



The Monitor



March 2002

Presidents Message

Greetings.

As Spring approaches I know many of us are just itching to get outside and start tinkering on stuff. For myself, there is still much to do inside, but as Cabin Fever starts to set in it is readily apparent that the start of another new season is upon us and it may be time to start Spring cleaning. The Milton hamfest was last Saturday, and I am certainly looking forward to the Hosstraders Hamfest in Hopkinton in May as I have a lot of stuff to get rid of. With that, I hope to release a calendar for the year like our past President has done previously so that you also can make the appropriate plans for the upcoming year.

I will briefly touch on a few items for some of the upcoming months, please stand by for a formal calendar to be either disseminated at the meeting or by email.

March 2nd & 3rd is the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone), March 8th & 9th is the Expo at Oxbow, volunteers are still needed for this event. March 9th is the club breakfast meeting at the Ramada Inn, our new meeting place. This seems to be an excellent fit for us, the food is real good and the camaraderie is excellent. I will be away for this weekend, VP Verne, N5IEP will lead the meeting. Saturday March 23rd is the closed TSRC VE Examination. March 30th - 31st is the CQ WW WPX (SSB) contest.

April 13th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. I will return this month to lead the meeting.

May 3rd & 4th is the Hosstraders Hamfest in Hopkinton, NH, and the following Saturday, May 11th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. This meeting is a great show-and-tell meeting with all the goodies from the hamfest... May 25th - 26th is the CQ WW WPX Contest (CW).

June is a big month, on the 8th we have the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting, and that weekend is also the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. Field Day is the fourth full weekend, June 22nd and 23rd.

July 13th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada, and it is also the start of the IARU HF World Championships.

August 3rd & 4th is the ARRL UHF Contest, and the 10th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. The following weekend is the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest on the 17th & 18th. Look for Dave, KAIUAG to be active in this contest.

September brings the ARRL September VHF QSO Party on the 14-16, Saturday the 14th is also the monthly TSRC breakfast meet-

ing at the Ramada. September 21st & 22nd is the last weekend for the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest.

October 4th & 5th is the Fall Hosstraders Hamfest in Hopkinton, NH, the following weekend on the 12th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. On the 26th and 27th is the ARRL International EME Competition. This is a good chance to hear some big signals on this exotic mode of communication.

November 2nd - 4th is the ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW), the following Saturday, November 9th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. The 16th - 18th is the follow-up weekend for the ARRL November Sweepstakes (phone) and the last weekend in November, the 23rd & 24th is the final weekend for the ARRL International EME Competition.

The first weekend in December is the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, the following Saturday December 14th is the monthly TSRC breakfast meeting at the Ramada. This is also the weekend for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

Several events we may have planned but do not have confirmed dates for are Armed Forces Day, the Audrey Prouty Ride/Walk, The Iron Man Run, the Shriners Parade/Game, the High-Horse Ride-A-Thon, Diabetes WalkAmerica, the Fairlee Crop Walk and the BSA JOTA. Please help provide these dates as best you can so that we can keep the membership informed.

The February meeting was a great success, thanks go to Verne N5IEP, Dave #9 KE1IW, and all others connected with insuring we had a place to meet on very short notice. Dave WA1ZCN gave a great demo about emergency preparedness, and although Rex AA1KL offered assistance finding some wheeled cases either at Wal-Mart or K-Mart, I actually found some in different sizes with easy to use handles and wheels at Sears. A lot of people had great suggestions and it was a very informative demonstration. I encourage more of the membership to get up and demonstrate something at the breakfast meetings, if you can limit the demo to 15 minutes we should be able to accommodate one or two each month. Even if you have a neat toy to pass around it is still lots of fun.

As always, please do whatever you can to assist those who need some help at upcoming Public Service events, it is always fun and puts us in the public eye.

Micky - K1XH

Disclaimer

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TSRC AT OXBOW

We have again been invited to set up an Amateur Radio demonstration at the Oxbow School Expo in Bradford, VT. The Expo is on Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9. This is an opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to High School students and parents. We are looking for operators for Friday- 3 PM to 8 PM and Saturday, both morning and afternoon.

