N4KGT), Jim Hinkle (W4KWD)

New 2003 household memberships this month: David Heupel (WE4RA) & Jackie Gray (AG4UR)



Dues are due in January, and are now only \$15 per household—join today!

## VP's Corner

one interested in the hobby, but I've also started up a friendship with a neighbor I usually just wave at as I drive off to work.

There has been a lot of talk about holding classes for new licensees starting January 2003. If you are interested in assisting in any manner, please contact Dave Heupel WE4RA, Steve Welsh AD4E, or myself. The demand has been to such an extent that we will probably have to create more than one class of pupils to fit everyone in!

Last year, a few operators were lucky enough to be allowed into the pediatric ward at TMH to do the "North Pole Network". This is where the operators act

as the link between the children (and usually the astounded parents!) and Santa Clause in the North Pole so the kids can get in their last minute requests to the elves as they hurriedly make all of the toys. Preparations are in motion to do this again. There is no date for the event yet, but it will be on a weekday afternoon. If you have flexible hours and can get the time off from work with a few days notice, please get in touch with me. I need about 5 volunteers. The event lasted no more than an hour last year, and we brightened the lives of about 25 children in the hospital. It was an amazing experience that will last for a long time with everyone that participated.

Finally, have a great holiday season, and send a greeting via the National Traffic System (NTS). What a neat (and cheap) way to let some friends and family know you are thinking of them this time of year. For those that don't have HF privileges, feel free to send it during the Sunday night ARES net at 8pm on 146.655 repeater, or on Wednesday night at 8pm on 146.550 simplex. If you'd like more information about sending a message (traffic), ask someone, or check it out on [arrl.org](http://arrl.org).

73,  
Brett Wellman – KG4KLR  
[kg4klr@arrl.net](mailto:kg4klr@arrl.net)  
Work: 574-5872  
Home: 926-9662

## President's QSO

ghetti 100 this year, I want to extend our gratitude to the members who helped us on our ride. The ride went very well and without any glitches. As you know, we regard the work of the radio operators as very special. It adds such a degree of safety to our ride. We feel very fortunate to have this service. We are now looking forward to TOSRV 2003. We hope you can tentatively mark those dates on your club calendar."

### **SKYWARN MONTHLY PRACTICE NET**

Please remember to check-in with the monthly SKYWARN/NWS net at 7:30 p.m. on 3960 KHz and then at 8:00 p.m. the first Sunday of every month. Dave Davis (WA4WES), will be net control.

### **BATTERIES AVAILABLE**

Sealed lead-acid deep-cycle 12 volt batteries periodically become available. They are typically 75 to 100 amp-hour in capacity and in excellent, ready to use condition. The batteries

are FREE. Contact Brett Wellman (KG4KLR), for more information.

### **SWAP SHOP**

For sale: Service Manual for Kenwood R-820 Communications Receiver--\$5. Steve-AD4E.

Wanted: Rotator shelf plate for Rohn 25. Kent-KC4TOC.

Also, if you have any items wanted or for sale, visit [www.k4tlh.net](http://www.k4tlh.net) and use the "Hamfest" topic under the forums.



"...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>

Frank Butler  
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ARRL Southeastern Division Director  
323 Elliott Rd SE

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## Your Officers

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## 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  
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WE4RA.