



# The Monitor

April 2001



## From the Prez:

Have we had enough snow yet? I'm ready for spring. Events will be coming up so please look at the calendar and let us know if you can help on any. Elections and Field Day are coming up. If you have any input on club officers you might want to be part of the nominating committee. If you'd like to help with Field Day you can join the Field Day committee. Those interested in helping work on the Van and trailer please let me, Dan K1DAN or Dave WA1ZCN know. we will be making plans shortly.

de Verne N5IEP

## Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting** Apr. 14th, 9:00am  
Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT
- Hosstraders** May 4th, 5th  
Hopkinton Fair Grounds  
Hopkinton, NH
- TSRC Meeting** May 12th, 9:00am  
Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT

## Vermont QSO Party 2001 Results

The Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, manager of the Vermont QSO Party, received logs from six Vermont stations and eighteen others for this year's event held February 2 and 3.

### Club Scores:

WB1GQR	Vt. Contest Radio	325,155	Single Op Club
W1BD	CVARC	2,706	Multi-op Club

### Vermont Scores:

K1VG	Tom Repstad	19,530	Franklin County
K1IB	Mill Moore	16,652	Windsor County
N1FMP	Ed Hutchinson	2,352	Washington County
W1KR	David Hale	3,827	Vermont rover

## 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.

## Nichols Search Report

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to all!

An 82 year old woman with memory problems from Lyme, NH was missing and was last seen at 1:30am on 2/16/01 IN Thetford, VT driving a minivan. I heard about this on the news that night. N1AOK helped in attempting to notify the local ARES staff to the potential need for activation.

I notified the Lyme police officer in charge of the search Friday night of the available service and was told that the would be made by the Lyme police chief on Saturday morning as to whether or not a coordinated search would be organized. I was told Friday night that I would be notified if such a search would be organized.

When I received no cal early Saturday, I went to Lyme and located the chief of police, who was in the process of coordinating a search from Nichol's Hardware Store in Lyme using police and residents. I notified him of what assistance could be made available and she requested that ARES be activated. A communications center was set up at the command center in Lyme.

Operations started at about 10:00am Saturday 2/17/01.

On Saturday the search concentrated on a few specific counties. On Saturday night, at the request of the Lyme police chief, we attempted to alert and activate all of Vermont and New Hampshire ARES for Sunday's search. The assumption was that she could have driven whatever distance her tank of gas may have allowed.

Operations ended at approximately 3:00pm Sunday 2/18/01 when we were notified that she had been located. The woman and her vehicle were found locally in a residential driveway. She had not survived. At the time the net was closed, 13 Amateurs were assisting in the search

### Amateur Radio participants:

KA1ZCN, W1SVU, N5EIP, N1ZDR, N1NKC, N1AOK, K1BBQ, N1SKZ, KB1FAE, N0JSR, KA1CRP, N1AHF, K1CYJ, W1PID, AA1KL, N1MJD, WB1EAE, W1EEC, KE1IW, KB1FDA, K1DAN, W1KRT, N1JFI, KA1LDS, K1IB, N1ZIH, N1NCT, N1KDV, K1ZS, N1HAC, KA1T, N1YMQ, W1DEC.

The call sign used by net control at the command center was W1FN.

### Highlights:

N1AHF supplied an aircraft for search on Sunday from Lebanon. He was joined by KA1CRP.

N1MJJD, Beau in Burlington activated at least 4 other Hams, coordinated by him, from Northern Vermont to the Canadian border and notified the Border Patrol and Sheriff's offices. This was an area that would have been familiar to her. He also regularly communicated on the local repeaters to have traveling operators keep an eye out. As the Red Cross liaison for that area, he also offered disaster relief supplies.

W1DEC was in mid-Vermont and helped with communications N1MJJD

On Sunday, at least 4 Hams came up from Merrimack, NH. More attempted to participate, but an apparent misunderstanding kept them from completing the trip or participating further. Two came from Windsor County ARES.

We did not have reliable command center communication to the 440 NH ARES backbone. 80-Meter operation for statewide coordination was available, but was not used.

