



The Monitor



May 2001

From the Prez:

Hell for the Pres.

This month's meeting is important and several things are on the agenda. The nominating committee will be making it's presentation of club officers. If you would like to nominate other then the presented slate, this is the time to do it.

We will be continuing planning for Field Day as well as Armed forces Day. Please look at the upcoming events and see if you can spare some time to help out.

de Verne N5IEP

Upcoming Events

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| TSRC Meeting | May 12th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |
| Armed Forces Day Special Event Station | May 19th, 8:00am White River Jct., VT |
| TSRC Meeting | June 9th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |
| Field Day | June 23rd - 24th, KUA, Meriden, NH |
| Audrey Prouty Ride | July 7th, Hanover, NH |
| TSRC Meeting | July 16th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |

WIFN SPECIAL EVENT STATION, MAY 19, 2001

The Twin State Radio Club has been asked back for a second year to take part in the open house and celebration commemorating Armed Forces Day at the Naval Reserve Center in White River Junction. Our first effort last year with the event was very successful with 150+ contacts made in three hours of operating. We hope to double or even triple our contacts this year. And because the event is in the local area for the club it presents a great opportunity to really talk up amateur radio.

We plan to initially work three phone frequencies, 28.460 MHz, 14.260 MHz and 7.260 MHz. We also plan to work 14.050 MHz and 7.115 MHz for CW. This list can be expanded to other bands if we can erect the antennas and get the operators. On the air time is planned for 1000-1600 local.

Set up will start at the Naval Reserve Center at 0800 local or earlier if participants can make it. We need antenna farm and operating stations set up crews. And of course we will need tear down crews for each at the end of the event.

One thing we missed last year was providing a good PR effort to not only explain was what going on, but also to introduce people to amateur radio. We want to change that this year by putting a strong effort in talking up our hobby. We could have an inside display with a PR team and they could then direct people to the actual operations area. We can again offer greetings radiograms to the public.

Lastly, we need operators and control ops on the rigs the full time of the event. We will offer early sign up for operators for the band and mode of their choice. We will work one hour blocks with two persons per station. They can split the time between logging and operating.

Please mark this date on your calendar and join us for Armed Forces Day, 2001. Consider what part you can take to make this a success; set-up, PR, operating and/or break down.

Contact Karl, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@arrl.net for more information and to sign up for a crew.

Disclaimer

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May Propagation Outlook

by AD5Q, edited by K1IB

15 Meters: Even at the lowest portion of the sunspot cycle, late spring brings the best out of certain bands. When solar flux is high, as it is now, nighttime conditions on 15 are spectacular. The solar cycle is likely heading down, and we can expect fluxes in the low to mid 100s for much of the time. Ten meters is out of season anyway, but fifteen will be very good. It will also be sensitive to the variations in flux, as a flux higher than 120 is needed to keep the nighttime short paths open to Europe and over the north pole. Daytime paths on 15 deteriorate somewhat due to the overheated ionosphere, so most of the best daytime openings will be into areas where it is night.

This ability of fifteen meters to span areas of both day and night enhances propagation to remote parts of the world and lengthens the duration of openings in any direction. Look for openings to remote points in southern Asia in late morning and through the afternoon. Europe will come through most of the day, and often at night as well. As long as the flux is above 150 or so long path will be open in the morning to the west and southwest for 3 hours after sunrise. East/west long path on 15 is actually open to a broader area of the world than the same paths on 20, with openings to most of Africa and Europe. North/south long path, such as to India and Russia, is rare on 15 and is deteriorating on 20. A great variety of paths are open on 15 at this time of the year, but watch the fluxes. When they are low, move down to 20 meters.

20 Meters: East/west long-path openings on 20 are mostly confined to the Indian Ocean and the southern part of Africa. These paths will be very reliable for 2 hours after sunrise. The other 20-meter long-path routes are out of season, except for the path to the south Indian Ocean. The regular short path circuits will be excellent across any nighttime or grey line path. Don't forget to watch for Africa in the late afternoon and Asia in the morning.

