

# The Monitor



January 2005

## Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting** January 8, 2004, 9:00 am  
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH  
(see parking map inside)
- Jan. VHF Sweepstakes** January 22-23, 2004  
at the Burden's, Strafford, VT
- TSRC Meeting** February 12, 2004, 9:00 am  
Instructional Center  
37 Dewey Field Road, Hanover, NH

## Message From the President

*January, 2005*

Dear members and friends,

The past year seems to have had a common theme to it. In a word, it has been excessive. On a global scale, we have seen excesses in almost everything. One example has been the extreme weather we have experienced. Unprecedented hurricane activity, unseasonably high and low temperatures and a year-ending earthquake and tsunami closed out the year on a tragic note. Radio propagation experienced its own extremes with severe Coronal Mass Ejections and other phenomena wreaking havoc on HF bands while creating rare openings on VHF and six meters.

Nationally, the trend continued. In the world of sports, we saw ticket prices to professional events reach historical highs. Showboating reached new pinnacles and sports violence escalated beyond previous boundaries. For the first time anyone can remember, a professional athlete left the field of play to attack a spectator. Perhaps most memorable was the long-awaited capture of the World Series by the no longer cursed Boston Red Sox. In other arenas, we witnessed the first privately funded launching of a human into space when SpaceShipOne captured the Ansari X Prize. In an extreme example of oversimplification, our country has been divided by the news media into "red states" and "blue states."

Locally, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center continued its impressive expansion with the opening of the new "Doctor's" wing. Dartmouth College broke new ground with its announcement of a \$1.3 billion fund-raising campaign. Billion, not million! Meanwhile, its basketball and football teams both lost head coaches to poor win-loss records.

Even closer to home, Twin State Radio Club members seem to be busier than ever. In addition to personal and career responsibilities, members have spent huge amounts of time in support of the club, as-

sisting local charitable events with communications support and being more active than ever in Southern Grafton ARES activities. None of us seem to have enough hours in our days or days in our weeks.

Busy schedules notwithstanding, I would like to suggest a few club goals for the coming year. As always, I would also like to hear from our members. A few have already contacted me with their thoughts on changes they would like to see in TSRC. However, I would like to hear from every member with their impressions on the direction the club is taking. What do you like about it? What do you dislike? What keeps you interested and what leaves you cold? The following are my thoughts on where we are headed and what I'd like to see in the coming year:

1) I have been truly grateful for the unselfish efforts of our vice President, Ed Feustel (N5EI), our Secretary, Nancy Maynard (N1QW) and our Treasurer, Dave Haseman (KE1IW). These fine folks have been vigilant about keeping my nose to the grindstone besides taking care of their own responsibilities as club officers. In addition, there is a core of stalwarts who always seem to show up when help is needed, always manage to make sure the important things get done and always fail to receive the thanks they deserve. My sincere thanks go to them and their tireless efforts.

2) I would like to get more young people involved in club activities, whether they be license classes, Field Day activities, weekend get-togethers or on-the-air QSOs. I believe it is important to keep the Ham radio "pipeline" primed. These young people are the next generation of amateur radio and our time will be well spent mentoring them and helping them to experience the joys and rewards of our hobby.

3) I would like to re-engage some of our members who have taken sabbaticals from TSRC. I take every opportunity I can find to invite members who have been active in the past to become active again. As a relative newcomer to the club, though, I am limited in what I can do to convince these members (or past members) to rejoin us. I remember the warm welcome I received a few years ago when I had just received my license and I visited TSRC's Field Day site. That welcome - and the atmosphere of friendship and fun that I observed - made me want to become a member of Twin State Radio Club. I ask your help in sharing that feeling with members whom have become disenchanted with the club as well as to new and potential new members.

4) As a corollary to item #3, please continue to send your comments and suggestions to me or other officers of the club. Our mem-

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bership boasts many talented, imaginative people and I would like to tap that talent and imagination to keep TSRC the active, energetic group it has always been.

