



SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

February 1999

This newsletter accompanies the 1999 *Despatches* with information about the upcoming Annual General Meeting at Rudyard Lake, near Leek in Staffordshire, May 28-31.

Membership Renewal for 1999

At the moment there are about 130 members of TARSUS. Of those, approximately 70 have renewed, and thanks for getting your renewals in on time. Of course, this means that about 60 of us have not yet renewed their membership. If you are in this group, please send your 1999 renewal to me. The membership renewal form was sent to you with the last mailing, attached to the *Distilled Enthusiasms* questionnaire. If you can't find the form, just make the check out to Dave Thewlis and send it to me at 2301 C Street, Eureka, CA 95501-1408. The membership renewal amounts are:

Family	\$41.25	Student over 16	\$16.50
Adult	\$33.00	Junior	\$ 8.25
Pensioner	\$24.75		

Financial Issues - A Reminder

TARSUS members can conduct most if not all TARS-related financial activities with the U.K. and pay in U.S. dollars:

- Pay membership dues and renewals
- Order items from the TARS Stall or other TARS enterprises
- Subscribe to the next Amazon Publication
- Donate to the Nancy Blackett Trust
- *Submit booking forms & deposits for the AGM or Literary Weekend*

A revised *Our British Account*, a flyer sent to each new member, is included with this newsletter. Note that the ability to submit booking forms and deposits has been added.

Welcome

Welcome to new members Gordon Abbott, Jr.; David, Julia and Jenny Bates, Anne LeVeque, and Jake Wilson; David Brooks; Katharine Crosby; Jacob Dow; Frank Denton; Paul, Cathy, Jennifer and Paul Jr. Jacobs; Graham, Eleanor, Matthew, Colin, Elizabeth and Peter Johnson; William, Sara Rae, Richard, Oliver and Timothy Lupton; Samuel and Jane Morse; Rebecca Norton; Bill, Abby, Gennie, Molly and Theo Noyce and Jone LaBombard; Rebecca Swisher; Andrew, Victoria and Noah Waters; Rosemary Winter. And a special welcome to Peter, Beth, Barnabas, Keziah, Polly and Salim Furth, who relocated from Holland to Massachusetts late last year.

Sad News from New Zealand

I am sorry to report that Roger Dick, the New Zealand coordinator, died in October of last year. Roger's artistic newsletter, *News from Houseboat Bay*, often reminded one of Admiral Barrable with sketches in the margins and overall enthusiastic design.

NOGO for Maine, I'm Afraid

I did receive an offer to help with an event in the northeast from the Furth family, newcomers to TARSUS. However, we still lack any other volunteers or anybody to organize the event or chair an event committee. Given the limited time until the summer and the amount of work necessary, I'm afraid that I have to declare the proposed TARSUS event in Maine as off, at least as a national weekend event for TARSUS.

However, I still encourage everyone to think about having a local or regional TARS event of some sort. As I said last time, several Junior members have expressed a desire for a Corroboree or other TARSUS event. Possibly this is something the Juniors may have to take the lead in doing, if we have an adventurous Nancy or two in TARSUS.

Events in Other Countries

The TARS regions in the U.K. host a number of events but they are not entirely alone. In our last newsletter I provided some excerpts from Adam Quinan's report on the second TARSCanada Corroboree at the beginning of August last year. I'm sure that our Canadian associates will have a Corroboree this year as well.

AUSTARS, the Australian group, had their first event last November, in Hobart, Tasmania. It was in conjunction with the Third Australian Wooden Boat Festival. I understand it was a definite success, and they were able to display in addition to AR books and TARS literature a 12 foot long version of *Swallow* complete with tan standing lug sail and 6 inch keel belonging to AUSTARS Lionel Hill.

They had 16 AUSTARS attend (of about 32 members or families), and were so enthused that they are now planning another meeting, possibly this Easter at Jindabyne ski lodge, which I gather is near Canberra.

