



# The Monitor

May 2002



## Presidents Message

One of the most important things any organization must do if it expects to survive is to 'self-propagate'. This means that we need to insure that we have enough members and other means to support ourselves and the goals we wish to accomplish. Not only do we need to continually increase our membership base, we continually need to raise funds to 'fill in the cracks' that are left when we live outside our means. Any senior citizen on a fixed income can attest to this mentality.

We are doing well in some respects, entry-level classes and FCC testing has allowed us to increase our membership, but at no readily realized benefit to the club. We can only hope these new members join next year. Looking at it from another (non-financial) point of view, it allows us to make new friends, as well as truly contribute or give something back to our communities. Those who dedicate their time money and effort to these projects are truly valuable members who deserve much more recognition than they get.

But Ham Radio is a very expensive hobby. New rigs don't grow on trees, and we are well past the point where we can home-brew just about any piece of equipment in any aspect of this hobby we choose to participate in. In order to support our club, we have officers who have taken the responsibility of managing the resources we have acquired over the years. They prepare a budget based on what we have spent in the past and what we can reasonable expect to spend in the coming year. Just like anything else, unexpected or unanticipated expenses can occur at just about any time. We are lucky in the respect that we can accommodate just about any reasonable expense with little or no repercussions whatsoever.

Recently there have been discussions about some of the equipment we own, as well as equipment we would like to own. I am going to take this opportunity to ask the whole membership to act in a financially responsible manner when dealing with these issues. If we are expected to continue as we have in the past we cannot live outside our means. In order to succeed, our income needs to be greater than or equal to our expenses.

Having said that, it is now time to stress the fact that we need to start fundraising. This is not something I can do by myself, I don't have this huge moneybag that I can just pull an endless supply of cash from. The complete membership needs to get involved and start raising money instead of spending it. There needs to be SEVERAL concentrated efforts to find ways to fund the projects we are involved with, and in my opinion NO ONE is exempt. We all for too long now have sat idly by, expecting the money to come from some deep TSRC pocket full of cash.

We have not investigated becoming a tax-exempt organization fully, nor have we looked into obtaining grants and donations as a

source of income. There are even Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and STTR grants available from the government for projects dealing with RF and communications. These grants could be up to several hundred thousand dollars if accepted. One particular proposal I am working on at my place of employment deals with a broadband 'fabric' antenna system that can be easily worn or woven into some sort of garment. TSRC doesn't have anyone looking into this type of grant, even if we did, we wouldn't be eligible because we do not enjoy 501C - 3 status.

It is each and every members responsibility to assist in fundraising, just as it is each and every members right to enjoy the resources shared by the club. Everyone needs to do much, much more in this respect, from coming up with funding ideas to actually selling 50/50 raffle tickets if necessary. This is not an endeavor that can be accomplished by any one member. It takes a collective effort, and if we don't start soon, it will be too late. There is no way we could ever expect to attract enough new members to be able to fund some of the projects we have planned, fundraising should have started years ago and continued through this point.

Committees need to do more than proposing things to the membership. Projects need to be complete, not just a list of anticipated expenditures. Any proposal needs to not only describe the project and list the the line items, it needs to contain funding methods as well as disposal plans. We cannot continue in the incomplete manner as of late, we as members owe the club much more than that, TSRC is more deserving than a half-assed job or commitment. Committee Chairpersons need to be much more thorough in their communications, and need to take the considerations of ALL committee members when preparing proposals. Consensus needs to be gained, by ALL members, not just by one person. The reason these committees exist in the first place is part of the checks and balances inherently built into the system. It generally prevents mistakes, but if it does so at the expense of hard feelings and broken friendships then it is for all the wrong reasons. It is not an opportunity for any one person to take the ball and run, it is a necessity to prevent abuse and misuse.

Having said all of that, maybe it is time for me to realize my own limitations in this respect; maybe I have not been as effective at motivating people or leading this club as one might have expected. Possibly I have misjudged my ability to serve as President of this hallowed and respected organization. Maybe I don't have the time to devote to the club that I thought I would. It is times like this (bitching about things) that I really despise writing this monthly blurb, a task that I normally welcome with open arms and an open mind. I have taken this opportunity each month to possibly enrich others lives, make them more productive, inform them and help to keep them safe. Unfortunately, like some others in this club, I cannot continue in good faith doing something I cannot wholeheartedly say that I enjoy any longer.

