

The Monitor



February 2005

Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting February 12, 2005, 9:00 am
Instructional Center
37 Dewey Field Road, Hanover, NH
(see parking map inside)
- TSRC Meeting March 12, 2005, 9:00 am
Location TBA

An Old and Faithful Friend

Our last club meeting was, among other things, a forum for thoughtful, spirited discussion about our faithful friend and servant, the communications van. As part of that discussion, I asked if it was possible that the van had seen its best days and, perhaps, outlived its usefulness to the club. Few members present denied that the van was a handy thing to have available for certain activities and that it continued to fill certain needs of the club. On the other hand, there was some question about whether the time and effort involved in maintaining the van was worth the benefits it provided to the club. Furthermore, some members (including me) had questions about the van's safety and roadworthiness.

I would like to share my views on the van with those of you who were unable to make our last club meeting. I will add that these views were shared by most members of the executive board of TSRC. At the same time, I would like all members to consider their own views on the matter and be prepared to share them at the next meeting of TSRC on February 12th. At that meeting, I will be presenting a motion to let the communications van's registration and insurance expire in November of this year when both come up for renewal. The intent of the motion is to provide ample time for the club to locate a possible replacement for the van, such as a suitable trailer or other vehicle. It will also allow time for the van to be put up for sale, auction or for donation to some worthy organization.

The communications van is a military surplus, four-wheel-drive vehicle which is suffering from the ravages of its advanced age. While various club members have spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours maintaining it, some of the running gear has defied all efforts to keep it safe and reliable. Two items of particular concern to me are the brakes and the steering. I have driven the van myself on a number of occasions and I can attest to the fact that driving it is an adrenalin-producing experience. As an average-sized man, I still need the full effort of both my arms and most of my body weight to steer the vehicle. Sharp corners are always a challenge and a thrill. As a former mechanic, I am alarmed at the slack in the steering, which requires constant effort and frequent prayer to keep the vehicle centered in the traffic lane. As a club officer charged with assuring the safety of those involved in club projects, stories I have heard of brake lines being crimped off to avoid complete loss of braking have caused me

serious concern. In short, I feel our faithful servant is no longer safe to drive and should be retired from service.

In addition to the safety concerns I have outlined above, there are also financial concerns. The van requires yearly registration and insurance as a motor vehicle. It is also a gas guzzler and even though the fuel costs have typically been subsidized by one or two generous club members, they are still a real and substantial cost of operation.

Finally, I feel the club risks the possibility of being found negligent and culpable if the van were to become involved in an accident. A thorough inspection of the vehicle would reveal safety issues that could expose the club to substantial liability. Even though members who drive the van are extremely careful and cautious, there is never any absolute protection against careless drivers who could involve the van in an accident despite our best efforts to drive carefully and safely.

This message represents my personal view of the communication van's continued suitability for service to TSRC. Please consider your own opinions and be prepared to present and discuss them at our next meeting. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you!

73,
Charlie Wilber, N1AOK
President
Twin State Radio Club

Homebrew Opportunity

Have you ever REALLY wondered how a single band multi-mode rig works? Ever tried to understand the wiring diagram that comes with EVERY piece of ham gear?

Well, now's your chance to learn a LOT about the innards of a 40M multimode radio. The club is looking for operators (and non-hams too!) who are interested in building a low power 40M multimode rig. Please think about your interest and needs and then come to this Saturday's meeting – 12 February 2005 and raise your hand. Based on interest, we'll select a rig that we can afford, get people who profess knowledge in the parts that make up the rig to explain them before we put solder to iron, find a place to meet on a regular and assemble the transceiver and then use the device to stay in touch.

If you cannot attend the meeting, Please let David Haseman – KE1IW – know that you're interested by email: David.Haseman@dartmouth.edu Or US Mail:

David Haseman - KE1IW
300 Paget Road
Cornish, NH 03745

February Meeting

This month's program will begin after a brief business meeting at about 9:30 AM. Club member Dick Green, WC1M will describe and demonstrate the Log Book of the World (LOTW). The idea is that your electronic logs can be sent to a gigantic database. Your logs are then matched with those of DX stations to see if there are matches. If there are, you have an electronic QSL that will be recognized for DXCC purposes. The advantages are obvious, particularly in terms of speed of QSL. The details about LOTW and how you can participate in using it will be revealed Saturday. Don't miss this informative session!

