



Inside this issue:

President's QSO	1
VP's Corner	2
Monthly Meeting Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	6

Special points of interest:

- Amateur Radio Training Class at the American Red Cross has 18 students!
- Tune in to the Sunday ARES nets on 146.655 MHz and keep up to date with Amateur Radio in our area.
- Please visit our web site! It has a great forums section, and lots of other good amateur radio related information and links. Point your web browser software to <http://www.k4tlh.net>.

President's QSO

At the January meeting, TARS members voted to take possession of a 37-foot crank up, self-supporting tower. The tower was donated to us by the FSU/FAMU School of Electrical Engineering, and was facilitated by Dr. Tom Harrison, W9PBA. Again, TARS is most grateful for this donation, and we will make good use of it. The tower also came with a Ham-IV rotator. Carl Hayes (NN5I), and Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) are the caretakers of this tower, and are working to get it mounted on a trailer. If you would like to assist them or should you have an application for this tower, let them know.

Also decided at the January meeting, was for TARS to accept an offer of donation of several 800 MHz Public Safety two-way radios. The discussion centered on the use of these ra-

dios as enhancing our capabilities to communicate with public safety entities. Carlton Wells, AG4UT, is handling this.

Thanks to Brian, KG4OJA for sharing with us his Trunk-Tracker 800 MHz scanning software at the January meeting. Brian states that an informative web site pertaining to this subject is www.trunktracker.com

The American Red Cross, and TARS are currently offering an entry-level ham radio class. Thanks to Dave Davis (WA4WES) for heading this up. Also assisting as instructors are Phil Ashler (N4IPH), Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC), Brett Wellman (KG4KLR), John Love (NZ4QJ), Ted Zateslo (W1XO), Ken Reecy (AC4TO), Randy Pierce (AG4UU), and myself. Thanks to Jim Hinkle (W4KWD) for donating a rubber stamp with our contact information, for use on on ham radio

informational flyers.

In the near future, TARS will hold its annual "auction." Please begin to gather your goodies for this event. As in past auctions, 10% of the sale price will be donated to TARS. Also in the near future, TARS will hold its Spring Cook-out; location to be determined at an upcoming meeting. Where would you like to meet? I recently visited the "River Bluff" Picnic area on the south shores of Lake Talquin, a few miles west of town on Highway 20; it was beautiful.

Concerning the Red Hills Trader Net, called after the ARES Net on Sunday nights, yours truly has done his best to call the net. However, I can't guarantee that I'll always be available. The net is an open, free-form, informal net, and meant to be fun. I believe it's a good idea for

(Continued on page 3)

VP's Corner

I was lucky (?) enough to go to Cleveland for a week over the Christmas holiday. If nothing else, it certainly made me appreciate not having to deal with snow on a daily basis!

Ed Miller (KC4MHM) let me use his SST QRP CW rig for 20 meters. Because of airport security, I packed a 12 volt power supply I found at a tailgate for \$2, the QRP rig, a straight key, and a homebrew dipole, and mailed them up to

Ohio. My first night there I put everything together and threw the antenna out onto the roof as far as I could reach. Although I only made one contact the whole week, it was worth the fun just to make the

(Continued on page 4)

Meeting Minutes—January 2003

— *Your Secretary apologizes if the minutes miss anything that was covered at the January meeting. Certain portions of the audio recording were difficult to copy, and he was not in attendance due to a schedule conflict.*

There were 26 individuals in attendance, two of which were guests.

Program

Brett Wellman hosted a "show & tell" session on radio gear and other shack accessories.

Brian Dunworth (KG4OJA) spoke a bit about trunk tracking software. Be sure to visit the web site he mentioned <http://www.trunkedradio.net>.

Treasurer's Report

Due to difficulty copying the audio recording of the meeting, the Treasurer's Report is postponed for the next newsletter. A comprehensive financial report will be furnished at the February meeting, and will be published in the March newsletter.

Training

David Davis (WA4WES) spoke about the no-code Technician class training taking place on Wednesday evenings at the American Red Cross chapter house.

The classes will be held over the next eight weeks starting Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 6:00 p. m. Details and more information can be found on the club web site.

Chris Floyd, Director of Emergency Services—Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, was in attendance at the meeting, and spoke about the partnership with TARS through the Capital Area Citizen Corps initiative. You can get more information about the Citizen Corps at <http://www.tallytown.com/redcross/cacc-01.html>.

Chris further spoke of a mock terrorism response drill coming up in March, on the 10th, 11th, and 12th. This will be a set of field exercises covering 13 counties in the Big Bend area. Most exercises will last for a couple of hours.

