

The Monitor

April 2003



Secretarys Report

Minutes of the March 8, 2003 meeting

There will be an ARES drill on April 5. They are considering having one on the first Saturday of each month.

A fundraising committee is being set up. Don Kollisch, KB1AYT, is the chair. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact Verne or Don.

Armed Forces Day is May 16. If you are interested in participating in an event station this year, contact Verne

Do we want Skywarn training? Verne is looking into setting up the training during or after the May meeting.

The annual Oxbow job fair is happening today and yesterday. So far 2 students are interested in license classes.

The Constitution committee has come up with proposed revisions. We will vote on it the next meeting. In order for them to pass, we must have 2/3 of the Voting membership vote for it.

The nominating committee (James N0JSR, Bill WB1BRE, Charlie N1AOK) has been set up.

Bill WB1BRE reminds us that there are matching funds, up to \$150, available for contributions to the tower relocation fund.

Ken W1KRT won the 50/50.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy N1QW

PS. Inventory is next month.

Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting April 12, 2003, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

TSRC Meeting May 10, 2003, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

Boy Scout Demo To be announced



PREPARING FOR THE MOOSE MOUNTAIN TOWER REPLACEMENT

While we have had a "reprieve" for this year on the replacement of the tower on Moose Mountain, we must not forget that it will happen! Estimates of the cost of moving our repeater antenna and coax range from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. It all depends on whether we will be buying new coax and fittings, getting donate materials, or trying to use the old material.

We have no way of knowing right now how the process is going to play out, but we do know that the existing coax runs are have been in place for many years and are not properly grounded and attached to the tower per current installation standards.

With replacement of the tower and the move of our equipment comes an opportunity to make the changes and install

new coax. We can jury-rig the old stuff again and spend time and money each year in repairs— or we can make a commitment to do it right and essentially eliminate any problems with the coax for many years to come.

The repeater is important to all of us in the club as the local “meeting place” and also as our communications resource in times of emergency. We will be adding packet capability on the mountain to enhance our ARES operations soon, making the site increasingly important to us.

We are working to get a 501.c.3 status for the club so that we can seek other grant money to help fund this repeater effort. Also, the officers are looking into possibilities for donations of some of the needed materials. But we still need to raise funds within the club for this important project.

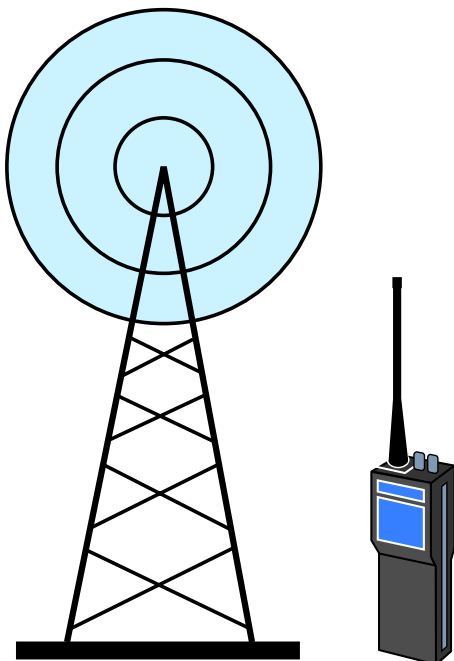
Currently, there is a \$150 matching grant challenge for donations to the repeater “relocation” fund. Individual donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total of \$150. We need to get this fund-raising effort moving. If we are able to start with a fund of money within the club, it will also help our chances at getting outside grants, as many grant opportunities come as matching funds.

This is your opportunity to help the club and all the members in the valley area to insure that the repeater system on Moose Mountain continues to operate with a high degree of reliability and consistency for many years. Please help by sending your check to:

Twin State Radio Club
(Attn- Treasurer)
PO Box 5078
Hanover, NH 03755

Indicate that the money is for the repeater relocation fund.

73, Bill WB1BRE



TSRC WAS AT THE 2003 EXPO AT OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL IN BRADFORD— IN THE SNOW AND PROTECTED BY THE U.S.ARMY!



Picture this— we role into the rear of the Oxbow High School to setup the small tower trailer in our usual location. They have plowed out the drifts and made a great spot for us to position the Army-surplus trailer and erect the tower and Tribander.

No sooner do we get in place than we hear a rumble in the distance and a Vietnam-era tank comes rolling around the corner! And they role right up to a position 20 feet from our tower/antenna setup with this very big gun pointing right at the tower! But it was OK- they were friendly troops and were interested in looking at our trailer which is probably WW2 vintage and older than the tank crew!