I will take this opportunity to publicly announce that I will not be seeking re-election, nor election to any TSRC post. I feel that I have not done as good a job as others may have been able to do, and will offer this position to the Nominating Committee to be filled at the June TSRC meeting. I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment I have served, but I feel I can contribute much more in another type of position. I feel honored to have earned the respect of the membership, and extremely pleased to realize that I have made a difference. Just the opportunity to serve should be motivation enough, but for me that has been the tip of the iceberg. In some ways I am truly saddened to have to do this, but on the other hand I realize it is necessary and prudent to inject some new blood into the mix. Thank you all.

Micky K1XH

## **Get On The Air (GOTA) Station**

Novices, Techs, New or Inactive Hams: This is a reminder to please come join us at Field Day, June 22 and 23 at KUA to help put the Get On The Air (GOTA) station into action. Get some on-the-air experience in a lower-pressure setting and make points for the W1FN effort! See you there!

Ken, W1KRT

## **AMSAT-NA TO BUILD NEW COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE**

AMSAT-North America has started construction of a new low-earth-orbit (LOW) communications satellite. Although the satellite will be similar in mass and size to the original AMSAT MICROSAT design, it will incorporate all new, leading edge electronics and RF technology.

Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, AMSAT-NA President, discussed the new project at the organization's Board of Directors meeting held in Washington, DC, April 20-21, 2002. "I am very pleased that we are embarking on a brand new satellite project. I am particularly pleased that this new project will operate as an EZ Sat, as well as serving as a test bed for new and exciting technologies," he said.

Returning to the original pre-launch numbering system used in many of the earliest AMSAT-NA developed satellites, the new "bird" will be named AMSAT-OSCAR E (Echo) until launch. Plans call for the satellite to contain analog and digital VHF/UHF FM transponders similar to those carried on the UOSAT-OSCAR 14 and AMRAD-OSCAR 27 satellites currently in orbit. In addition, the new satellite will have the capability to host one or two other experimental payloads.

Continuing an approach used in past projects, AMSAT-NA has partnered with an outside contractor, SpaceQuest, Ltd. of Fairfax, Virginia, who will assist in building the satellite bus. AMSAT volunteers are responsible for the design, development, integration and testing of the various experimental payloads.

Dr. Tom Clark, W3IWI, AMSAT-NA BOD member and one of the "spark plugs" for the original MICROSAT project noted that, "The last major program that AMSAT-NA managed was the MICROSATS and this is a superb chance for us to update that legacy with all-new technology." He went on to note that, "We now have accumulated about 70 years of on-orbit experience with the MICROSAT design since our original flock were launched back in 1990, with several other satellites of that same basic design now on the drawing boards. The design is a true classic."

The spacecraft is now slated to be ready for launch in late 2003. A number of affordable launch opportunities are being actively explored.

AMSAT is very proud of its long tradition of excellence and the contributions it has made to the advancement of space communications, space education and the space sciences. AMSAT-OSCAR E will be a new vehicle for Amateur Radio to continue that quest for communications technologies for future generations.

[ANS thanks AMSAT-NA Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SE, for this information]

Comment— The design of this new satellite is especially interesting in that space will be available for one or two experimental payloads. They will be looking to the Amateur community for those projects. Also, volunteers will be needed for the design and construction of the various electronic and mechanical parts of this new satellite.

Bill WB1BRE

## **ARRL Field Organization**

**Bulletin Manager & Net Manager**

In our ongoing effort to educate Vermont Hams about possible volunteer ARRL Field Organization appointments, we once again have a short description of two more positions available for you to peruse. Applications for these positions are available on the League's web site. You can also find more information about any of these positions when you check them out on-line. The minimum requirement for any appointment is to be a full ARRL member in good standing. Some positions, like Bulletin Manager, require a Technician Class or higher license. An official badge goes along with the position.