Setup will be from about noon on Saturday and we expect to have an HF station using a club tribander and a 2M station for repeater/simplex operation. This is a low key, fun event and we also need a couple of folks who would be able to answer questions and hand out material.

If you can help even for a couple of hours, please contact me via Email or on the repeater. I will provide directions to the site for anyone who is planning to attend.

73, Bill WB1BRE

ARMED FORCES DAY 2002 SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Please mark May 18th on your calendar. This is the date for our third Special Event. We are looking this year to operate four phone frequencies and two CW frequencies simultaneously. We have the antenna and rig capabilities thanks to the club and other amateurs. We will be operating from the Naval Reserve Center as we have in the past, but this year without their open house. We are looking into the possibility of doing some of the antenna set up on Friday the 17th. This would allow us to get on the air sooner and without the mad rush on the morning of the event. Will keep everyone posted about the 17th. But do look for set up at 0800 local (1200Z) on the 18th with operating beginning as soon as we have one operating station ready and continuing until all are up and running. Advertised operating will be from 1000-1600 local (1400-2000Z). As always we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, take down and of course manning the rigs to make the contacts. Last year we made 181 contacts, working 36 states and 7 different DX entities with 10M flushed down the commode by the propagation gods. Keep your fingers and toes crossed for great band conditions and even a larger number of contacts this year.

I do want to thank again all those members and the club for the support you have given to the last two Special Events for Armed Forces Day.

73 de Karl, KB1DSB

New TSRC Outgoing QSL Manager

If you dx at all; the clubs outgoing qsl service is the place for you to send out your buro qsl cards. This service is for all levels of DX interest. You can send up to 25 outgoing Buro cards at no charge each and every month.

The ARRL Outgoing buro charges:

10 outgoing cards: \$1.00

1/2 lb of cards: \$4.00

1 lb of cards: \$8.00

The TSRC outgoing Buro charges:

The first 25 cards: FREE!

26 cards to 1/2 lb of cards: \$3.00

1/2 lb to 1 lb of cards: \$6.00

The TSRC pays the postage....saving you even more money. Get on the air and work the DX.....Send out your cards via the TSRC Outgoing Buro.

I'll collect outgoing cards at all club meetings and during Field Day weekend.

73, Dave (#1)

WANTED

WANTED: Novices, Technicians, generally inactive hams of all license classes, and interested persons who are not currently licensed.

The annual Field Day operating event (June 22/23) will introduce a new feature this year- the Get On The Air, or GOTA, station. This additional station to the club operation is to encourage newcomers and inactive old-timers alike to do just that- get on the air. Unlike previous years, the new GOTA station is not restricted to Novice/Tech Plus frequencies. All amateur bands are permitted, with of course a control operator of appropriate license class overseeing the operation.

Even unlicensed folks can sit down and use the microphone or keyboard to make contacts in voice, digital modes, and perhaps, even Morse code (sent by keyboard)! The GOTA station is permitted to make up to 400 contacts for Field Day credit, and if we achieve that goal, we also receive a 100 point bonus toward the club score. But, WE NEED OPERATORS!

I am not asking anyone to give up their weekend. Each operator is limited to a maximum of one hundred contacts. If you can spare an hour or two, we can use you. If you can stay longer, great! If you really enjoy operating and make the 100 contact limit, we may be able to move you to another operating position so you can continue the good work. Are you "mic shy"? Don't worry. One of our goals for the GOTA station is to explore the digital modes. Communicate via the keyboard and monitor screen, just like the Internet.

Are you interested? Please contact Ken, W1KRT at 603-763-9087 or W1KRT @ arrl.net for more details. See you at Field Day!

ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION

Official Observer & Official Emergency Station

By Paul N. Gayet AA1SU

Once again, in an ongoing series of articles to make Vermont amateurs more aware of how they can help serve the ham radio community, we present two more ARRL Field Organization appointment job descriptions for your perusal. The minimum requirement for any appointment is that you be a full member of the ARRL. Applications for appointments can be found from a link on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org>.

