

The Monitor



January 2006

Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting January 14, 2006, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH
- Skywarn Spotter Training January 23, 2006, 7:00 pm
White River School, WRJ, VT
- TSRC Meeting February 11, 2006, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH

Skywarn Spotter Training

Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, 7 PM

White River School, WRJ, VT

The Twin State Radio Club, Inc. is sponsoring a Skywarn Spotter training class. It will be Monday, Jan. 23, 2006 at 7 PM at the White River School, 102 Pine Street, White River Junction, VT.

Directions to White River School:

From I 91:

Take exit 12, (Wilder Exit), go east on Bugbee Street towards route 5. Turn right onto route 5 south at T intersection. Go straight approx .5 miles to first traffic light. Take left, go to next traffic light (100 yards) and take left onto Pine Street. White River School is on left. Follow Pine Street to the parking lot behind the school. Enter at door in corner at rear of school.

From I 89:

Get onto I91 north at the 89/91 interchange in WRJ. Go north about 1 mile to exit 12 (Wilder Exit). Follow directions above.

Message from the President:

This month's meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th in the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Memorial Hospital cafeteria in the lower level of the facility.

The January meeting will be my last as President of Twin State Radio Club. I have accepted a position at the University of California at San Diego and will be moving there in mid-January. I want to thank the members of TSRC for welcoming me into the club and for treating me as a friend. I have valued that friendship and the spirit of camaraderie that pervades the club. I am proud to have been a member and an officer of the Twin State Radio Club and I will miss my association with all of you. TSRC and its members have been good to me and I owe you all a debt I will not be able to repay.

Your capable Vice President (N8RPD), Secretary (N1QW), Treasurer (KE1IW) and Trustee (KA1CRP) will ensure that the business of the club goes on as usual. Our hardworking newsletter editor and Webmaster (K1IH) will make sure that everyone is kept up to date as always. The club is in good hands and I have no concerns that my departure will cause any problems they cannot easily handle.

I hope to see you all on Saturday, January 14th, for our regular monthly meeting! Please join me at the DHMC cafeteria on the lower level at 9:00 a.m. Arrive a few minutes early if you wish to go through the cafeteria line and grab some breakfast. Finally, everyone present for the meeting will receive a free ticket good for one chance on this month's "door prize".

On behalf of Twin State Radio Club I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year.

As always, my thanks go out to our dedicated club officers, William (N8RPD), Nancy (N1QW), Dave (KE1IW) and our newsletter editor, Mike (K1IH) for their efforts on behalf of our club. I am grateful to them.

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

TIME TO PLAN FOR WIFN-ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES 2006!

It may seem early to think about operating a contest in mid-winter, but it's closer than you think. Again this year, Dot and I want to invite any club member or area Ham to join us in the "contest room" at our home in Strafford, VT.

Veterans of this late January "winter Field Day" remember times when it was so cold that outside activity on antennas was limited to about 5 minutes! And climbing temporary towers to fix antennas in zero temps and cold winds!

But enough about the fun parts of the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes! Much has changed at 328 Old City Falls Rd since last January's contest. For newcomers, this contest concentrates on VHF, UHF and Microwave bands for contacts including 6M, 2M, 222 Mhz, 70 Cm and up. We generally concentrate on SSB with some FM contacts. SSB operation provides greater ranges, something very necessary on the higher frequencies. Generally, power levels exceed 100 wts and we use a set of high gain Yagi antennas for enhanced performance.

Disclaimer

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The contest begins at 2PM local on Saturday, January 21, 2006 and ends at 11:00 PM on Sunday, January 22. Since contact rates are much lower than HF contests or FD, there is more time for QSO's and some ragchewing. For this contest, use the club call sign W1FN. We have a competitive operation, having come in first in our operating class in Vermont in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005 and first in Vermont in 2003.

This year, in addition to operating 6M, 2M, 222 and 432 Mhz, we plan to include a 902 Mhz station for contacting mobile operators and fixed stations. The operating positions are in my shack/workshop in the garage in a 225 sqft room with heat, lights and comfortable seating. This year, I have added an antenna connector "bulkhead" on one wall to allow up to 10 antenna coax cables to be connected on the outside and then routed on the inside to the appropriate operating positions.