Considering a fun way to put your previous management techniques to work? As we mentioned about three months back, the Official Bulletin Station (OBS) rapidly disseminates ARRL Bulletins to the local Ham Radio community. This is an important position, as not all Hams are League members, and on the Internet. The ARRL Bulletin Manager (BM) is responsible for recruiting and supervising a team of Official Bulletin Stations to disseminate such news and information of interest to amateurs in the Vermont Section. He or she will also funnel news and information of a local and regional nature to OBS appointees. This is done by maintaining a close relationship with other section level officials, and the Division Director. In some cases, the BM will need to copy ARRL bulletins directly from W1AW, and retransmit them for the OBS appointees. The BM will also recruit a team of Official Bulletin Stations in the Vermont Section for each major repeater, and PBBS in the state.

Would you like to get more involved with Ham Radio Traffic, but remain in the background? The Net Manager (NM) coordinates and supervises traffic handling activities in the Section. There can be more than one NM, depending on the Section's geographical size, number of nets operating, or other organizational factors. In some cases, there may be only one NM for the whole state, or there could be one for the phone net, one for the CW net, one for the RTTY net, one for the VHF net, and one for the Packet nodes. It is unlikely that we will need that many here in Vermont, however. The NM works under the Section Traffic Manager (STM), in a coordinated section traffic plan. He or she may also test candidates for Official Relay Stations (ORS), that we also covered a while back, and they also make sure that all traffic handled through an NTS net is in proper ARRL form.

Now these are both manager positions, so they may not be for you just yet. You may want to go back and read about the OBS and the ORS appointments again and volunteer for one of those to get your feet wet. After some time in one of those positions, you may want to step up to one of these manager appointments. Of course, if you are a Ham that is previously familiar with the Field Organization, this may be your opportunity to get back into the swing of things with the League. We could really use some experienced help. So why not consider an appointment with the ARRL?

## **APRSWXNET/Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP)**

The Hams commitment to public service is well known for helping to coordinate responses to severe weather. One such contribution is the APRSWXNET/Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP) which routinely relay meteorological observations to the National Weather Service. The data is sent to Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) in Boulder, CO, and used to improve surface analysis and short term forecasts. It would be great to get some data from New Hampshire to

help with the limited data in Northern New England. If you are interested in this program, here are some links for more information:

1. APRSWXNET CWOP Info and Registration Page on FINDU Server: <http://www.findu.com/citizenweather/>
2. CWOP Info Page at the National Hurricane Center (NHC): Free APRSWXNET Lite link on page used to send data <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/CWOP-Main.html>
3. FSL MADIS MESONET Display Page: Choose APRSWXNET Data to see CWOP observations <http://www-frd.fsl.noaa.gov/mesonet/>
4. CWOP Quality Assurance Page: <http://www.peakpeak.com/~kb0tvj/>
5. FINDU Server Graphical CWOP Plots: My observations depicted <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=CW0351&last=36>

If you have any questions, please contact me,

Dave Helms, CW0351  
<http://dhelms.mystarband.net/wx.html>

## **Boxboro - ARRL New England Convention**

August 23-25 <http://www.boxboro.org>

Boxboro is Coming! The ARRL New England Division Convention is drawing closer, and it looks as if we'll have another great show. In addition to the traditional Saturday night banquet, we'll also be hosting a Friday night DX dinner. The exhibition is coming along well, too, with many vendors already signed up, and more expected. There will be a Friday program as well, which will include an in depth session for lawyers and others involved in antenna tower cases.

The program is growing, with many of the usual events, such as the ARRL Forum, and the YCCC program, and also some new events. Incidentally, if you have suggestions for additions to the program, please send a note to Ken Caruso, WO1N, at [wo1n@arrl.net](mailto:wo1n@arrl.net). He is this year's program chairman. To keep up with the latest on Boxboro, visit [www.boxboro.org](http://www.boxboro.org). And remember to keep the weekend of August 24-25 open!

Mike Raisbeck/K1TWF

## **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.

## Upcoming Events

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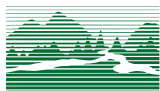
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Part 97      <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

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



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