



# The Monitor

February 2002



## Presidents Message

It is very reassuring to see such renewed activity towards Field Day as this new year begins. As you know, Field Day is one of the highlights in the TSRC list of activities, it is the premier showcase to not only prove our emergency preparedness but to provide a fun competition for the membership as well. This years event is being organized by Mike Schmitt, N1MS and he is still actively looking for committee members. There are still several slots open, if you feel you can help please contact Mike at N1MS@EarthLink.net .

There has been a bit of discussion of whether we should stay at the 4A class, or add a transmitter and move up to 5A. This is a very worthwhile discussion, the 5A class is smaller in size, but much more competitive and will require more operators. If we did move to this class we would add a station that would be capable of digital modes. If we stay at 4A we would like to equip all stations to be capable of the digital modes, and then schedule times for this operation in the middle of other modes of operation. The choice will be hotly debated at the next Field Day meeting February 25th at Chili's, 5:30 PM.

A small Field Day rules change will 'eliminate' the Novice station in favor of a Get On The Air (GOTA) station. Here is the partial text as supplied in the ARRL Letter:

The ARRL has adopted rule changes affecting Field Day and the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition program. The primary Field Day change—effective with this year's event June 22-23—phases out the Novice-Technician station and replaces it with a new station category, the "Get-On-The-Air"—or GOTA—station.

A GOTA station is intended for operation by Novice and Technician operators or by generally inexperienced or inactive amateurs as well as by as-yet-unlicensed or "under-licensed" operators working under the privileges of a licensed control operator (third-party traffic rules apply—see the International Third Party Traffic page on the ARRL Web site <<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>><http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>). Under the revised rules, any Class A Field Day entry operating at least two transmitters may include a GOTA station, which will not count as an additional transmitter for the purpose of entry category.

The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band and mode, but only one GOTA transmitter may be in use at any given time. The GOTA station may complete up to 400

QSO's to be counted toward the group's total Field Day score. A Field Day group can claim 100 bonus points if its GOTA station successfully completes 400 QSO's. The GOTA station does not affect the additional VHF/UHF station provided under Field Day rule 4.1.2.

Field Day 2002 will mark the first in which stations throughout the Americas have been invited to participate. As approved at the July 2001 ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, all International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries—North and South America—may take part in Field Day starting this June.

The Field Day committee is made up of several committee chairs, and they have some exciting new changes and ideas planned. I know I always look forward to the camaraderie that brings all of us together no matter what aspect of the hobby we enjoy. Each aspect has a place at Field Day, from satellite operations, DX and VHF/UHF, it all can be found at the TSRC Field Day site. Look for a more complete report from Mike as planning develops.

Also look for a January VHF/UHF QSO Party report from Bill WB1BRE, it appears as though another great time was had by all, and a significant score increase was realized this year. It is my understanding that the crew had a YAESU FT-100D to play with this year, this is the rig that the VHF/UHF committee will recommend that the club purchase this year. Personally I have one of these rigs mounted mobile in my KIA, and it works extremely well and so far has been very reliable. I have worked several countries on 6M (my favorite band) on my trips back and forth to my Boston office.

There is planning in the works for a Technician class in March, Contact Ken AC1H or Dave WA1ZCN for more information. The VE Team will administer an exam session the Saturday following the class. The VE Session will be open to all examinees who pre-register, and is tentatively planned for March 23rd. Please attend the next TSRC meeting on February 9th at Gillams Restaurant to join in the discussion.

Other items on the agenda for the meeting include the Comm Van, which is in need of repair, and the 2002 Budget, which we will vote on if there is a Quorum present. We also need to consider starting the Election Committee, It is not

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too early for this especially since there may be some major changes in store for the club leadership.

I know this is not the proper forum for this, but increasing responsibilities at home and at work may force me to consider not running for re-election. I would love to see an actual vote where at least a couple of people would actually compete for an office, but I know as well as you do that it takes a special type of person to volunteer their time and energy to such a worthy effort. This role is not unfamiliar to me, I have served in several Amateur Radio related club offices, as well as several ARRL Field Organization appointments, but I find that I cannot devote the time and effort to these responsibilities that I would like to and it is not me who suffers for this - rather it is you.