Enclosed is a map showing the location of the entrance to 37 Dewey Field Road, Room 101, where members and guests should enter the building for our meeting/presentation next Saturday. The location of the entrance is identified by a thick red circle. After entering 37 Dewey Field Road building, descend the stairs immediately inside the door. At the bottom of the stairs, the meeting room will be directly in front of you. The sign outside the room says, "101" and "Instructional Center."

Ample parking should be available in the large parking lot just south of the entrance to the building.

Access to the building is off of Maynard Street.

Equipment For Sale

At the suggestion of Bill Burden and the executive board, the following equipment will be put up for sale, first to the club members and anything left, will be sold at Hoss Traders in the spring.

86632A H/P Modulation plug-in 1240A00388
8660A H/P Signal Generator/110Mhz 1242A001294
86601A H/P RF Plug-in 2223A02353
334A H/P Distortion Analyzer and 625-00630

I'm not sure of the operating condition of any of it at this point.

Cygnat HF Swan HF transceiver W224813

Worked the last time I checked it. Might be of interest to someone preferring older equipment. It won't get any better sitting in storage.

Regency HR22 2M crystal rig, S/N 05797, with mike and DC power cord.

Regency 12 Volt power supply for the HR22 - Model P107

Just needs crystals for whatever frequencies one uses. Might be good for packet.

One Astatic D104 desk top microphone

A nice mike for someone's station.

One Lafayette PA262 Hand microphone

?? maybe a collector's item ??

Details will be announced at the meeting.

WANTED

6M RIG

I need to replace a 6M rig that I lost in a lightning strike last summer. I'm looking for a new/used 6M allmode or a 10m/6M transverter. Power out is not critical- 10w will work.

Bill Burden WB1BRE

802 333 4623

william.burden@valley.net



TSRC BRAVES WINTER FOR THE JAN 2005 VHF SWEEPSTAKES!

This year's VHF Sweeps operation was, in some ways, a departure from our typical situation at the WB1BRE/KA1LDS QTH! Based on discussions following the 2004 sweeps, we made several changes to the setup. Actually, one change was forced by nature, but more about that.

Thanks to Joe KB1FDA and Dave KA1UAG, the 2M tower on the rear of the shop was raised 20 more feet last summer and hard-line was run for both 2 M yagis. We added a temporary 30 ft antenna/rotor for 6 M, with hard-line, as well. The 432 yagi on the front tower on the shop worked well, although the rotor was problematic. With the lack of snow cover we were able to position the club tower/trailer in a favorable position with Chip W1AIM's 222 yagi, and Dave KA1UAG's 902 Mhz yagi. Thanks to Dave WA1ZCN for moving the tower/trailer to the site- my "new" 1997 Blazer doesn't have a trailer hitch.

So we had four towers with 222 and 902 sharing one. The only "Murphy" effect was that we forgot to bring the club rotor for the tower/trailer, so we fell back to the "armstrong" rotor method. This wasn't a big problem as the 222/902 activity was limited mostly to rovers. All antenna feedlines were hard-line this year, and this made a tremendous difference in VSWR and performance.

Dave KA1UAG again provide his 432Mhz, 400 wt amplifier in a six-foot rack, delivered by Dave and Joe. We ran several hundred

watts on 2M using Ken AC1H's amplifier. 222 Mhz was limited to FM using the club Kenwood at about 30 wts.

We didn't have an amplifier for 6M this year and we had many fewer 6M contacts/multipliers as a result. We plan to resolve that problem this year- more on VHF contest plans to follow!

Our overall score and contact count was down from 2004, but comparisons to other results will have to wait for the contest scores from ARRL later this year. Here's a summary of our results:

BAND	QSOs	GRIDS	Score
6M	37	10	
2M	74	22	
222	5	4	
432	26	11	
902	1	1	
TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE			8496

Operators list- AC1H, KA1UAG, KB1FDA, WB1BRE, W1HZN.