Testing

There will be a regular testing session 7:00 p. m., on Tuesday the 7th at the regular location, 2631 Municipal Way. Please bring in a copy of your driver's license, and any CSCE's that you might have. For more information about testing sessions, please visit the club web site at <http://www.k4tlh.net>.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Thomas Harrison (W9PBA) advised that the club has a two-meter antenna on top of the Engineering Building at the FSU/FAMU School of Engineering. It was suggested that Randy Pierce (AG4UU) be contacted regarding the status of said antenna.

Dues for 2003 are due. Please get your dues in.

There was a motion which passed to reimburse David Heupel (WE4RA) \$125.80 for postage costs associated with

(Continued on page 3)



Amateur
Radio
training class
at the Red
Cross sports
18 students.

Meeting Minutes—November 2002

(Continued from page 2)
the January membership drive. David and Steve (AD4E) worked together to mail out approximately 320 newsletters to all licensed radio operators in the Tallahassee area.

The Orlando HamCation is coming up the weekend of February 7—10, don't miss it!

The Tour of Springtime Rural Vistas (TOSRV) is coming up in April. TOSRV dates are April 13th & 14th. This is an all-hands event, so please mark your calendars.

The K4TLH web site has been experiencing some difficulties

President's QSO

(Continued from page 1)

others to call the net, so, if I'm not there to call it, please feel free to call the net yourself.

Brett (KG4KLR) is coordinating a Special Event station to coincide with the dedication of the Challenger Science Center, for Saturday, March 1. Several astronauts are expected to be present for the dedication. Our communications van will be on-site from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and assistance is requested for this event.

Brett is also the contact person for the 22nd annual riding of the Tour of Springtime Rural Vistas (TOSRV), Saturday, and Sunday, April 12 - 13.

lately. The problems stem from old hard disks which are beginning to fail. Some surplus drives were obtained from the State of Florida, however, to make the drives compatible with the existing server hardware, a SCSI SCA drive enclosure is needed, the cost of which is about \$280. This isn't an issue yet, but may become one in the future. Please keep this in mind.

Jerry Kessler (N4JL) commented on the on-line Technician Course on the club web site. Jerry is interested in getting copies on CD.

This event is sponsored by the Capital City Cyclists (www.cccyclists.org), and provides an excellent opportunity for us to test our emergency communications capabilities. The event offers two route options: a "standard," and a "metric." On Saturday, the standard ride begins in Quincy, FL, and ends in Albany, GA; whereas the metric begins in Cairo, GA, and ends in Albany, GA. On Sunday, the riders return. As this is a full-blown event, your participation is invited, even if only for an hour or two. In past events, we have camped out in a field near the halfway point of the ride. Please join us, its fun!

-Get with me, Jerry. I'd be happy to get you the material. — Ed.

Break

More New Business

A Hy-Gain 37G-SS 37-foot crank-up tower with a Ham IV rotator has been donated to the club by the FAMU/FSU School of Engineering. Thomas Harrison (W9PBA) is to thank for making this donation possible.

Jerry suggested that we somehow trailer-mount the tower.

Speaking of the Albany Amateur Radio Club, TARS member Jay Reid (KG4OJJ), was recently elected President—congratulations! We look forward to working with you, Jay.

As this is your newsletter, we'd like to know what you're up to. Whether you're involved in homebrew, ragchews, public service, SSTV, CLOVER, or whatever... we'd like to know! Please share with us what facet of the hobby your enjoying. I know there is not enough time in the day for me to delve into all the neat stuff I'd like to, so I have to experience some of the hobby vicariously through you.



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

Meeting Minutes—November 2002

(Continued from page 3)

TARS has decided to take possession of the tower and has made plans to affix it to some type of mobile trailer. Carl Hayes (NN5I) and Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) will work together to get the tower mounted on a trailer for club use.

A motion was carried accepting the donation, and thanking Dr. Harrison for making this gracious donation possible.

TARS may have some 800 MHz public safety radio gear made available to us. David Myers (W4USA) has offered

these surplus radios to the club.

Carl Wells (AG4UT) commented on some legal and licensing issues related to the use of this equipment by TARS, or amateurs. There must be an operational agreement between TARS and the respective agency when non-official personnel operate on licensed public safety frequency.

TARS has decided to accept this equipment when it is made available.

New Members

Please check the TARS web site for up-to-date information on new and renewing members.



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

VP's Corner

(Continued from page 2)
antenna.