This is all undecided at this point, one of the reasons for this line of thinking is that I would like to increase participation at all of our events, as well as give others a chance to show their leadership skills. We are blessed with an exceptional membership that is extremely talented as well as superior communicators. Personally I may not be the best motivator, and I would hate to think that I am standing in the way of someone who may be able to do a better job. Time will tell, and as soon as we can get the Election Committee together we will be able to examine all of our options.

As always, please do what you can to help, there are several ways all of us can contribute; from serving on one of the Field Day committees, to assisting with the VE sessions, we all can make a difference if we participate.

Micky K1XH

## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting Feb. 9, 2002, 9:00am  
Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT

TSRC Meeting Mar. 9, 2002, 9:00am  
Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT

## WIFN COMPETES IN THE JANUARY 2002 ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES

Several months ago we began talking up the winter VHF sweepstake contest among club members. Club members have done this contest in January for several years now from our home in Strafford, VT. Last year we got top honors in our operating category for the Vermont Section.

Since last January, we had some changes in the availability of antennas, in rigs and the addition of the small tower trailer. These changes all came into play this year and helped us achieve a significant improvement both in QSO count and total score over last year.

We operated four bands again this year- 6M, 2M, 222, and 70Cm. We had hoped to add one microwave band, but there just weren't other operators out there within operating range, so we concentrated on the four VHF/UHF bands.

Antennas, coax and antenna height are significant issues, even at our site at 2000 ft. This year I added a new tower on the back of my garage right next to the shop portion where we operate. This tower has a 2M horiz yagi, a 70cm horiz yagi and a 222Mhz vertical dipole on a rotor at 35 ft. I added a temporary tower on the front of the garage with a 70Cm horiz yagi, loaned by AC1H on a rotor at about 30 ft.

We moved the small tower trailer into position next to the garage and installed K1IB's 5 el 6 M yagi and another 2 M horiz yagi on a rotor at about 40 ft. This arrangement provided us with independent rotatable antennas on the three major operating bands - 6M, 2M and 70 CM. The 222 antenna provided us with surprisingly good coverage to the North and we worked a mobile about 25 miles North on Rte 91 with our station being a 4 wt Icom 222 H/T!

One change from last year was the use of hardline for the 6M and 2M antennas on the tower trailer and a run of RG-217 for the 70Cm antenna on the front of the garage. We did not use preamps on any of the antennas and the low loss coax and hardline seemed to give us a significant improvement in performance.

On 6m, we ran 100 wts, 150 wts on 2M and 100 wts on 70Cm. Rigs, amplifiers and power supplies and other equipment were supplied by Rex AA1KL, Dave KA1UAG, Joe KB1FDA, Bill WB1BRE and Ken AC1H and the club inventory.

Friday afternoon, we did some preliminary work on antennas and the tower trailer and by mid morning on Saturday we had all antennas up and running and stations checked out. One problem was that we didn't really address the computer logging issue and Micky was able to supply one computer prior to his departure on a family trip. We used it on the 2M station, which turned out to have the highest QSO count.

At 2PM on Saturday, we began the marathon!! Now we need to comment on the logistics of this event. People stayed overnight both Friday and Saturday and we opened our lower house to accommodate the operators who worked late on Saturday, and then hit the microphones early on Sunday morning. Other folks, living close to our place went home Saturday evening and returned Sunday morning. Our tradition is that Dot and I provide a full turkey dinner to all on Saturday evening and serve it in the shop! A 22-pound turkey doesn't survive very long in that environment! And thanks to Dave UAG for another pot of his famous chili— he said he didn't make it as hot this year... you could have fooled me! Also thanks to Alan for providing the ice cream and some snacks and to all who added to a well-fed weekend.

We again had good support in terms of operators this year. Dave UAG, Rex, Verne, Joe, and Ken were there providing us with continuous operation on the three major stations. Alan N1YMQ and his son Matt and Dave ZCN and one of his scouts Clayton KB1EGH came up on Sunday and provided relief for some of the operating positions.

Rich W1HZN and Mary Ann N1DMW, long time friends of ours from W. Glover were visiting over the weekend and helped the operation by going mobile on all bands from our grid square and two others to the North.

