



The TARC Reflector for March 2014

Hi Folks,

I'm getting started on this newsletter with a heavy heart as we all are. This is going to take me some time adjusting to having to do this newsletter instead of reading those wonderful words that Mike, KE4FGF, could just fluently type. I know that I can not replace him but I will do my best to live up to his expectations.

The meeting this month is going to be a little awkward, confusing and a bit tough due to Mike not being there. I know that this radio family will come together like we always do to help each out and do what should be done. Mike made sure that we were

not just involved in radios but we were and are a family. This will not change under any circumstance because he did an awesome job.

As Mike had mention at the last meeting about trying a new place for our meeting, I have checked out Rock Bottom Seafood and it is just what he said, good food, a room that could fit us, and staff that is willing to try. The room is off to the back with a private entrance. They ask that we park in the back of the church parking lot to save room for the other customers which is understandable. I hope that all of you will join us on Saturday, March 1st at 6:00 at Rock Bottom Seafood for our meeting. We will eat and then have our meeting at 7:30.

As you are aware the classes were canceled this month and we will have to look at trying to do this at some other point soon. The Annual Tailgate Hamfest is coming up the end of this month and the radios will be ordered soon. There are many things that need to looked at, discussed and decisions made, so I hope you attend the meeting on Saturday. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Dana,KJ4GWB



The following TARC Family Members have March Birthdays!

Brian Doering – March 2nd

Lowell Rieger – March 18th

Rachel Swicord – March 24th

Carolyn Peeples – March 25th

Tyler Hearn – March 30th

Lawrence McCuthin – March 30th

Joe Carroll – March 31st

Don't see your birthday? Let us know at w4ucj.tarc@gmail.com

A+ Test Results and February Classes

There were no test in February but there will be a test session in March.



Make sure that you join us at the Rag Chew Breakfast on Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at Seminole Wind in Thomasville.

TARC Calendar for March

March 15- Test Session

March 15- Midmonth Breakfast

March 29- Annual Tailgate Hamfest

February Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Announcements

There will be no mid month breakfast. Classes will be held on February 15th and 22nd from 9 AM until 4 PM. TARC only runs classes twice a year. Some people have signed up

for Tech and Mike is trying to round up a couple for the General class. Test session will follow both class sessions. People don't have to take a class to take a test.

Orlando Hamcation is February 7th through the 9th. If anyone is needing new gear you will be able to get some good deals.

Chili Cook off: The chili cook off was again a huge success. The chili, stew and potatoe soup were real good and thanks for everyone who brought something.

Steve, KJ4UKR was a runner up for GAARES HOTY. He was nominated for putting up all the antennas at fire stations 6 in Grady County and 2 in Thomas County. This promotes closer work between counties and between Emergency services. Steve was 4th out of all that was nominated. He received a certificate for all his hard work and for the honor of being nominated.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as presented.

Old Business

There is some work that needs to be done on the 195 repeater. The 195 had to be shut off a couple of times because it was locked up due to the ice and cold temperatures. There are a few ideas that were given to help keep it dry. One idea is about putting light bulbs in the enclosure.

The Tailgate Hamfest is fast approaching. The club agreed to do the same pair of radios as last year. Still looking to see what best prices we can get on the radios. Gene will not be here for the tailgate so Mike will be running the ARRL table. There are two table set ups and Mike will get with Gene to

pick up a set. Mike asked Alan to run a test session at the tail gate. We are looking at a possible class at 1 PM by Charles, K4GK and hopefully he will be done by two. The radios will be given away at 2 PM just like last year.

Kyle, KK4LIJ is going to help run the Youth Lounge this year at the tailgate.

New Business

Mike, KE4FGF, propose moving the meeting to Rock Bottom Restaurant for the month of March. He was told they do not charge to use meeting room. A menu was passed for the place so that everyone could see what the restaurant serves. Some of the prices are high but they are no higher than the Plaza. All members are in favor of trying Rock Bottom Restaurant next month.

We are trying to bring more kids into the youth lounge. With this being said a discussion was brought up about purchasing a radio to give away to the youth. Youth will get a ticket for each activity that they do and will have a chance to win the radio. It was discussed to have a drawing for the kids that are licensed and a different drawing for the ones that are not. The ones that have a license get a chance to win the radio the other will get a chance at money. We will get a radio and give it to William so that it can already be programmed by the time of the tailgate.

April 27th and 28th is the TOSRV races, they start in Cairo.

We have not set a date for the Radio Reunion. May seems to be the best time, like around May 18th. The reunion will be done at the church. Peacock day is the second weekend in May. We will be looking at the dates on the calendar to see what dates are good.

Dana, KJ4GWB mention a trip that the Radio Family could possibly do at Wakulla Springs. It would be nice to do the

boats tours. We will do one boat ride then eat and then go on the second boat ride. This could be something good for our Radio Family. Dana would like everyone to think about it.

Steve, KE4UKR, brought up the fact that the Fire Chief wants the antennas to be tested every year and he would like to do it next Saturday. There are 6 in Grady and 3 in Thomasville. The ones in Thomas County have someone assigned to do the test and Steve needs at least 4 or 5 more volunteers to be assigned to test the antennas in Grady County.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leann Doering, Secretary



Weather Center

Was it straight line winds or a tornado? This is a question often asked after a severe storm event has left a path of storm damage across the area. A recent frontal passage left its mark with trees being uprooted and snapped off in multiple counties. As usual with an event of this type rumors began to spread of tornado damage. How does a storm spotter determine if the damage they are looking at was caused by a downburst or a tornado?