5) I think it is time to take a look at the club's vehicle situation. Due to the Herculean efforts of our vehicle committee and other members over the years, we have enjoyed the use of a communications van and various trailers for club events and activities. However, some of this equipment is succumbing to the ravages of age and might soon need to be retired for safety and budgetary reasons. I would appreciate hearing from all members about the comm van, antenna trailers and other rolling stock currently in use by the club. What is worth keeping? What is due for retirement or replacement? What is no longer cost effective or safe? What should it be replaced with? Please be prepared to share your thoughts on these items at upcoming club meetings.

6) Keep those cards and letters coming! I would like to ask every member to send me at least one idea, suggestion, complaint or compliment about our club. TSRC is what we make it and your ideas, suggestions, criticisms and kudos are essential to its continued health and vigor. To those of you who read our newsletter but are not members, please tell us what would make our club more attractive to you. If you are an inactive member, let us know what it would take to bring you back. It's a new year, after all!

On behalf of the Twin State Radio Club, I wish you all a safe, happy, peaceful and successful new year.

73,  
Charlie Wilber (N1AOK), President  
Twin State Radio Club

## **ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST JANUARY, 2005 VERSION!! CAN YOU HANDLE IT????**

It's happening again!! In less than a month, the annual ARRL VHF January Sweepstakes will be upon us. This year, the "Winter Field Day" event will be on the weekend of January 22-23 starting at 1900 UTC on the 22nd and ending at 0400 UTC on the 24th (actually Sunday evening). Each year, Dot KA1LDS and I open our place in Strafford to everyone for this mid-winter operating event and social gathering.

Last year, W1FN was first in Vermont with 12,702 points, even though our contact total was below our 1992 results. In post-contest discussions last year, we came up with some improvements to make us more competitive and make operating more fun. We now have 2M, 6M and 440 on separate permanent towers when we bring the tower/trailer up, we will add a tower and rotor for the 222 yagi, making four independent band antennas. This will eliminate the problems of different bands on the same tower, sharing rotors.

Thanks to Joe KB1FDS and Dave UAG, the 2M tower is now at about 50ft. In addition, the 440 tower is at about 40 ft and the 6M antenna is at 35 ft. Several operators attended a 6M seminar last

summer and the recommendation was to put the 6M beam at 35-40 ft for best results.

All antennas will have hard-line this year. The reduced loss is well worth the effort to install hardline.

In the shop- I opened up more operating space by constructing a "wrap-around" operating position on my desk to include all my existing VHF, UHF and HF radios, the Packet gateway, the system computer and power supplies and battery systems. This will free up all the bench space for other station setups. We will be able to operate at least one station from the "wrap-around" console.

In addition to the four basic operating bands, Dave UAG is planning to have 902 this year with on rig in the rover vehicle along with 222 Mhz. This has worked well for getting more multipliers for grid squares on 222 and we should be able to pick up a couple on 902.

Sleeping accommodations are limited this year to the two beds our the house, one on the porch and one in the loft that can be used on a first come- first served basis, bring your sleeping bags.

Food- We will provide the traditional Saturday evening turkey dinnner and Dave UAG is planning chili + !! We will also have coffee and some other snacks but feel free to bring additional fuel!! Plan to provide your own breakfasts.

Transport- the driveway- same situation as previous years. Depending on the weather conditions, you need four wheel drive to make it to the top. We will have some parking space on the lower section and can shuttle people and equipment up.

TSRC has done this contest for several years now and it's lots of fun with plenty of low-pressure operating opportunities. If you have not tried contesting and would like to see what it is like, this is a good way to get acquainted with the basics. We will be doing computer logging using the same SW as on FD. The contact rates are slow enough to allow lots of socializing and eating!

The shop easily accomodates five operating positions and many onlookers. We have a good wood stove that keeps us all warm no matter what the outside weather. If you are interested in just coming up and seeing what it is like or would like to be an operator, you are welcome. I will make directions and other information available as we get near to the event. Drop me a note if you have any questions.

73, Bill WB1BRE



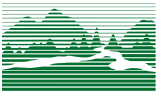
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!  
Make it your default start page!  
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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