Well, how did we do this year? The compilation of the logs has been done—we do need to check a few call signs before sending the logs to ARRL, but here are the preliminary numbers from this year's effort with a comparison to 2001.

Band	2002 QSO	2002 Points	2002 grids	2001 QSO
6M	98	98	32	58
2M	122	122	24	75
222	9	18	3	1
70cm	18	36	8	44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>178</b>

Total preliminary score: 2002 - 18,358 Points; 2001 score-10,927

73, Bill

## The ARRL Field Organization

*By Paul N. Gayet AA1SU*

### Official Relay Station & Official Bulletin Station

In a continuing effort to make local hams more aware of positions available within the ARRL Field Organization, this month we delve into two more opportunities available to you as radio amateurs. Again, the minimum requirement is that you be a Full Member of the ARRL. Bob DeVarney WE1U, our Section Manager, can appoint you after you fill out an application available from a link at [www.arrl.org/FandS/field/org](http://www.arrl.org/FandS/field/org).

Have you heard of this thing in ham radio, called traffic? You probably have. The Official Relay Station (ORS) is a traffic handling appointment that is open to all classes of license. Regardless of your favorite mode, or part of the spectrum used, this job can be both fulfilling and rewarding. This is not for inexperienced operators. For example, transmission must be of the highest quality, both technically and operationally. You will be setting an example in traffic handling as a skilled operator, ready to function in the community interest in case of emergency. All ORS are expected to follow standard ARRL operating practices for messages, such as form, ending signals, and prowords, as well as regular participation in traffic activities. In addition to some other responsibilities, the ORS reports monthly to the Section Traffic Manager (STM) with

a breakdown of traffic handled during the past month. In this case, that would be KB1DSB Karl Zuege. Currently there are some hams appointed to ORS, but there is room for growth in your community. As of now WA2SPL Joe, AA1BO Jim, KD1R Ralph, N1DHT George, and N1UKK Ben are active in this very important field of ham radio. If you know one of these hams, and are interested in an appointment, they would be happy to tell you more about it. In the meantime, if you don't have message experience, check with your local club for information on how you can become more familiar with traffic handling procedures. Once you get the hang of it, you may want to consider asking to be appointed an ORS.

Many of us have Internet capabilities, and we enjoy receiving ARRL Bulletins via e-mail. However, many hams are not on line, or are not League members. Rapid dissemination of information is the lifeblood of an active, progressive organization. The ARRL Official Bulletin Station (OBS) network provides a vital link for informing the amateur community of the latest developments in Amateur Radio. The OBS copies bulletins from the ARRL, and then forwards them, using a variety of available modes, to the amateur community. One such method is to upload the bulletin to packet bulletin boards. Another is to transmit it on a repeater net, when it is known that several hams might be on the air. This can be done by using a recorded announcement or just reading the text over the air. Retransmissions must be made weekly, and appointees should send a monthly activity report to the Bulletin Manager (BM), currently vacant. While doing this, the OBS may also include in their bulletin transmission, news of local, section, and regional interest. Current OBS include W1MP Linda in Milton, as well as N1PCC Bill in Rutland. Obviously, there is room for expansion in your town.

Another job function is recruitment of new hams and League members. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs.

**MILTON HAMFEST**  
**ARRL VERMONT STATE CONVENTION**  
 MILTON HIGH SCHOOL  
 MILTON, VERMONT  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2002  
 8AM - 1PM  
 EXAM SESSIONS: 9AM & 1PM

FLEA MARKET – FORUMS – PEOPLE

DIRECTIONS:  
 I-89 Exit 17, Route 7 NORTH 4 Miles  
 I-89 Exit 18, Route 7 SOUTH 5 Miles

TALK-IN: WB1GQR 145.15- W1NVT 146.67

ADMISSION STILL ONLY \$3 UNDER 18 FREE

FOR MORE INFO: <http://www.ranv.org>

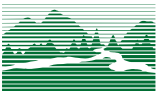
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## ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

\*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>  
\*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nh.arrl.org/>  
\*NH Amateur Radio Home Page: <http://www.nhradio.org/>  
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\*Bob DeVarney WE1U-VT SM we1u@arrl.org  
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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