The five operating positions are on bench tops around the perimeter of the room as well as a wrap-around console on my desk. I have three towers, each with a rotor and control box in the shack. We now have, in addition to 2M and 432 Mhz horizontally polarized Yagis, a 6M tower with a 5 Element horizontally polarized Yagi. 222 Mhz operation is planned, at this point, to be FM with a vertical Yagi on the same tower as the 432 antenna. All contest antennas, except 222 Mhz are fed by hard-line. (There are vertically polarized yagis for 2M, 440 and 6M, as well).

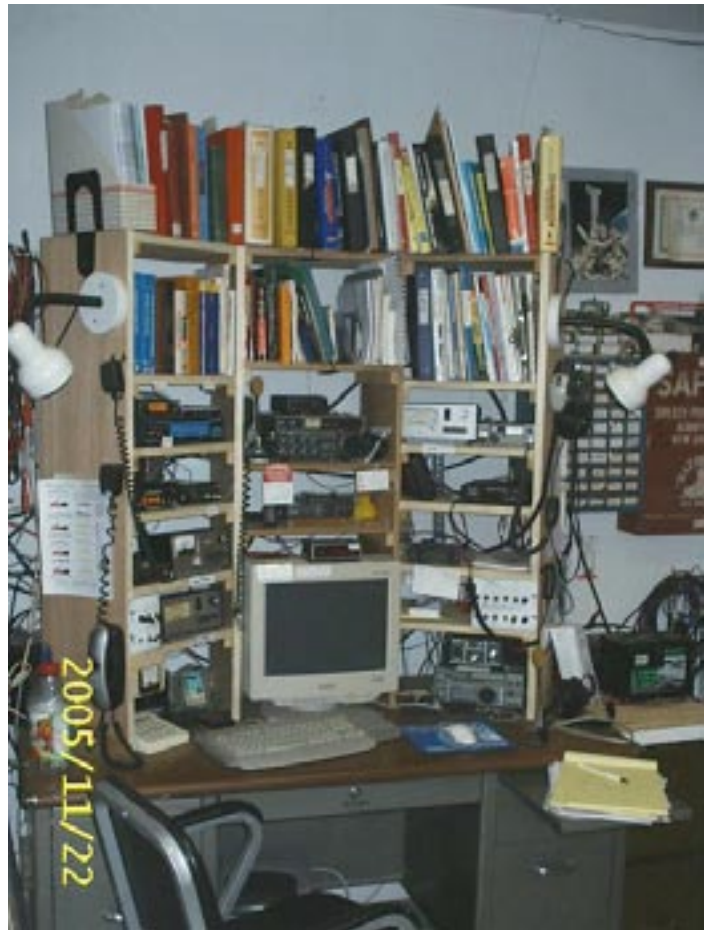
This setup has gone together over a period of 6 years with help and donations of antennas and equipment from many club members and we thank all those who have helped improve the setup each year. By sponsoring this event each January, Dot and I hope to give back a little to the club and to introduce new Hams to the special "world" of VHF/UHF contesting.

One major activity must not be overlooked--- the turkey dinner on Saturday evening (with all the fixings!!) This had become a tradition and we do great damage to a 20 lb plus turkey each year. In addition, participants bring their favorite and special "pot-luck" offerings-- Dave KA1UAG's chili is a chili-lovers delight and even works well for breakfast on Sunday morning- for some!! Even though the contest doesn't start till 2PM on Saturday, we have a pick-up lunch around noon as some folks arrive early for setting up computers and equipment.

We anticipate that there will be little or no antenna/tower activity during the contest-- a great disappointment I'm sure to those of us who thrive on near frost-bite and other winter hazards! We are looking for amplifiers for 2M and 6M- at least 150 wts and more if possible.

Veterans and new Hams- put the contest on your calendars and get ready for a great Ham Radio weekend of contesting and conversation in our comfortable 70 degree contest room, while winter does it's worst outside. I'll provide directions to our QTH and notes on "what to bring" as we get closer to the weekend.

73, Bill WB1BRE



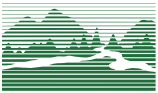
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ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>
*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.arrlnh.org/>
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

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



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