



SIGNALS FROM T·A·R·S·U·S

March 1998

This is the Spring newsletter accompanying the 1998 *Despatches* with details of the upcoming A.G.M. in Ullapool, Scotland. It is a little late, as I received the package of *Despatches* on February 19th. Unfortunately I left on 10-day trip the next morning.... In any case, my apologies, and on to the newsletter.

Membership Renewals

About half of us have renewed our memberships for 1998, and thanks to all of you who got your renewals in. Of course, that means that about half of us have not yet renewed our memberships. If you are in the latter half, please send your 1998 renewal to me. Remember, make the check out to Dave Thewlis. If you've lost the renewal form, don't worry about it; just indicate on your check that it's for TARS membership renewal. The amounts are:

Adult or Family	\$33
Pensioner	\$24.75
Student over 18	\$16.50
Junior	\$8.25

Financial Issues

With this mailing you will find the latest version of **Our British Account** detailing how to pay in U.S. dollars for various TARS-related items. The system is arranged so that you can do any of the following in dollars through me:

- ✂ Pay membership dues and renewals
- ✂ Order items from the Society Stall or other TARS Enterprises
- ✂ Subscribe to the next Amazon Publication
- ✂ Donate to the Nancy Blackett Trust

Welcome

Welcome to new members Katherine Clark and family, Ben and Ella Cattabiani, Barbara D'Amario, Peggy Dimm, Susan Dimm and Kathryn Lawrence.

If you are a new member and didn't receive a *Despatches* with this newsletter, you will receive (or have just received) one directly from the U.K.

TARSUS Membership Listing

You'll find the latest updates to the TARSUS Membership Listing with this packet. A complete new listing will be distributed next time. Please notify me if you wish to have anything such as your telephone number or e-mail address added to your entry.

It has been the practice in TARSUS since its origin to distribute the Membership List within TARSUS. If you would rather not be on this list at all please let me know and I'll remove your entry.

Round-Robin Videos

The round-robin of the three videos (*Swallows and Amazons*, *Coot Club*, and *The Big Six*) continues. If you are interested in being on the round-robin (rather than purchasing your own set of the videos) please let me know and I'll put you on the list.

Ransome-Related Articles

For some time, people have sent the editor of *Signals* from TARSUS 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. I report them and make copies available to interested members who send me \$1.00 for copying and postage.

We have two new articles. The first is I'll Never Forget Arthur Ransome's Gift to me – A Trout by Karen Morley, from *The Cumberland News* of Friday, October 31, 1997.

The second is The Wrath of Uncle Arthur by David Kerr, from *The Sunday Telegraph* for February 8, 1998. The author actually interviewed Titty Altounyan, which is unusual as she has not been at all involved with TARS (unlike her sisters Taqui and Bridget).

A TARSUS Event in 1999? If We Wish

In the last newsletter, I asked for suggestions for an actual TARSUS event. I have received proposals from two TARSUS members covering three possible events, any of which would be planned for the summer of 1999. Here are their suggestions:

The Maine Coast

Member Barbara Burt writes:

Mid-coast Maine is a perfect spot to have a TARSUS rendezvous. The Main Maritime Museum in Bath has expressed interest in acting as our central site. This museum is dedicated to the local boatbuilding, sailing and navigating history, which is very rich and vibrant right up to the present. The museum is located on the banks of the Kennebec River, a few miles from the Atlantic Coast. Nearby are a good number of oceanside campgrounds and B&Bs. (Scenic lighthouses and beaches, too.)

This area abounds with boatbuilders, sailors, folklorists, artists, writers and traditional musicians. A large fleet of windjammers sails from nearby Rockland and Camden. We could develop quite a list of varied activities, ranging from

sea shanty songfests to knot tying workshops to dinghy sailing to sketching watercraft, etc. Although AR was never known to visit this place in person, his spirit would feel quite at home here. The best time for an event like this would be an extended weekend in July or August 1999.

