



SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

April 1998

Spring Greetings Again!

Close on the heels of the last *Signals from TARSUS* (if a month counts as close on the heels) comes the April edition, accompanying not only *Signals* but (if you are a Family or a Junior) *The Outlaw* and also the AGM information for the Ullapool Annual General Meeting.

Membership Renewals

A fair number of TARS U.S. members have not yet sent in their 1998 renewals. I hate to dun you or to tip you the black spot -- but that's what I'm doing anyhow! In this case, the Black Spot is a sticker on the top of this newsletter just like the one which was on the renewal forms at the beginning of the year.

If you don't have a sticker on your newsletter you have renewed, and many thanks. If you do have one then either you haven't renewed or you have done it directly with the U.K. If you are in the latter category please drop me a note and let me know; it is possible that I missed your renewal. If you think you renewed but you got a sticker let me know anyhow and we'll straighten it out.

If you haven't renewed yet, then it is past time to send in your renewal – because if you don't this is the last you'll hear from TARS! The sticker has your type of membership and what the dues are; make a check out to me and send it to me with a note that it is for your TARS 1998 membership (you don't need a form).

Welcome

Welcome to new members Alexander Ely and family, Bob Herbert, and Professors Elizabeth How and Leonard Passano.

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.

No Resumes

I haven't received any more resumes, so this packet does not have any additions to the RESUMES OF U.S. MEMBERS of the Arthur Ransome Society. Needless to say, I'd like to encourage all those who haven't contributed your resume to do so.

A TARSUS Event in 1999 – Status

In my last *Signals from TARSUS* I reported proposals from Barbara Burt in Maine and from Mark Vladick in Wisconsin to host TARSUS events in the Summer of 1999. So far I've gotten a few comments which prefer Maine (from people for whom Maine is closer). A couple of them have proposed chartering a windjammer for a day sail which is a super idea! Also, I have not gotten alternative proposals from anybody else so at this point I'm assuming there are not likely to be any other proposals.

So if you think you would attend either or both of the events please write or drop me an e-mail. By the next newsletter (approximatley in August) we'll decide for Maine, Wisconsin, or (if there is enough interest) perhaps for both. See the last *Signals from TARSUS* for descriptions of the proposed events.

An Offer from the U.K.

Ted Alexander, who runs the Society Stall and who authored one of the Amazon Publications, *Ransome at Home*, has written upon reading of our possible event to volunteer to attend to provide a talk and slide show on either Ransome's Homes or Ransome in Russia, or both. I think Ted would be a wonderful addition to a TARSUS event, although obviously this wouldn't be an "activity" per se. I've written to Ted thanking him and saying that we'll let him know once we know.

TARSCanada Corroboree

TARS Canada, having pulled off two events last year, are getting in a third one before we can do one. There will be a Southern Ontario Corroboree at the Peterborough Sailing Club on August 1st. Adam Quinan writes:

It (the Corroboree) is open to all who know and love the writings of Arthur Ransome, TARS members or not (though we reserve the right to try and persuade you to join!) We would be delighted to see anyone from anywhere, TARS from Canada, the USA or especially from other continents! We will try and learn your savage languages!

We will meet at the Peterborough Sailing Club on Clear Lake in the Kawarthas (contact one of the undersigned for directions) at about 1 pm and stay until bedtime. Activities will include sailing in club boats or bring your own dinghy. There will be a lot of activities, including breat swimming (with one or two feet off the bottom), not very big wooden boat building, chocolate rations, grog drinking (two sorts), secret messages, exploring and a treasure hunt (only for pirates) and perhaps even some discussion of a series of books by Arthur Ransome.

We will enjoy a barbecue feast. The cost will be \$10/adult, \$5/child (with a maximum of \$30/family). (Canadian \$ of course.)

RSVP to the organizers by July 25th please:

Ross or Lisa Cossar
RR#2 Norwood, Ontario K0L 2V0
(705) 639-1223

Adam Quinan
19 Morewood Crescent
North York, Ontario M2K 1L8
(416) 222-8116
E-mail: <quinans@interlog.com>

The Nancy Blackett Trust

Those of you who sent in a donation to the Nancy Blackett Appeal (to acquire Nancy Blackett) have probably received one or two copies of *Jibbooms and Bobstays*, the NBT newsletter, and a recent letter from the Trust saying that you are entitled to membership in the Nancy Blackett Trust. In that letter, Peter Willis mistakenly says that U.S. members can no longer send cash for donations or membership to NBT through Ellen Tillinghast following her sad death.