N3CLZ coordinated the NH activation on Saturday night.

All participants gave a magnificent effort, driving for hours over hundreds of miles of road. Many drove well over 150 miles each. Mention should be made of the time and cost of the air search. All I can say is that every participant gave all they could.

The family was grateful, the authorities were grateful, and I personally appreciated the support.

TNX and 73,  
Rex G. Carr, AA1KL

## **FCC TURNS AWAY RESTRUCTURING PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

The FCC has declined to make any significant changes to the way it implemented Amateur Radio "restructuring" last April. The Commission has turned down several requests for changes in the Amateur Service rules contained in five petitions for partial reconsideration of its Report and Order WT Docket 98-143, released December 30, 1999. The ARRL was among the petitioners.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released April 6, the FCC by and large denied all petitions for changes to its restructuring Order—although it did claim to grant one ARRL request—and it made some minor housekeeping changes to the amateur rules.

Among the issues was a request from the ARRL and other petitioners that the FCC continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. The FCC noted that its current Universal Licensing System software was modified to display a "P" (for Plus) in the field that indicates former license class when a Technician Plus class license is renewed. "This capability results in the amateur service database being able to pro-

vide a de facto Technician Plus licensee database," the FCC asserted in its MO&O. The FCC did not address how its database will distinguish current Technician licensees who subsequently earn Morse code (Element 1) credit. Those licensees have only a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), which will never be reflected in the database, even upon license renewal.

The FCC also decided to not extend Element 1 credit to all past licensees who had ever earned it—something else the ARRL had asked for. Under current rules, the holder of an expired Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician license can get Element 1 credit. The FCC said that "most examinees" who ever held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra ticket also once held a Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician ticket that grants Element 1 credit.

Left out in the cold by the FCC's decision is anyone who went directly to Conditional or General class without ever holding a Novice ticket. The FCC also declined to extend permanent credit to Element 1 CSCEs held by Technicians to obtain HF privileges. These CSCEs are good for 365 days for upgrading purposes but confer only additional operating privileges for Technicians beyond that time.

The FCC refused to reinstate the 20 WPM Morse code exam for Extra. The FCC said that since restructuring went into effect nearly a year ago, "there does not appear to be any decline in the proper operation of amateur stations." The FCC also declined to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session simply by paying a second fee to the VE team. And the Commission did not go along with requests to set the total number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Amateur Extra test.

The FCC also declined to make any changes—at least for now—in the arrangement of mode-related Amateur Radio subbands, as some petitioners had requested. The FCC said it believed it should let the amateur community "reach a consensus regarding a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges for all licensees" before making any changes.

Also denied were requests to: institute a new entry-level Communicator license class in the Amateur Service; elevate former "Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra, instead of leaving them at Advanced class; give Element 4 exam credit to examinees who'd held a Conditional, General or Advanced ticket before November 22, 1968—when "incentive licensing" became effective.

The FCC MO&O is available at  
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143-recon.pdf>.

## **FCC CONTACTS UTILITY IN HAM INTERFERENCE CASE**

The FCC has written Cumberland Electric Membership Cooperative of Clarksville, Tennessee, in a case of suspected power-line interference to an Amateur Radio operator. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, has been working with the amateur, Paul Fulk Jr, N8ITF, of Springfield, Tennessee.

Fulk first complained to Cumberland two years ago and is still trying to get the situation resolved. The FCC now has put the ball back squarely into the utility's court. A Cumberland official has told ARRL that the utility will fix the problem if it's at fault.

In a March 20 letter to Cumberland, Consumer Center Deputy Chief Sharon Bowers of the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau advised the utility to "locate the source of interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections within a reasonable time." According to the FCC, after Cumberland's efforts to take care of the interference failed, the utility told Fulk that if he or an ARRL representative could locate the problem, Cumberland would fix it.

Bowers, however, told Cumberland that in cases of power-line interference "it is not possible for non-utility company people to safely perform all of the tests necessary to identify the source of the interference." And the FCC reminded Cumberland that Commission rules require the operator of the device radiating interference to locate and eliminate the interference.