Central or Northern Wisconsin

Member Mark Vladick writes:

There are a number of TARS in the area around Wisconsin, including some in Canada. I propose an event in one of two locations to occur in 1999. Both of these events would be BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat) though there is a canoe and an Optimist Sailboat available, as well as an expedition support ship for the northern expedition.

1. Baraboo Hills, South Central Wisconsin

Begin with a get acquainted meeting with slides from Ransome locations. Activities could include river canoeing, sailing in a mountain lake, mountain hiking, and a glimpse of the Lake District at a nearby long lake surrounded by bluffs and hills that is reminiscent of Lake Windermere – it even has a cable-drawn ferry crossing the middle of the lake near a town. There are lots of motels in the area, or camp at Red Shadows, my house, which like Beckfoot has a large lawn sloping down to a river. Wisconsin Dells, a scenic family tourist destination, is nearby, as well as a Native American Casino for those of you who have spouses or children who need more entertainment. This would probably be an extended weekend event.

2. Northern Wisconsin, an area of lakes and forests, at the Willow or Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Wilderness Areas

This would be more of an expedition. Both of these areas are mostly state-owned with a minimal amount of development confined to small areas. Turtle-Flambeau has numerous island and other rough campsites accessible only by boat. Both areas are large with all kinds of hidden bays and secret coves. Both would lend themselves to map-making. Willow is a new state purchase and has no authorized camping areas yet, but it may next year. It is only 15 minutes from my "up north camp" – a hilltop surrounded by a stream, wetlands, and a swamp. There is plenty of room to camp there. There are numerous resorts in both areas, but advance planning and reservations would be necessary. This event would be longer than a weekend, and maybe would be better to do after an easier area meeting first. It does offer a wilderness experience, though, as well as being closer to our Canadian allies.

So we have three serious proposals so far:

- (a) Mid-Maine, 3-day weekend, Summer 1999
Multiple activities, ocean campsites and B&Bs
- (b) Central Wisconsin, 3-day weekend, Spring or
Summer 1999, outdoor activity focus, camping
and local B&Bs
- (b) Northern Wisconsin, several days, Summer or
Fall 1999, mostly camping expedition in
wilderness area

Barbara and Mark are both interested in hosting and coordinating the events they suggest, but would need additional volunteer help.

This isn't necessarily an either/or choice: all of the events could occur if there is enough interest and probable attendance. I would very much like to hear from those of you who feel you would be interested in and likely to attend any of the proposed events, or who would like to suggest another alternative. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these events please also let me know.

In the next *Signals from TARSUS* I hope to summarize the proposals in front of us, add any additional proposals, and see if we can get things moving towards sign-ups and a real event. At that time we'll start asking for volunteers in earnest. Once things get underway it will involve a lot of work, so we want to be sure any event has support from enough members before anyone puts too much effort into it.

I have included a map of the U.S. showing where TARSUS members reside, current to the end of last month. As you can see, the Northeast has the largest concentration, but there are respectable groupings in the Great Lakes region and the Northwest. Perhaps somebody in California, Oregon or Washington would like to suggest an event to round out the country?

Books from Ellen Tillinghast's Collection

The following books from Ellen Tillinghast's collection are available to TARSUS member who knew Ellen. Contact Mrs. Dorothy Hill: 904-641-0735.

BOOKS BY ARTHUR RANSOME

Autobiography
The Big Six, MacMillan, 1941
The Blue Treacle
Coot Club, Jonathan Cape, 1934
Coots in the North
Great Northern, Jonathan Cape 1947
Misse Lee, MacMillan, 1942
Old Peter's Russian Tales, Dove edition, U.S.
Peter Duck, Jonathan Cape, 1932
Pigeon Post, Jonathan Cape, 1936
Racundra's First Cruise (2 copies)
Secret Water, Jonathan Cape, 1939
Swallowdale, Jonathan Cape, 1944
Swallows & Amazons, Jonathan Cape, 1939
War of the Birds and the Beasts, U.K. 1984
Winter Holiday, Jonathan Cape, 1933 (poor condition)