Do you want to know one way in which hams assist each other with diagnosing transmitting irregularities? The League has sponsored the Official Observer (OO) Program for more than fifty years. The OO is the backbone of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC, and performs his or her function by listening rather than transmitting. While tuning around the band, the OO keeps an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad band signals, distorted audio, over deviation, out of band operation, etc. Once an operating or technical irregularity is detected, the OO sends a card to the offending station. A response from the other station is not required; the OOs job is done. The requirements are a little more intense than the appointments we covered already. The OO must take and pass a test, must have been a Technician Class or higher license for at least four years, must report to the OO Coordinator (OOC) on a regular basis, and must maintain regular activity in sending out advisory notices as needed. In hard-core rules violation cases, OOs refer problems to higher ups in the Amateur Auxiliary. Currently there are a few Official Observers in Vermont, but there may be room for more in your neighborhood.

During times of emergency, we hams are often called to duty. However, there must be amateur radio operators around the state that set the high standards of emergency preparedness and operating procedures that we rely upon for guidance. The Section Manager (SM), as well as some other section level appointees can appoint amateur operators as an Official Emergency Station (OES). The OES must be familiar with ARES and must make a deeper commitment to the program in terms of functionality, than does the rank-and-file ARES registrant. The appointee carries out specific functions and assignments designated by the Emergency Coordinator (EC). The major areas of responsibility are Operations, Administration, Liaison, Logistics, Management Assistant, and Consulting. The OES appointee may be assigned to pre-disaster, post-disaster, and recovery functions. He or she is also expected to a variety of other functions that we don't have room for here. For a more complete appointment description look on the link mentioned above. Current OES include Les W1UT in Charlotte, and Micky W1XH in Wilder.

So why not consider one of these appointments for yourself? You may have been wondering how you can get more involved with ham radio in Vermont. This may be your ticket.

From the VT Section Manager

The horrific events of September 11, 2001 are still clear in our minds. The need for effective emergency communications is more evident than ever now. During the aftermath, cell phones, and conventional modes of communication were disrupted, or at the very least, seriously overloaded. Amateur Radio Operators stepped in to fill the need, as we have since the inception of the Amateur Radio Service with the creation of the Radio Act of 1912. Even our very existence, as defined in FCC Regulations, part 97, is strongly tied to providing emergency communications. The excerpt below, is the first paragraph of part 97.

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

Emergency planners, from government and private agencies such as the Vermont Health Department, the Vermont Hospital Association's member hospitals, the American Red Cross' three (3) Vermont chapters and others, are requesting our resource availability and are now looking to Amateur Radio to provide this emergency service in time of need. We must be ready when the call comes. That is why I strongly urge, even beg you all to closely look at how you might somehow become more involved with emergency communication in the state. ARES has been largely neglected, and needs to be rebuilt. We cannot do that without people with the leadership and people skills in several key positions to organize and coordinate the efforts of the folks in the field. If your local amateur radio club carries a service designation, please consider encouraging ARES as a major service program for the club. There is an immediate need for District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and a Section Emergency Coordinator to pull this all together. As with any organization, we can't be overly top-heavy either. We also need folks in the streets, and out in the fields to provide essential emergency traffic when the time comes. I am strongly urging the existing ARES folks to get out the word, hold training sessions at your local club meetings, and coordinate with your colleagues throughout the state to help to rebuild the vital organization. I also suggest looking into the League's continuing education program in Emergency Communications. I will gladly help with the costs of tuition if the need is there.

It's going to take a lot of hard work, but I don't think any of us want to be caught again like we were on September 11, 2001. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bob DeVarney WE1U
ARRL Vermont SM
we1u@arrl.org

Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting Mar. 9, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

Oxbow Expo March 8-9, 2002
Oxbow HS, Bradford, VT

CQ WW WPX (SSB) March 30-31, 2002

TSRC Meeting April 13, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

Hosstraders May 3-4, 2002
Hopkinton, NH

TSRC Meeting May 11, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

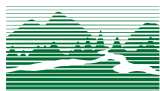
Armed Forces Day May 18, 2002, 8:00am
Naval Reserve Center, WRJ, VT

CQ WW WPX (CW) May 25-26, 2002

TSRC Meeting June 8, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

ARRL June VHF QSO Party June 8, 2002

ARRL Field Day June 22-23, 2002



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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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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>