Fulk first contacted Cumberland Electric Membership Cooperative in the spring of 1999 to complain of RF noise on his C-band television receiver, his 220 and 440 MHz repeaters, and his HF receiver. The utility replaced a distribution transformer and three broken insulators. It also discovered a noisy and poorly grounded cable-TV power supply, and it recommended that Fulk put insulators on his tower guy wires and improve his tower grounding.

The RF noise continued. Last spring, Fulk contacted ARRL for assistance. Hare, in turn, contacted the utility—as well as ARRL Tennessee Section Manager O.D. Keaton, WA4GLS. Keaton visited Fulk and reported his own observations to ARRL.

Cumberland forwarded a copy of the 1999 site visit, stating that the noise was still present despite the repairs and concluding that "all known electric utility sources of common electrical interference have been detected and corrected." Fulk disagreed and asked the utility to continue its efforts to eliminate the noise. He also asked the FCC for assistance.

In its letter to the utility the FCC raised the specter of violations and fines, but for now, the FCC said, it would prefer for the parties to resolve the problem "without FCC intervention." The FCC told Cumberland to advise Fulk within 30 days of the steps it's taking to correct the reported interference.

The ARRL Technical Information Service offers additional information on RFI and power-line interference, <http://www.ARRL.org/tis/info/rfi-elect.html>. Amateurs suffering from interference believed to be emanating from power-generation or transmission facilities may contact Ed Hare, W1RFI, [rfi@arrl.org](mailto:rfi@arrl.org).

## NAISS QSL routes

Here are the QSL routes for W/VE stations working NAISS aboard the International Space Station: US stations QSL to Margie Bourgoïn, KB1DCO, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Canadian stations QSL to Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Rd—Suite 217, Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required to get a QSL in return. The ARISS international group has not yet finalized a QSL card design, so it could be a few months before cards become available.—ARISS

## For Sale:

FT-736 R (I should still have the box) with its mic and manual..including instructions for sat. work, rfc 2-315 40in-170out for 2m with preamp, rfc 4-110 10in-100 out with preamp (I can't find the manuals or boxes, but I will look again), the amps' power connectors, Diamond duplexer mx-72n, the cable made to key the amps, and coax patch cords...for \$1600.00.

email: [rexgarr@sover.net](mailto:rexgarr@sover.net)  
work: 603-643-5254  
home: 603-643-4329

Rex G. Carr, M.D. - AA1KL

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## Event Calendar

This is the calendar of upcoming events as we have it now. If you have updated information and/or would like to coordinate an event, please contact Verne, N5IEP.

Event	City	2000 Date	2001 Date	Coordinator	Location
Hosstraders	Hopkinton, NH	5/12-13/00	5/4-5/01		Fairgrounds
Armed Forces Day	WRJ, VT	5/20/00		KB1DSB	Naval Reserve Center
Field Day	Meriden, NH	6/23-25/00		K1IB	KUA
Audrey Prouty Ride/Walk	Hanover, NH	7/8/00	7/7/01	K1DAN	Dartmouth Med School
Iron Man Run	Windsor, VT	7/15-16/00		N1NCT	
Shriner's Parade/Game	Hanover, NH	8/5/00		N1KDV	Dartmouth
VHF-UHF Contest	Windsor, VT	9/9-10/00		K1XH	K1XH qth
High Horse Ride-A-Thon	Cornish, NH	9/17/00		AA1KL	Fairgrounds
Diabetes Walk America	Hanover, NH	9/24/00		N5IEP	Hanover HS
Crop-Walk	Farilee, VT	10/1/00	10/7/01		Lake Fairlee
Hosstraders	Hopkinton, NH	10/6-7/00			Fairgrounds
BSA JOTA	Hanover, NH	10/20-22/00		WA1ZCN	Reservoir
T4T walk	Lebanon, NH	11/5/00		N5IEP	

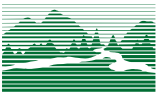
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## ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

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\*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nh.arrl.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.mindpictures.com/TSRC>



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