Resumes

Amy, Tom and Andy Roy; Roger and June Sykes; Peter, Beth, Salim, Keziah, Polly and Barnabas Furth; and Edwin Kiser. So included in this packet are Resumes pages 15-19.

Ransome on Blue Water Sailing

The 1999 Amazon Publication offering will be *Ransome on Blue Water Sailing*. As always, if you wish to subscribe to this publication in advance, you may do so by sending your subscription directly to me in US\$. Given the increase in costs they are experiencing, I propose a donation of \$25 U.S., which is about £15 and includes shipping.

Ransome-Related Articles

Occasionally TARSUS members send me AR-related articles clipped from newsletters or magazines. When possible I report them in this newsletter and make copies available for \$1.00 to cover copying and postage.

Recently, Victoria Waters sent me some wonderful excerpts from two books, and I must admit I was not familiar with either one. *Michele Landsberg's Guide to Children's Books* (Penguin Press) has a terrific consideration of Ransome on pages 9-101. Joan Bodger's *How the Heather Looks* (Viking Press, 1959) contains an account (pages 254-264) of looking for AR and AR sites in the Lake District, and is an interesting contrast to Christina Hardyment's *Arthur Ransome and Captain Flint's Trunk*. Hopefully interested TARSUS will be able to find these books at their local libraries.

Ellen Tillinghast's Remaining Books

Dorothy Hill reports that the stock of books left by Ellen Tillinghast which were made available to TARSUS members who knew her is at last

depleted. The final volumes were donated to Nancy Blackett to form a part of her on-board library of Ransome and Ransome-related books. I think this was a very fitting disposition for the remaining items, and hope that all who benefitted from Ellen's estate will enjoy their "new" books.

Congratulations

Alex Ely, a Junior Tars from Amherst, MA, won the Goblin Quiz published in The Outlaw # 5. His prize was a copy of the video *A Voyage with Nancy Blackett*.

The video, of course, was in PAL (U.K.) format, and as TARS had received some requests from the U.S. and Japan for a U.S. format of the tape, we arranged for a dozen copies to be made. We didn't reckon on the hurricanes in Florida this fall, where the tapes were duplicated. By the time Alex got his tape, he probably wondered if we were having them done by a shipbuilder! ("The only shipbuilder that ever got a job done on time was Noah, and he didn't have a choice!")

HOLIDAY RENTAL IN CORNWALL

Where the Swallows learnt to sail!

Seafront St. Mawes cottage for rent. Sleeps 6. Walk to Castle, ships, Sailing Club and ferry to Falmouth. All TARS members get the key to the bookcase full of battered green hardbacks and related reading. They are also invited to contribute to the on-going folder documenting AR's connection to St. Mawes. Rates vary.

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Swallows and Amazons For Ever!

Before Signing Off

I know this is getting repetitious but (like all newsletter editors) I sometimes wonder if anybody out there is interested in anything more active than just receiving newsletters and publications. I would really appreciate articles or contributions for this newsletter -- things you've found out, things you've done that are AR- or TARS-related. And I continue to hope that we can get an event or two going somewhere in TARSUS. Please call, drop me a note or e-mail me if you are thinking of having a TARSUS event. It'd be great for at least some of us to actually meet one another.

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TARS U.S. as of February 1999



AK-1	DE-1	IL-1	MD-4	MO-1	NM-1	OR-3	TN-3	WA-7
AZ-1	FL-5	IN-3	ME-5	NC-2	NV-1	PA-2	TX-3	WI-4
CA-16	HI-1	LA-1	MI-6	NH-5	NY-10	PR-1	VA-5	
CT-6	ID-2	MA-13	MN-6	NJ-2	OH-4	RI-3	VT-2	

TARSUS has 131 households distributed as shown including one Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

TARSCANADA has 43 households, the majority in SW British Columbia and in Ontario (most near Toronto).