Support list- WA1ZCN, AA1KL, N8RPD, W1AIM, K1IB, N1DMW.

We were able to do most of the setup on Friday PM and completed it on Saturday morning. Temps ranged from the single digits plus to below zero over the course of the contest. The wood stove in the shop provided plenty of heat for the duration.

In terms of propagation, we noted that the 2M band seemed to exhibit short term openings and the trick was to be there when it happened. One problem with being in the Northeast in a contest like this is that most beams to the south and southwest of us are pointed either south or southwest, and we are off the back of their beams. This argues for high power and big antennas on all bands just to get their attention! 6M would have been better with an amp, as we heard a number of stations that we just couldn't reach this year.

We had another year of "gourmet" delights in the food category! Dave UAG made a pot of his world-famous chili. This year, Dave said that he accidentally used a hotter sauce than normal which was evident to many of us! I did find that the mouth and stomach seemed to adjust to it after the first bowl and it was great! We did the traditional turkey dinner on Saturday evening and enjoyed a good social hour as well. Coffee, snacks and goodies were available throughout the contest, thanks to the folks who brought them.

Back to the operation!-- On Friday, Rex AA1KL brought up his rigs and computers with Writelog installed, thanks to help from William N8RPD. With the 432, 6M, 2M and 222 gear installed early, we were able to check everything out before the contest start at 2 PM on Saturday. The operating space in the shop was changed significantly from last year, as all my HF, VHF and UHF equipment is now housed in an operating console on my desk and the work bench space was open for the big stations. Also, we did complete the installation of the eight feedthrough bulkhead wall plate which feeds all the antennas to the shop area. The operating console and bulkhead changes were actually the result of a massive lightning strike on the power line transformer at our place in June of 2004. This knocked out many rigs and other equipment and turned out to be an opportunity to do the operating console renovation and upgrade of the antenna coax feed system.

As noted, the rotor on the 432 tower did act up during the contest and we had to change control boxes. On Monday following, I did try to use it again and it had locked up solid, so I will be replacing that one with an HD73 as soon as weather permits.

Overall, we had a good time again this year, although we were light on operators. This seemed to be due to a combination of prior commitments and cold weather. This led us to talk some about the other VHF contests this year. The ARRL VHF QSO party is held in June prior to Field Day and the other ARRL VHF Sweeps contest is held in September.

I plan to open the station operation here at our QTH for both of these warm weather contests this year, to see if there is interest in either or both. This will also give us a chance to do further upgrades as time permits.

So this is an open invitation to all club members and interested Hams to join us in June and September for further adventures in VHF/UHF operating!!

73, Bill WB1BRE

Retirement Announcement

After a great deal of consideration and reflection, I have decided to announce my intention not to seek another term as New Hampshire Section Manager for the next two year term which, begins July 1, 2005.

At the end of this current term, I will have been your SM for nearly 14 years. I believe is time for someone with different resources and fresh ideas step forward.

I have chosen to announce my decision early enough so that those who are serious about helping chart the course of Amateur Radio in New Hampshire will consider running.

The official call for nomination appears on Page 86 of the February issue of QST. The deadline for petitions for nomination must be received at ARRL Headquarters on or before March 4th.

If more than one valid petition is received by March 4th, than ballots will be mailed out from Headquarters to each full member (of record as of March 4th) on or before April 1st, with ballot returns, being counted May 24th.

If only one valid petition is received by the March 4th, deadline then that nominee will be declared elected as SM without any further voting.

Candidates for Section Manager must be a resident of the State of New Hampshire, hold a Technician class license or higher, and be a full member of the League for a continuous term of at least two years preceding receipt of the petition at Headquarters.

On a personal note, I have decided to go back to my roots and be active once again at the club level. I will, of course, remain active in the Field Organization, helping to build Citizen Emergency Response

Teams (CERT) within the ARES framework. I will also continue to manage the Emergency Communications Vehicle through NHRA-DIO Inc., and the NHRADIO web site.

I have enjoyed serving you for all these years and look forward to seeing many of you at Hosstraders' each spring and fall.