BOOKS ABOUT AR, HIS BOOKS, OR HIS CHARACTERS

Approaching Arthur Ransome, Peter Hunt
Arthur Ransome and Captain Flint's Trunk,
Christina Hardyment
Arthur Ransome's East Anglia, Roger Wardale
Arthur Ransome's Lakeland, Roger Wardale (2 copies)
The Boat Sailor's Manual, Edward F. Qualtrough, 1898
Down Channel in the Vivette, E. Keble Chatterton
Fell Farm Campers, Marjorie Lloyd
Fell Farm for Christmas, Marjorie Lloyd
Fell Farm Holiday, Marjorie Lloyd
Illustrating Arthur Ransome
In Aleppo Once, Taqui Altounyan
In Search of Swallows and Amazons, Roger Wardale
In the Footsteps of Swallows & Amazons,
Claire Kendall-Price (2 copies)
The Landsman's Guide to Sea Lore, C. R. Benstead
Liz Sails the Atlantic, Liz Anderson
Life of Arthur Ransome, Hugh Brogan
Lovely Lakeland – photographs and map
Nancy Blackett, Roger Wardale
Ransome at Home, C.E. Alexander
Ransome at Sea, Roger Wardale
The Ransoming, Pauline Marshall
The Riddle of the Sands, Erskin Childers
Songs of the Sea and Sailors' Chanteys, 1924
Steam Yacht Gondola Souvenir Handbook
Where it All Began, Pauline Marshall
Windermere Steamboat Museum Handbook

TARS PUBLICATIONS

Mixed Moss, Volumes 1-4
Miscellaneous Ship's Log and Despatches

AND, an AR Burgee

OUR BRITISH ACCOUNT (REVISED)

In addition to paying your membership dues in U.S. dollars via the TARSUS Coordinator, you can also purchase items from the Society Stall or other TARS Enterprises (see back of any *Signals* or other Society publication, or the TARS Enterprises flyer sent to new members or at request), subscribe to the next book from Amazon Publications and make donations to The Nancy Blackett Trust.

To place an order from the Society Stall or other TARS Enterprise:

1. Compose your order as follows:

- Write clearly
 - Provide your own name and address
 - Specify what you are ordering
 - Give total value IN POUNDS STERLING for each item
 - Do NOT attempt to figure shipping and handling charges
 - DO indicate whether you want the item(s) shipped by surface or air post
- FOR EXAMPLE:
- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| item a..... | 10 pounds |
| item b..... | 2.50 " |
| item c..... | 4 " |
| | <hr/> |
| | 16.50 pounds sterling |
| | *air post for all items* |
- Show the total amount IN POUNDS:

2. Send the order to me in writing or by electronic mail. INCLUDE NO MONEY.

Dave Thewlis
2301 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501-4108 -or e-mail to- <dthewlis@dcta.com>