Solar Cycle Forecast

While solar cycle 23 may have peaked last year, recent surges in solar activity suggest an extended period of high solar flux will last through much of this year before the cycle's downturn becomes more pronounced.



The Seed Planted Finally Bears Fruit

On March 13, 2001 at 4:30 PM EST I answered a scheduled call on 14.310.0 USB. The calling Ham's QTH was approximately 500 miles away in Stow, Ohio. I received the signal 5x9 in Hanover, New Hampshire on my recently purchased, used Yaesu FT-840. Running 50 watts into my homebrew indoor "UAG dipole" I enjoyed a thirty minute QSO with the Ham who first introduced me to Ham radio more than 40 years ago.

I spent my teen years growing up in Stow, Ohio and was something of a techno-nerd at the time. I still am but I have found more flattering monikers for the disorder. I recall a youth spent taking things apart to see how they worked, then reassembling them to see if they still would. On those rare occasions when they did (and didn't blow any fuses or cause any fires) my pride was boundless. I fancied myself a budding electronic engineer and attributed my frequent failures to impatience and defective natural laws (physics, mechanics and similar bothersome conventions).

As an engineer-in-training I naturally immersed myself in all the usual training texts and professional journals. These included the entire "Hardy Boys" mystery series, the Boy Scout handbook and every copy of QST I could get my hands on. I missed many meals after spending my lunch money on the latest issue. After years of intensive study I developed a strong interest in Ham radio and learned all I could about the hobby. Lunch money no longer went to purchase QST magazine but was saved up to buy an AMECO code practice oscillator. No longer were stray tape recorders and broken TV sets sacrificed for my education. Instead, paper route proceeds went towards the purchase of the very latest in portable communications technology, a Magnavox transistor radio!

Field trials of this amazing new tubeless wonder gave me a real appreciation of the finer points of radio wave propagation. The same electronic marvel that would receive only one or two nearby AM stations during the day could hear the Grand Old Opry all the way from Nashville, Tennessee after dark! That was all it took for "radio fever" to take hold of me. The following summer I purchased my very first real radio, a Hallicrafters SX-99 SW receiver. I found it in the classified section of QST and paid \$99 for it.

Shortly after the purchase of my first "real" radio I learned of a large Ham event that was to be held near my home. I now recognize this event as the annual Dayton Field Day Hamvention. At the time, however, it was just an opportunity to see some real live Hams and drool over their equipment. I convinced (begged actually) my father to drive me to Dayton, drop me off and pick me up at the end of the day. He caved in to my groveling and I spent a thoroughly exciting day meeting some local Hams, seeing their equipment in use and enjoying the camaraderie of the colorful characters I met there.

The next few years were interrupted by frequent moves to new homes, not unusual for a military family. One thing after another prevented me from getting my Novice license. High school brought other interests and challenges, college left little

time for it and military service never afforded the opportunity to take the next step and earn my license. For many years Ham radio was merely a vague memory, a symbol of something I had never achieved. It was a mildly sad memory of unfulfilled aspirations.

In the 1970's (during the peak of CB radio popularity) I became a "near Ham." I got my CB license, bought a nice single-sideband mobile CB rig, mounted a 108" stainless steel whip on my car and spent hours in the Rocky Mountains "CB Dxing." I fancied myself quite the operator! For some strange reason, though, I never forgot the kind, patient Ham who spent much of the Hamvention explaining and demonstrating his equipment to me. For decades I would remember his call sign any time I heard or read about Ham radio.

A couple years ago I was shopping for some replacement electronic parts in a local store when a book entitled "Now You're Talking!" caught my eye. I was in a hurry at the time and thought no more of it. The next day, though, I returned to the store and bought the book. I realized I had put off for many years doing something that was important to me. In retrospect, I realized that I had never run out of excuses for not following through. It was clear that just a few more excuses would see me through my entire life without ever having to follow through on the challenge.