If any one would like to talk, I can be reached at 487-3333 in the evening.

73. Al Shuman - N1FIK
New Hampshire Section Manager

H-12: Amateur Antenna Support Structure Bill

This Bill H-12 has now been introduced into the Legislature and was referred to the House Government Operations Committee for Hearing and recommendation in early January. It is identical to the H-602 Bill that died in the House last year.

If you are concerned about communications in Vermont and/or emergency communications in Vermont you are encouraged to contact your Representatives and Senators and express your interest and support for H-12. Please ask her/him to vote in Favor of the Bill. The best way is by email. Following is the URL for the State of Vermont Legislative web page: www.vermont.gov/portal-policies/privacy_policy.html

Once you enter the site scroll down to the Legislative Directories heading and therein you will see amongst other databases, one that says Representatives by *district*, click on that and you'll be able to determine who your Rep's are. Further down in the Leg Directories heading you'll find email addresses, etc. there you can find your Rep's email address and send an email.

Also click on the Senate directory and send an email to your Senator asking for a vote in support of the Bill.

Finally if your Representative should be a member of the House Government Operations Committee, please send an email to her or him. Following is a list of those

Representatives that sit on that Committee:
Rep. Sweaney, Windsor, dsweaney@leg.state.vt.us
Rep. Bohi, Hartford, lbohi@leg.state.vt.us
or clbohi@sover.net
Rep. Atkins, Winooski, catkins@leg.state.vt.us
or kwa138@aol.com
Rep. Clark, St. Johnsbury,
Rep. Evans, Essex, ekavans@aol.com
Rep. Hudson, Lyndon,
Rep. Hutchinson, Jhutchinson@leg.state.vt.us
Rep. Kennedy, Chelsea, skennedy@leg.state.vt.us
or peansk@juno.com
Rep. Metzger, Milton,
Rep. Morrissey, Bennington, mmorrissey@leg.state.vt.us
Rep. Partridge, Windham, cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us
or hparwel@sover.net

If a Rep. has two email addresses, I would suggest that you write to both.

Timing is critical; please do this ASAP and the Vermont Amateur Community can know that it has made itself heard in the Vermont Legislature.

Thanks for your time, interest and assistance.

Cordially,
David E. Cain, W1DEC, SGL

DUES ARE DUE!!

TSRC 2005 membership dues are due as of Jan. 1st. You should have received a dues notice in the mail. Please correct the information where necessary, particularly your email address, and return to the secretary.

NORTHERN VERMONT

WINTER HAMFEST

ARRL VERMONT STATE CONVENTION

MILTON, VERMONT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2005

FLEA MARKET
Vintage radios, electronic parts, antennas, computer parts connectors, tubes, etc.
OR bring stuff to sell – tables FREE while they last!

FORUMS
Expanded program! Three Forum rooms! Demonstrations!
Emergency Equipment, Digital Communications, ARRL, QRP, Contesting,
Satellites, Introduction to Amateur Radio, Kit Building and more!

PEOPLE
Meet hams, SWL's, scanner buffs, collectors, hobbyists – all under one roof!