While surveying storm damage after the squall line had passed through the area I was lead to an area where very large trees had been uprooted and some trees were snapped above the ground. A gentleman gave his first-hand account of the event and talked about the loud roaring sound that he heard as the event occurred. He was certain a tornado had passed through the property based on what he heard and the damage he saw. Some of the trees appeared

twisted where they were broken off so that must be a sign of a tornado right?

Here are a few common misnomers and key differences provided by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pleasant Hill / Kansas City Kansas that may give some insight.

MYTH : Twisted trees or signs, or trees laying in different directions must mean tornado damage.

FACT: No tree is perfectly symmetrical and will fall differently depending on wind direction, weight of canopy, and integrity.

FACT: Signs may also twist because of unequal footings or posts. Could also blow around after initial break and appear twisted

MYTH: Witness reported a “roaring” sound with passage of storm...must be a tornado.

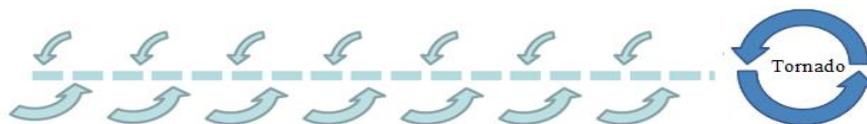
FACT: Strong wind produces the roaring sound and can occur with either tornadoes or straight line wind storms.

MYTH: “My house was damaged. It must have been a tornado”.

FACT: Straight line winds can produce EF0 to EF2 tornado damage.

What would damage path look like for a tornado?

Damage path is “convergent”, relatively narrow and strongest on right side of the damage path



What would damage path look like for straight-line winds?

Damage path is “divergent”, wider, and strongest along the damage path.



When surveying storm damage it is key to stick to the facts and not read too much into what you are seeing. Look for signs of convergent winds with damage on the right and left side of the damage path generally pointing towards the middle of the damage path to confirm tornado damage. Trees pointed away from the center of the damage path and lying generally in straight lines are indications of straight line winds.

73's

Stewart Chandler

KJ4GOJ



Remembering Mike, KE4FGF

Like all of you, I have special memories of Mike. I made a permanent page as a tribute to him here

<http://thomasvilleamateurradioclub.com/remembering-mike-brown-ke4fgf/>

And I would ask all of you to send me your special memories of Mike to me at ny4dradio@gmail.com or post them as comments at the page and I will transfer them into the web page. You can send pictures or text docs to me for the page.

Mike did so much for the club, VE sessions, and ARRL/ARES that we tend to forget Mike was like all of us, a ham radio operator at heart. My first contact with Mike was just after moving to Thomasville in 2006, when I commuted to Cairo every day to work. I remember mentioning to him that I had an old Kenwood rig I was working on and he jumped right in and said he had a service manual I could borrow. I'm sure all of you know how generous Mike was with other people in the hobby, even those he didn't know.

Mike and I did a lot of club related things together but here I'd like to talk about things he did for me that were outside that realm. I remember one day in August 2012, hot as August could be, when he came over to my new Merrillville QTH with the spud gun so we could get my dipole higher in the air than my trusty slingshot could. It was a sweltering August morning, and of course my Dacron line refused to cooperate and snarled up into a giant ball of snags.

Ever patient, standing there in the heat as I tried to untangle the line, he must have waited 20 minutes, probably laughing inside at the predicament but he didn't say a word. I finally had pity on both of us and found a new length that was coiled neatly and we got the job done. I apologized for keeping him almost an hour in the heat for what should have been a five minute task, but he just made light of it and said he was glad to help.

At Mike's visitation, Thomas W4TJB and Theresa, KJ4NGB and I were talking about what made Mike so special. And I think they hit on it very well. They said to me that Mike had a unique way of including people into the hobby and all our activities. He always made new folks feel welcome to the hobby and was always a big source of encouragement for them.

Mike's shoes will be impossible for any one person to fill. He did so much for ham radio in so many ways that I really don't think anyone could. But in some small way each of us can do something to help other hams, club members, club functions, ARRL, ARES, VE, etc. I know that is what he would have wanted his legacy to be, for us to continue on with all that we do, with his spirit in mind. So please ask yourself what you can do to carry on his work going forward. If each of us pitches in and does something then our future will be assured to be how Mike would have wanted.

With Mike, it was never about him, it was always about us.

73 de Lowell NY4D



If Tomorrow Starts Without Me...

If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise you find your eyes all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me, as much as I love you
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.
He said my place was ready, in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But as I turned and walked away a tear fell from my eye.
For all my life I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for, so much left yet to do.
It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays the good ones and the bad.
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized that this could never be,
For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.
When I thought of worldly things I might miss come tomorrow
I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.
When I walked through heavens gates I felt so much at home.
God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne
He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you"
Today your life on earth has passed but here life starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last
And since each day is the same there's no longing for the past.
You have been so faithful so trusting and so true.
Though there were times you did some things you knew you
shouldn't do.
You have been forgiven and now at last you're free.
So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?
So when tomorrow starts with out me don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

Author: Richelle