I made short work of this first book, then found the ARRL web site and ordered a few more books. Years of interest in electronics and communications served me well and I was soon able to take (and pass!) the Novice and no-code Tech license exams. I heard many local Hams on my scanner and learned that Field Day events were going to be held near KUA by a local Ham club. I made the short trip to KUA and was surprised to meet some Hams I already knew. I made some new friends, looked around a bit and left Field Day resolved to complete the code requirement for a General Class license.

I have the unselfish patience of many local Hams to thank for encouraging me to follow through with my goal of getting my General ticket. A few stand out but I will not embarrass them by naming them. The camaraderie I have seen among local Hams, though, is exactly what I remember from many years ago in Dayton, Ohio. I believe that is what sets Hams and Ham radio apart. I am proud to be a part of it.

On March 13, 2001 at 4:30 PM EST I had my very first HF QSO. I spent thirty minutes rag-chewing with the Ham who first introduced me to Ham radio more than 40 years ago. He planted a seed that lay dormant for decades but never died. It was a thrill to hear that Ham again, calling for me on 20 meters. It was a privilege to have my first HF contact with him.

I never forgot his call sign – K8EIO. I never forgot his patience and his obvious love for Ham radio. I never forgot the old tube-type mobile rig sitting on the fender of his sedan (was it a Chevy?) parked in a grassy field at the Dayton Hamvention many years ago. Thanks for everything, Jim.

73 de Charlie N1AOK

List of Radio and Electronic equipment for sale.

Kenwood Twins R599A/T599 with operators and service manuals. The T599 transmitter needs work.

B&W Coax Switch model 550A, unused

Micronta SWR and Field Strength meter Cat No 21-525B

RadioWorks Line Isolator 4KV-LI, never used

RadioWorks Current Balun B1-5K, unused

Johnson Rotary Inductor, 28microHenry, unused

B&W Rotary Inductor, about 18microHenry, unused

Cardwell Air Variable Cap. Model XG-110-KD, 0.25 inch plate to adjacent plate spacing, unused

Johnson Split Stator, 300pF per section 4500V, 0.125 inch plate to adjacent plate spacing, unused

Meters:

Weston DC Volts, 0 to 3/150/300 volts, 1000ohm per volt

Weston DC Volts, 0 to 10/100/500 volts, 5000ohm/volt

Triplett, 50 mA, DC

GE, 50VDC

Micronta 1 mA DC, has hairline crack in plastic face

Dual, 0 to 2.5 mA /50mA DC

Center zero, 0 to 100 microamps DC

Several partial rolls of plastic covered hook-up wire

Lengths of "Rainbow" multiwire cabling

Several rolls of thin gauge enamel covered wire, for toroids or transformers

A few rolls of heavy gauge enamel covered wire, for toroids or transformers

A bagful of terminal posts

Assorted shrink tubing

PC board stock and etchants

Bagsful of "Fork" and "Stud" type terminals

Wire Jumper kit, WK-1 by Global Specialties

A small selection of Toroids

Capacitors: A varied selection of fixed caps having ratings of less than 50 VDC. A few with ratings upto 250 VDC

Resistors: A varied selection of 1% tolerance types, $\frac{1}{2}$ W and less. Uncounted quantities of other low wattage types.

Diodes: by the handful, with some matched pairs

Integrated Circuit Chips: such as 74nn series, 74nnn series, others under the heading of OP Amps, CMOS, Voltage Regulators.

Transistors: Power Transistors and heat sinks

Low Voltage Transformers

Tools include IC chip pullers, solder and solder wicks, low wattage soldering irons

A good selection of ARRL and other publications for the Radio Ham. Text and Engineering books for the Professional Electronic Engineer.

Please Note: To view these items please contact Dave Littlewood at W1GN@valley.net to make the necessary arrangements.

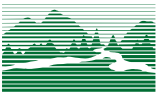
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ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>
*Tom Frenaye K1KI-NE Div. Dir. k1ki@arrl.org
*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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