



SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

April 1999

Later Spring Greetings!

Close on the heels of the last *Signals from TARSUS* (to borrow last year's turn of cliché) comes the April edition, accompanying not only *Signals* and the AGM information for the Rudyard Lake AGM (Annual General Meeting) but also (if you are a Family or a Junior member) *The Outlaw*. Among the items for this *SfT* are an account of a recent actual in-person gathering of a few TARSUS members in the Washington D.C. area; an invitation to a Juniors gathering in Massachusetts in June; and other items of interest. Read on!

Membership Renewals

Unfortunately, just like last year, a fair number of TARS U.S. members have not yet sent in their 1999 renewals. Please note: membership dues are actually due as of the first of the year, but since HQ in the U.K. is very lenient, I am also necessarily lenient. However it is now well past time to renew, or "fold your tents like the arabs, and silently steal away".

If you **have not yet renewed** you have a big red mark on your envelope next to your mailing label. Please send your renewal in now – or this will be the last you shall hear from TARS, and no-one will sing *Spanish Ladies* for you either!

Send your renewal check to me asap. Call, write or e-mail if you are unsure of the amount, but do it today!

If you have renewed but you have a mark on your envelope, please let me know; it is possible that I missed your renewal, or didn't know about a direct U.K. bank renewal member. And if you have already renewed, thank you very much indeed.

TARS BANK ACCOUNT IN THE U.S.

My local bank has agreed to establish a bank account in the name of the Society, upon receipt of a letter of authorization from the U.K. Therefore, effective immediately checks sent to me for membership fees, TARS Stall orders, etc., should be made out to The Arthur Ransome Society or to TARS. Please do not make checks out to me by name any more. (This will make things a lot easier when I pass on the position of financial coordinator, also.)

Welcome

Welcome to new members Joel Bransky, Jackson Cooper, Russ Dalton, Brian Maskell and Dr. James H. Phillips.

TARSUS Membership Listing

Since there are a lot of members in arrears, I'm delaying sending out a completely new membership list until the next newsletter. Between now and then those who have resigned (explicitly or by not renewing) will have been removed from the list so it will only represent active members.

Resumes

Included is a replacement page 19 for your Resumes packet with a new resume from David Edwards.

Our British Account

A revised version of this explanation as to how to conduct TARS business with the U.K. directly in U.S. dollars is enclosed with this mailing. The significant change is the one mentioned above about making your checks out to TARS or The Arthur Ransome Society. Please note this and keep the revised flyer handy.

A TARSUS Gathering in Maryland

Just last week, a few TARSUS members gathered at the Royal Mile Pub in Wheaton, Maryland (near Washington, D.C.) for dinner, Newcastle Brown Ale, and to talk Ransome. This happy event included Jon Barrett, Dave Bates, Anne LeVeque and their children Jake, Julie and Jenny, Ben and Joy Shaver, and myself, and came about because I was coming to Washington on business and because of the Internet – I mentioned to Jon Barrett that I was going to be there, he got in touch with other TARSUS in the area, and we had an event!

As far as I know this is only the second time TARSUS have officially (or semi-officially) gotten together; a few years ago our then-coordinator, Betty Jo Baerg, held a Ransome Birthday Party at her house in Marysville, California, but only the O'Neill family from Redding were able to attend.

Three Million Cheers for Jon, Dave, Anne, Jak, Julie, Jenny, Ben, Joy, and especially for e-mail and vTARS, without which we wouldn't have been able to get together on such short notice.

For those not currently on the Internet or having access to the world wide web, but curious about Ransome-related activities in cyberspace, see the article later in this issue from Adam Quinan.

Coming Event: Juniors' Corroboree Northeast!

On June 19, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Furth family will host a Juniors' Corroboree at Ponkapoag Pond in Randolph, Massachusetts. Join them for a day of sailing, swimming, victim sacrifice, make and capture the flag, and more.

They intend to send out invitations and announcements to Families and Juniors in the Northeast in the next few weeks, but if you are interested please contact Beth Furth, 31 Bates Road, Milton, MA 02186, 617-696-9840, or via e-mail: <furthfolk@yahoo.com>.

A Possible Event in the Midwest

Jim Phillips, a new TARSUS member, would like to hear from others (TARSUS or TARSCanada) interested in organizing a sailing event in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, or possibly a cruise through the North Channel. He keeps his sailboat in Sandusky Bay, about 34 miles south of Leamington, Ontario. There are a large number of sailing venues, rental firms, and so forth, in addition to an amusement park, islands which cater to families, and so forth. Jim's address, telephone number and e-mail address is at the end of this newsletter as he is one of the new members whose contact information is printed below.

Ransome-Related Articles

For some time people have sent the editor of this newsletter copies of articles about Arthur Ransome or which are related to AR which appear in magazines or newspapers, generally but not always in the U.K.

Captain Ike Stephenson has sent in an article from the March, 1999 issue of *Yachting Monthly* called "King's Ransome" about David Jones, a British TARS who has a Peter Duck class called *Mary Ransome* which he sails out of Emsworth Yacht Harbour. As always, I will send a copy of this article to anyone who is interested for \$ 1.00 to cover the copying and postage.

AGM and Related Information

Along with Signals and The Outlaw, this packet includes information about the upcoming AGM at Ruddyard Lake in Staffordshire. If you are going you should get your booking forms in as soon as possible; as always you can send those in through me and pay in U.S. Dollars. If you are not going (as alas! I am not) be sure to mail in your choices for Trustees and other voting items in time to be received before the AGM.