So, we felt very secure in the knowledge that we had armored protection during the Expo!

What got us into this, you might ask? Well, each year for the past several years, Oxbow HS has held an Expo highlighting jobs and careers for the students coming up on graduation. This brings in groups from business, government and education to provide information and guidance. Each year, TSRC is invited to put up a display. In our case, we were in a room that emphasized communications, which was very appropriate. Joe KB1FDA was setup with his business display and our TSRC display had an operating HF station as well as the 2M station tied into the repeater.

We have display boards emphasizing the career opportunities that can grow out Amateur Radio as well as scholarship opportunities through the ARRL. Club information hand-outs were available as well as the Archie comics provided by the League.

Initially, Dave AL7DJ, Rich W1HZN (from Barton) and I did the setup and operated on Friday afternoon and evening. Dave WA1ZCN was there in the evening to help as well. The

crowds were bigger this year than in previous years and we found the traffic and noise to be difficult at some times—but we also got many more people stopping to look at the display and ask who we had contacted.

One of the popular gimmicks is to put up a world map and put a push pin each country as we make a contact. Rich and Dave were a big help in talking with people as we operated the station. In addition to attracting the general public, we spoke with many area Hams about the club and even provided some application forms and encouraged many to come to a club meeting.

The Expo operated from 3PM to 9PM on Friday and from 9AM to 3PM on Saturday. We were a little thin on the ground on Saturday, with Dave AL7DJ and I taking turns operating and talking with the public. The organizers of the event spoke with us several times and indicated that they were very glad to have us be part of Expo each year.

Although it was a very tiring effort, we felt that the interest of the public and other Hams and the support of the organizers made it very worthwhile for the club. We do need to plan to promote this earlier next year, as it is on the same weekend each year. We hope you will be able to take some time in 2004 to join us in this public service event.

Regarding the tank—— not a shot was fired, but they did have a fireworks display!!

73, Bill WB1BRE

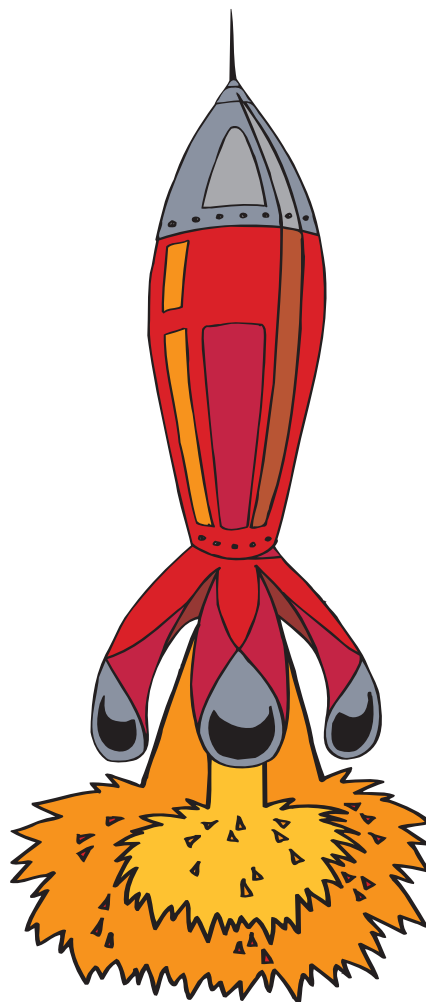
FCC Proposes to Hike Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee

The FCC proposed March 26 increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released today. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5. "We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002. The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on the web at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Enter "MD 03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome.

NASA Selects Expedition 7 Crew

NASA named veteran Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and veteran NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, as the International Space Station's Expedition 7 primary crew April 1. Malenchenko, the crew commander, and Lu will be the first two-person ISS crew and the first to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz TMA-2 spacecraft. Plans call for an April 26 launch from Kazakhstan. Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR and NASA astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, are the back-up crewmembers for Expedition 7. Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis STS-114 mission, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, will return to Earth aboard a Soyuz craft in May. They have been in space since November 23. The fresh crew will remain in space until October, when a new crew will be sent up. NASA has said that until the space shuttle returns to flight-ready status, Russian Soyuz vehicles will handle ISS crew rotations. Additional unmanned Russian Progress cargo rocket flights have been scheduled to keep the ISS well stocked.



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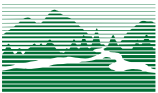
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

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



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