I wasn't sure of the environment that the antenna would hang in, so I had to be sure the wire lengths were attached to the SO-239 in a secure manner, and that I could put tension on the center of the dipole without it coming apart. I scrounged around the house for something solid enough to mount the connector but with little weight. What better thing than the lid to cat litter? I carefully planned out the design and went to work with the drill.

I used four small screws to mount the SO-239 on the lower part of the lid. One of these screws would be used to connect a wire length to the outside ele-

ment of the connector (see picture). I soldered a piece of wire to the center conductor and attached it to the other side of the dipole. I did a little guessing for the center of balance and attached the wire lengths of the dipole so that the lid would not be flopping in the wind, should there be bad weather while in Cleveland.

I made numerous contacts with this antenna, but only one of them lasted through the QRM, KB9GUX of Wisconsin. When I returned home there was a card from W4NTO, and official observer in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He was flipping through the frequencies on Christmas Eve and heard my CQ call and wanted to let me know I had a slight hum on my

signal. Glad he did, otherwise I wouldn't have known it. Ironically, South Carolina is one of three states I still need for my Worked All States award. Guess his card won't count.

If you have any ideas, tips or tricks for building easy, portable antennas, let me know. I'm always interested. My creation worked very well and I have it curled up and ready for my next excursion...a weekend in Orlando at Hamcation. Maybe I will work you that weekend!

73,
Brett Wellman – KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net
Work: 574-5872
Home: 926-9662

2003 Membership Application

Please cut out this remittance and include it with your \$15 check for 2003 membership dues, payable to TARS, and mail it to TARS Membership Chairperson, David A. Heupel (WE4RA), 1209 Richview Dr, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301.

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: () _____ - _____ Work Phone: () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

President's QSO

(Continued from page 3)

Concerning HF digital communications, George Bast (N4NKV) is interested in sharing knowledge, and experiences garnered with these fascinating modes with anyone else involved. George has recently been experimenting with several modes such as AMTOR, PACTOR, PSK31, BPSK, QPSK, and others. George highly recommends the ARRL's HF Digital Handbook as a good reference on the subject. If you have an interest in this, please give George a call on any of the local repeaters or via landline at 893-8560.

As it is the beginning of the year, now is a good time to consider what we, as a club, might especially

like to accomplish in 2003. Please consider this, and share your thoughts with the membership at an upcoming meeting, or by using this newsletter. As I've stated in the past, I see TARS serving in four primary areas:

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

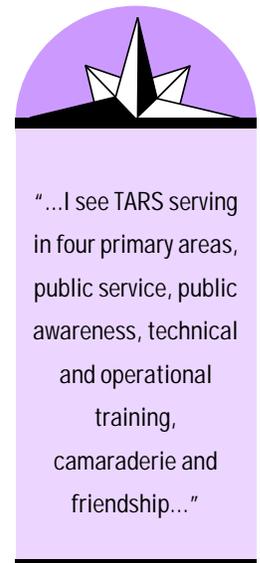
If one of these areas appeals to you or if you'd like to head up an initiative, it's in your hands. For me, ham radio is all about having fun!

73, and I hope to see you at the Orlando HamCation February 7, 8, and 9, Steve – AD4E

RENEW YOUR TARS MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2003. ONLY \$15. SEE THE RENEWAL FORM ABOVE.

RENEW NOW FOR 2003!

If you have not yet renewed for 2003, please do so soon. We have accomplished much in 2002, and have big plans for 2003. Dues were recently lowered to a flat rate of \$15. Student memberships are FREE. Just complete the form above and send to TARS Membership Chairperson, David Heupel (WE4RA), 1209 Richview Drive, Tallahassee, FL, 32301. Checks should be made payable to TARS.





Amateur Radio
Around the
World

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



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

Your Officers

President:
Steve Welsh, AD4E
ad4e@arrl.net
(850) 656.2725 Home

Vice-President:
F. Brett Wellman,
KG4KLR
kg4klr@arrl.net
(850) 926.9662 Home

Treasurer:
Kent B. Hutchinson,
KC4TOC
kc4toc@earthlink.net
(850) 576.4200 Home

Secretary:
David Heupel, WE4RA
we4ra@arrl.net
(850) 877.4046 Home
(850) 528.3996 Work/Cell

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.
EST, unless otherwise
announced.

Friday Lunch: Every
Friday, 11:30 a. m. EST
at Golden Corral on
North Monroe St.

Saturday Breakfasts:
Every Saturday, 8:00
a. m. EST at Golden
Corral on Monroe St.

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

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

**North Florida Phone
Net:** Every evening,
except Sunday 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,
WE4RA.