While that is true enough, you can send cash to the NBT for donations or membership money through me in US\$, and we will send it on to the NBT using the same cash conversion process and rates that we use for TARS monies. That's currently \$1.65 = £1.00; make checks out to me and be sure to say on the check what it is for!

Ransome-Related Articles

As I mentioned in the last Sft, 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.

Thomas Grimes has sent me three Ransomey articles from *Small Boat Journal*:

Piccolos and Ransomania

A Cruise on the Norfolk Broads

Cruising as a Way of Life

As always, I will be happy to copy and send any of these to anyone who is interested for \$.100 to cover the copying and postage. Also, I plan to publish a complete list of the articles in the file in the next newsletter.

Books from Ellen Tillinghast's Collection

In the last newsletter I published a list of books from the collection of Ellen Tillinghast, a founding member who passed away last fall. The books are in the possession of Dorothy Hill, who is making them available to interested TARS. Dorothy has had a serious intrusion of life on her plans, and is thus running rather seriously behind, but plans to catch up and distribute the books which have been requested by early May. She apologizes for the delay, and also points out that there are still a large number of items unspoken for. You can find the list in the last Signals from TARSUS; if you are interested contact:

Mrs. Dorothy Hill
7841 Woodsdale Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-641-0735
E-mail: <LockwoodD@aol.com>

Among the items was a copy of *In Aleppo Once* by Taqui Altounyan. Due to the interest in this book, long out of print, I am going to ask Taqui for permission to make an Adobe PDF copy of the book. (Adobe PDF is a computer format which can be read on any type of computer, so a PDF copy of the book would be much more widely accessible).

An Unfortunate Situation

As some (at least) of us are aware, there have been difficulties on the TARS Board of Trustees during the last months. In the AGM Papers for 1998 accompanying this mailing, you will find a Resolution placed before the members of TARS to remove Peter Roche, one of the elected Trustees. The resolution contains a statement concerning the circumstances signed by all of the Other officers and Trustees of TARS requesting the support of the membership for this Resolution. There is also a letter from Malcolm Temple, the outgoing Chairman, which touches on this subject amongst other matters, and a submission from Peter Roche concerning this Resolution.

There has been some debate on this matter on the electronic TARBOARD on the Internet, and some exchange of e-mail messages between a few TARS members, but from a distance of several thousand miles these events, among people whom most TARSUS members have not met, are probably not terribly comprehensible, and most TARSUS members can be forgiven for not really having an opinion on the matter.

It is not appropriate for me, or this newsletter, to make a recommendation to TARSUS members as to how they should vote on the matter, although I have no objection to telling others how I myself am voting, which is in support of the Resolution and in support of the TARS Trustees.

However, the important thing is that you do vote by sending in the Proxy Votes included in the AGM Papers, not only on this matter but on the other matters being tabled. This is because if you're not at the AGM and don't submit a proxy your vote doesn't count. The Ullapool AGM will be fairly small as it is somewhat remote, so the proxy votes are even more important for TARS to respond to the will of its members than regularly.

TARSUS members who would like to understand more of the matter or talk to somebody who knows the people involved are welcome to write, e-mail or call either me or Doug Faunt. Each of us has been to TARS events and AGMs and knows at least something about the situation and some of the people,

and can explain where and why he stands on the matter.

You can contact Doug Faunt at 6405 Regent Street, Oakland, CA 94618-1313; 510-655-8604
His e-mail is: <faunt@netcom.com>

A final note: I think everybody involved with this is unhappy that this kind of thing had to affect TARS; it is little consolation to reflect that it is the sort of problem which inevitably seems to come up in associations and volunteer organizations sooner or later and generally does cause unhappiness and rifts. Most organizations do live through the problems, and so will TARS.

(New Member Information Deleted)

And Lastly

Please make sure and drop me a note or e-mail me if you feel you would attend or would like to register support for either or both of the proposed TARSUS events, and especially if you would be willing to volunteer to help in any capacity. We'll be publishing more about this in the next newsletter, and with any luck at all, many of us will get a chance to meet for the first time in the Summer of 1999.

Three cheers for TARS and TARSUS!

Dave Thewlis 707-442-0547 (work, messages)
2301 C Street 707-445-1689 (home)
Eureka, CA 95501-4108 707-442-9342 (fax)
E-mail: <dthewlis@dcta.com>