Martha's KidLit Newsletter

Martha Rasmussen has send me a copy of her most recent newsletter, the January/February 1999 issue. This newsletter contains on Arthur Ransome and on TARS. If you are interested in the newsletter, contact her at:

Martha Rasmussen
P.O. Box 1488
Ames, IA 50014
<www.kidlitonline.com>

Arthur Ransome on the Internet

The following article was written by Adam Quinan, a Canadian TARS, and originally published in North Pole News, the TARSCanada Newsletter. It is reprinted and slightly modified here with Adam's permission.

No doubt there are a number of you who will already be familiar with the many Arthur Ransome sites on the Internet. This article is to encourage those who have not yet ventured in to the World Wide Web to test the waters with some wonderful Ransome sites. For my part, it was through the Internet that I first became aware of and later joined TARS. The sites vary from a TARS sponsored "official" website to ones put up by fellow enthusiasts which have a greater or lesser degree of approval by TARS. A quick web search brought up 600 sites with the words Arthur Ransome. Some of these are pages from the sites mentioned here. There were many Japanese sites and the Windermere Steamboat Museum where *Amazon* is preserved and the Abbot Hall Museum where some of Ransome's belongings are kept. Even if you don't have a computer with an Internet connection at home, there are many public libraries and schools which offer the opportunity to go surfing. Why not take a look at some of the

Ransome sites which are probably the Society's most public exposure to the unsuspecting world.

The official TARS Arthur Ransome site (<http://www.arthur-ransome.org/ar>) has a large number of pages of information about Arthur Ransome, TARS and links to many of the other sites. It is a good starting point for anyone trying to explore Ransome on the web. The Arthur Ransome Society pages are an interesting example of how international the Internet is. The Web pages are stored on a computer in California. They were originally set up by a New Zealander, Peter Dowden, and are now controlled from England by Woll Newall and Tim James, and from California by Dave Thewlis. There are links to other pages everywhere from Japan to Switzerland.

Included in the information available is a Ransome FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page, various pictures of Ransome sites and locations from Wild Cat island with a couple of small boats (are they really the *Swallow* and *Amazon*?) [Ed: no, they aren't – they were two small sailing dinghies rounding Peel Island (Wild Cat Island) just as we took the picture in 1989, but with red-brown and white sails respectively, they certainly look the part!] to Flushing harbour. There are also the official web pages of the Nancy Blackett Trust with tales of her voyages. A new venture is the calendar of TARS events and Ransome dates.

They also have links to the official Arthur Ransome Club Japanese site, but you have to have your computer set up to read Japanese characters (and understand Japanese yourself) to make sense of the content. Finally there are links to many non-TARS sites with Ransome content or potential interest to TARS.

I have left one of the best parts of the TARS site to last, Tim John's Literary pages. They are a major source of more literary Ransome related information to be found on the TARS site. Most of the Literary Pages are devoted to articles about Ransome's writing and early reviews of his books, though there are also a couple of quizzes based on Ransome's life and works. It also has links to on-line copies of some the books Ransome enjoyed and used in writing his own books. There is E.F. Knight's "The Cruise of the Alerte", which bears strong similarities to Peter Duck and his "Sailing" which was used by John and Dick. It also has pages from Nansen's "Furthest North" with pictures of his sailing sledges as seen by the explorers aboard the Fram and links to "Treasure Island" and Joshua Slocum's "Sailing Alone around the World".

Two other sites for the more interactive and those with a question or comment, are the TarBoard and CentreBoard discussion pages, the latter is less active and intended for Juniors. These are not officially sponsored by TARS but the webmaster, Ian Edmondson-Noble, is a member of TARS and tries to keep within the rules. Both Discussion Boards are open to anyone on the Internet.

Discussions can be interesting and are varied enough so that topics will suit most people. A number of Canadian TARS (and TARSUS) are frequent posters. Examples of recent topics discussed are seedcake recipes, other children's authors influenced by AR, the demise of Morse Code, some politically incorrect passages in AR's books and Robert Dilley's favourite topic, redundant geographical names such as Lake Windermere.

Ian Edmondson-Noble also runs a TARS members-only Club Hut for private Society discussions. This is where TARS members who want to discuss the Society and how it is run and any controversial internal issues can do so without the whole Internet world being able to see what is going on. Access to read the correspondence is controlled by a general password and you can only post messages if you use a personal password which verifies who you are. Recently, there was a Virtual General Meeting in the Club-Hut to discuss how TARS presence on the Internet should be organized and controlled so that TARS could present itself in the best light without offending copyrights and TARS policies.

(Membership List Information Deleted)

I won't give you a long list of Web addresses because half the fun is finding your own and the TARS website is a great place to start with all its content and links to other sites. That should keep you more than busy enough as you venture in search of Ransome on the Internet. Give it a try and tell us about it on TarBoard! Here it is again!

<http://www.arthur-ransome.org/ar>

And Lastly

Please be sure and contact Beth Furth if you are interested in the Juniors Corroboree in Massachusetts in June. Contact Jim Phillips if you are interested in a TARS sailing event of some kind on the Lakes. And if you are traveling, check your TARSUS membership list or address book for TARSUS where you are going, get in touch, and get together.

Three cheers for TARS and TARSUS!

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