EXAM SESSION: 12 NOON

ADMISSION \$5 UNDER 18 FREE

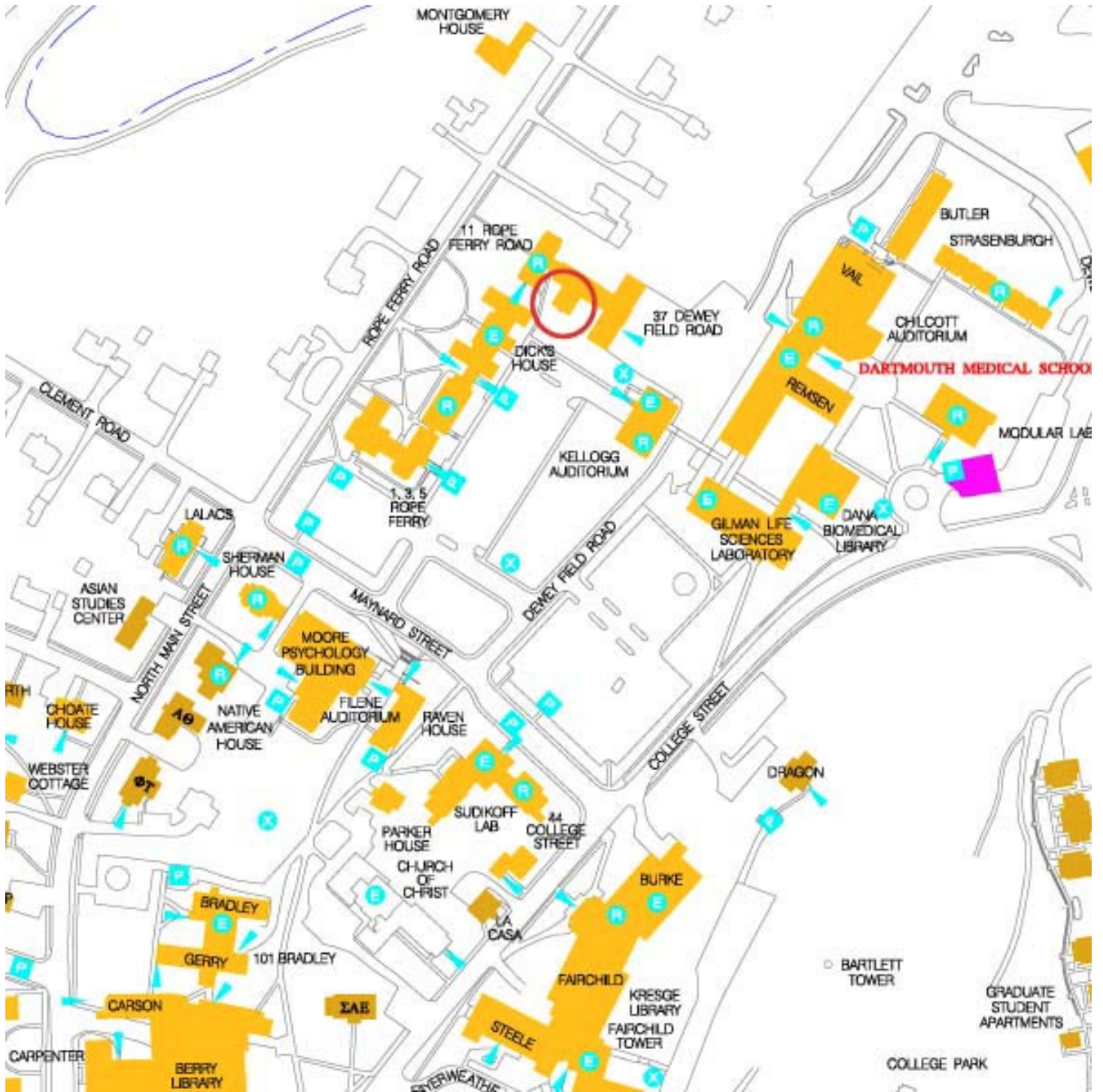
MILTON HAMFEST – MILTON H.S. 8AM - 1PM
23 YEARS OF GREAT HAMFESTING FUN!
" still the best little hamfest in the world"

TALK-IN: WB1GQR 145.15- W1NVT 146.67	DIRECTIONS: MILTON HIGH SCHOOL, ROUTE 7 I-89 Exit 17, Route 7 NORTH 4 Miles I-89 Exit 18, Route 7 SOUTH 5 Miles	FOR MORE INFO: Mitch: (802) 879-6589 w1sj@arrl.net http://www.ranv.org
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Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in The Monitor are those of the individual authors and do not reflect the opinions or policies of The Twin State Radio Club, Inc.

Map to the February 2005 TSRC Meeting



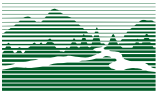
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ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>
*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nhradio.org/>
*Tom Frenaye K1KI-NE Div. Dir. k1ki@arrl.org
*Al Shuman, N1FIK, NH SM n1fik@arrl.org
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*Paul N. Gayet, AA1SU, VT SM aa1su@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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