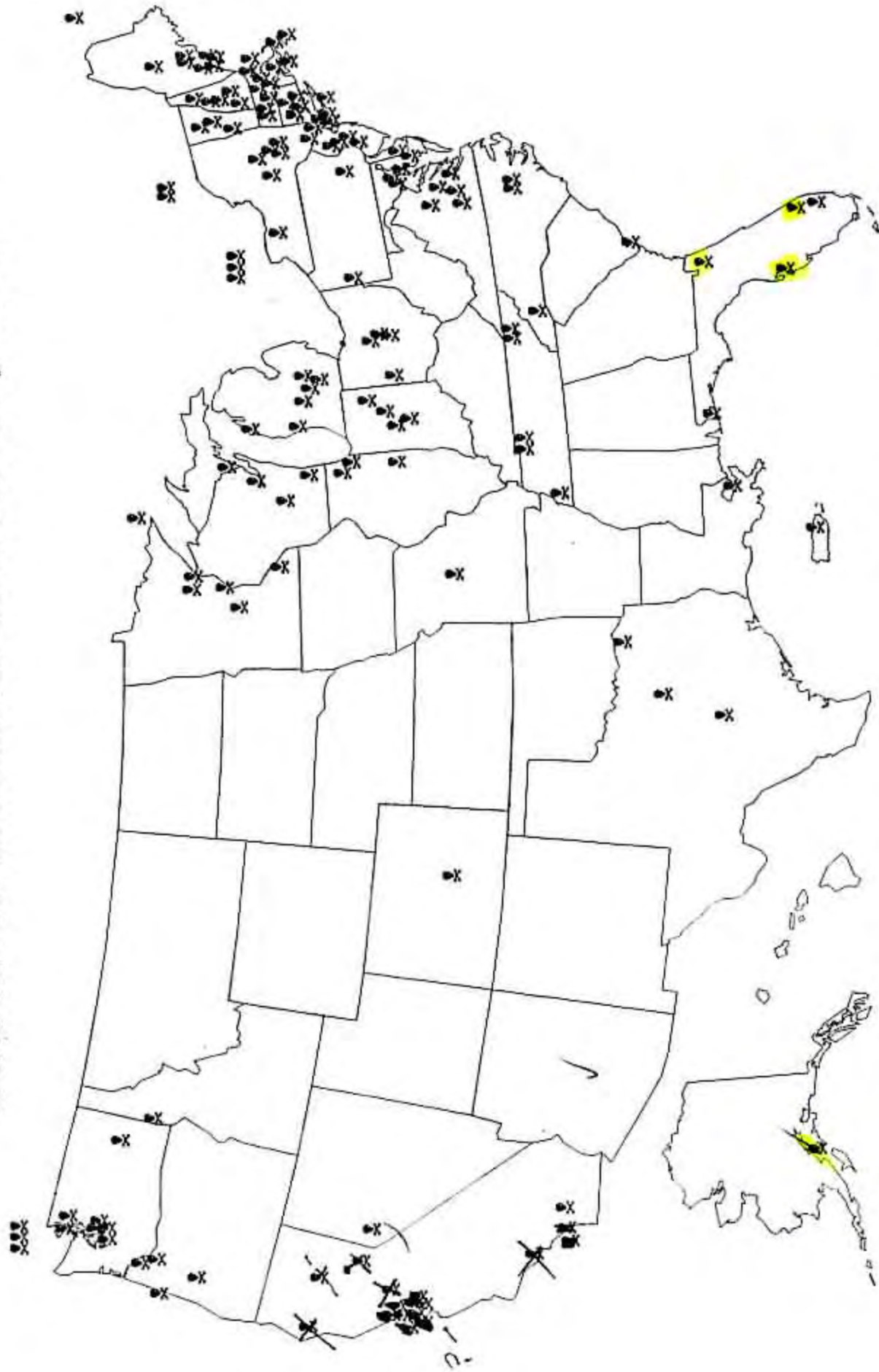
3. I will transmit the order to the U.K. The order will be assembled and shipped as you requested. Any items not available will be back-ordered, and handled as a separate order when available. A detailed invoice including postage and packing will be included, and will be transmitted to me as well.
4. I will write or e-mail you informing you that the order has shipped and what the total cost of the order was, including postage and packing, in U.S. dollars.
5. After you have received this notification from me, send me a check for the total in U.S. dollars made out to Dave Thewlis to the address above.

To order the next Amazon Publication or to donate to The Nancy Blackett Trust:

You may order the next Amazon Publication by sending me your subscription amount in dollars (figure \$1.65 equals 1.00 pounds sterling) with an accompanying note explaining what you want (if needed). Remember that you only order the next publication directly from Amazon. For current or previous years' publications, order from Ted Alexander at the Society Stall. For more information refer to the Amazon Publications information printed in the TARS journals. Make your check payable to Dave Thewlis.

To donate to The Nancy Blackett Trust, send me a check in dollars with an accompanying note to be relayed to the Trust. Make your check payable to Dave Thewlis.

TARS in North America as of February 1998



TARSUS has 136 households distributed as shown including one in Alaska and one in Puerto Rico (~~but none in Hawaii~~).
TARSCANADA has 41 households: 13 in SW British Columbia, 23 in Ontario (most near Toronto), and the rest widely distributed.