

# The Monitor



April 2006

## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	April 8, 2006, 9:00 am DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH NH & VT Section Managers
Hosstraders	May 5-6, 2006, Hopkinton, NH
TSRC Meeting	May 13 2006, 9:00 am DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH N1RX, constuction projects
TSRC Meeting	June 10, 2006, 9:00 am DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH Field day planning; N8RPD, APRS techniques
Field Day	June 24-25 N8RPD, Coordinator

## President's Message

Well it looks like Spring might finally be here. For HAMS this means antenna work, spring cleaning of the shack and of course Field Day preparations. I checked the Plainfield School location and found that although it was quite close to KUA, the difference in Height Above Terrain (HAT) was significant, especially in the west and southwest directions. This makes the site unusable for us. So back to the drawing board.

I am awaiting a return call from the folks that manage Storr's Pond to see about space availability there. I intend to take a ride over there prior to the next club meeting to see which specific area in the park would work best. I am of course open to any and all suggestions and assistance. I've always felt Field Day was an integral part of club activity and as such it serves as a barometer of the club's current state. Let's see if we can't prove that "rumors of [our] demise have been greatly exaggerated".

The vehicle committee convened this past month and finalized the specs for our new Comm Trailer. We then submitted it to about a dozen trailer vendors. We have begun receiving responses. I hope to be in a position to make the purchase in time to have the trailer by Field Day although it isn't likely we will have the fit-out completed by then. With the funds from the tower trailer sale, the sale of the Comm Van (Hallelujah!) and the generous contribution from N1YMQ we will be able to purchase the trailer without any additional funds from the treasury. We will however need to consider funding for the fit-out. I expect we will have a lot of donated materials and equipment but there will inevitably need to be funds for certain items. We will

of course bring this before the membership prior to any expenditure beyond the pre-approved amounts mentioned above.

Finally we are seriously considering moving the monthly meeting. DHMC has been very generous and welcoming but the location has a number of drawbacks that have been communicated to the executive committee making a move seem like the right choice. We are considering a return to EBA restaurant in Hanover. Our intention is to hold the meeting in the very back of the restaurant so as to a) minimize foot traffic through our meeting and b) provide some sound isolation from the rest of the restaurant. Please let the executive committee know what you think.

See you April 8th at the DHMC cafeteria!

William Daugherty  
Twin State Radio Club President

## About Paul Gayet AA1SU, Vermont Section Manager

Licensed on March 20, 1997 as N1YTX. Paul took Mitch Stern's Technician license class and taught himself Morse Code using the Gordon West tapes.

His first station was an Icom IC-W32A dual-band H/T.

By the time Paul participated in Field Day that year, he had passed his Advanced Class test and the 20 WPM code test and got the loan of a TenTec Argonaut 509 to enter the world of HF. Paul made his first HF CW contact on July 20, 1997.

His Advanced call was KE1IB.

Paul has WAS-CW, WAS-SSB, WAS-RTTY, 5BWAS and WAS-160.

He has been active on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK-31 and SSTV as well as enjoying Short Wave listening.

Paul is a member of ARRL and has been VT Section Manager since 2002 and is a past secretary and president of Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont (RANV).

Paul and his wife Kay live in Colchester, VT and celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on April 2. Paul is employed with the Granite Group, a plumbing wholesaler and part-time at Home Depot.

Although his jobs, house and yard keep him busy, he admits to pondering the possibilities of an antenna farm!

## 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.

## From the SGARES EC:

We had a good meeting last month. A few things that I wanted to pass along to everyone.

SGARES and NHARES has set a goal of 100 percent of the membership, being Winlink2000 registered. Registration is done by using a radio/tnc to get into a WL2K Telpac node or HF PMBO and sending an email. You can get into Telpac nodes, W1GRF-10 (145.570 via W1FN-7 or -8) or N1RX-10 (145.750 using node WA1TLN-1) by 1200 baud packet via digipeaters. SGARES members, if you do not have the equipment or ability to do that, please contact me by email ASAP, and I will arrange a meeting with you to get you registered. Once you are registered, please then download Airmail and begin using it, either by the RF module or the Telnet module. Even if you are not a member of SGARES, these are fun and useful things for you to do. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Also, please anyone that has a windows computer, 1200 baud packet TNC, broadband Internet access, a 2 m antenna, and an extra 2 m fm radio...Please set up a TELPAC Node!!!

William, N8RPD, [william@will-do.com](mailto:william@will-do.com), has volunteered to be Net Manager for an SGARES VHF net. He indicated that he is looking for 5 to 6 other SGARES members to participate in a rotation for running a net. A VHF net is often the center piece of an emergency communications group. It is an opportunity for training, exchange of ideas, testing, and promotion. I know that some of you have wanted one for a long time! This is your opportunity to make it happen.

I look forward to hearing more from William, as he gets it organized.

TNX, William.

Prouty planning is progressing. William, N8RPD, with a number of other area hams, is planning a test, sometime in May, for the use of APRS during Prouty.

A number of us had an initial Prouty meeting to organize "NCS", a communications plan, and a staging area.

Please put Prouty on your schedule...Prouty, Saturday, July 8, 2006. I really need all of you...even the ones that have been supporting us in the periphery. Please plan on being there! It is important that we make this event as safe as possible for the participants and that is our task! Let's not let them down.

Members of the TSRC have volunteered to help the Civil Air Patrol with DFing, led by William, N8RPD.

I have passed along to one of the Lebanon CAP communication's officer SGARES's willingness to help evaluate and perhaps, upgrade their communication's system. It has also been suggested that we figure out a way to have the CAP assist with Prouty, as a training exercise for them. Bill, KB1MOV is going to review with the CAP what Prouty is about and see what is possible or not.

Via, Bill, WB1BRE I have been invited to give a small presentation on "Telpac" to a Central Vermont ARES net on Monday night.

I look forward to hearing from each of you re: WL2K Telpac nodes and registration, William on his projects, and Bill Brown's, on his!!

Don't forget to check out [www.sgares.net](http://www.sgares.net) and consider joining SGARES!

TNX to all. 73, Rex.

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## Vermont PRB-1 Antenna Legislation

As you may or may not know, we here in Vermont have been trying to get our own version of PRB-1 enacted into law. In brief, PRB-1 is an FCC ruling stating that local cities and towns must reasonably accommodate amateur radio antenna support structures.

Now we all know how hard it is to explain our hobby to others in our daily life. Well it is even harder trying to explain what we do to lawmakers sometimes. Dave Cain W1DEC is our ARRL State Government Liaison. He and others have been working very hard to educate everyone in Montpelier as to the important work that we Amateur Radio operators can do during times of crisis. This involves explaining why antennas need height from support structures. He has been doing an outstanding job, and has made great progress. Our Bills are known as H.12 and S.65. However, we still have a ways to go, and we need some of your help.

The Vermont State Legislature has asked us to survey Vermont Ham Radio operators to help them deliberate on the Bill. Since we are all just volunteers, a mailing to you would be too expensive. So, we have to rely on e-mail. Granted it won't hit everyone in the state, but it's the best that we can do. Plus, I have a feeling that Hams with e-mail tend to be more active and inclined to reply

Please answer the questions below, and reply directly to Dave Cain at [vpsdecain@madriver.com](mailto:vpsdecain@madriver.com). Your name and e-mail will not be given to the Legislature. Dave will keep that confidential. I need you to reply as soon as possible. Things are moving very quickly in Montpelier this time of year, so we don't have much time. Even if you open this message several days late, I still need you to reply. Even if your answer is no to all of the questions, I still need you to reply. Even if you don't think this applies to you because you are an inactive Ham, I still need you to reply. This will be our only way to give them a sampling of what they are requesting.

73  
Paul N. Gayet AA1SU  
ARRL Vermont Section Manager

Dear Vermont Amateur,

H-12 is presently pending in the Vermont Legislature. The Legislators need some information in connection with their deliberations on the Bill, and they need it now.

H-12, as presently worded, would incorporate the language of PRB-1 into Vermont Statute, thus ensuring every Ham "reasonable accommodation" at the local level when applying for an Amateur Antenna Support Structure Permit.

1. Do you presently have an Antenna Support Structure?
2. Have you ever applied for a Support Structure Permit?
3. If the answer to #2 is "yes", was it granted?
4. If the answer to #2 is "no", why was the application denied?
5. Would you like to obtain a Support Structure Permit?
6. If the answer to #5 is "yes", why haven't you applied for a Permit?
7. If H-12 is Passed, will you then apply for a Permit?

Please take two minutes to answer these questions now and return them right away. We need this information ASAP, so your immediate response is critically important. Just type the question #'s and your answers in a column. Please send your responses directly to me at: vpsdecain@madriver.com

Sincerely,  
David Cain W1DEC  
Vermont State Government Liaison

## VANITY CALL SIGN FEE POISED TO DROP SLIGHTLY LATER THIS YEAR

The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by \$1.80 to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity call sign fee is \$21.90. The Commission proposed the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006, in MD Docket 06-68, released March 27. If ordered as proposed, the new vanity fee would become effective in August or September. The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees during FY 2006 to fund its operations.

"Consistent with our established practice, we plan to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2006 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC said in its NPRM. Comments on the proposed fee schedule are due Friday, April 14. Reply comments are due Friday, April 21. The FCC has projected collecting \$171,188 in vanity call sign fee receipts from 8500 applications in FY 2006.

The vanity call sign fee has assumed somewhat greater significance this year as the renewal window is about to open for the first Amateur Radio vanity call sign licenses granted in 1996. Applicants wishing to keep their post-1995 vanity call signs must pay the regulatory fee in effect at the time the renewal application reaches the FCC, currently \$21.90. Any Amateur Radio renewal application may only be filed

within 90 days of the license expiration date.

Vanity call sign holders are not obliged to keep their current call signs, however, and can request that it be changed to a sequentially assigned call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do NOT have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

To renew via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>, licensees should log into ULS License Manager Online Filing (click on "Log In") using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Anyone doing business with the FCC must supply an FRN on any application.

Licensees wishing to keep a vanity call sign should select "Renew" under the "Work on this License" option. Fees for electronically filed applications may be paid online or mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, PO Box 358835, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5835.

The ARRL plans to inaugurate a vanity call sign renewal service for its members in the near future.

## Cubesats get OSCAR numbers

AMSAT-NA has issued OSCAR designations for two Japanese cubesat Amateur Radio satellites. XI-IV (pronounced "sai four"), launched in 2003, will be known as CUBESAT-OSCAR-57 or CO-57. XI-V (pronounced "sai five"), launched with SSETI Express in 2005, will be known as CUBESAT-OSCAR-58 or CO-58. "AMSAT-NA and I wish to congratulate you and your entire team for the successful construction, testing and launching of these innovative spacecraft," said AMSAT's Bill Tynan, W3XO, in announcing the designations. "Your pioneering work certainly inspires others to follow your lead." The satellites were built and launched by the University of Tokyo Cubesat Team. Both satellites have similar payloads. CO-57 has a CW beacon on 436.8475 MHz and a 1200 bps AFSK packet downlink on 437.490 MHz. CO-58 has a CW beacon on 437.4650 MHz and a 1200 bps AFSK packet downlink on 437.3450 MHz.

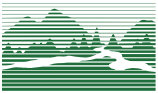
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!  
Make it your default start page!  
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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