

The Monitor



May 2006

Upcoming Events

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| TSRC Meeting | May 13 2006, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH N1RX, constuction projects |
| TSRC Meeting | June 10, 2006, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH Field day planning; N8RPD, APRS techniques |
| Field Day | June 24-25, 2006 N8RPD, Coordinator |
| Prouty 2006 | July 8, 2006 AA1KL, Coordinator |
| TSRC Meeting | July 15, 2006, 9:00 am ??? EBA's, Hanover, NH |

President's Message

Greetings! I'm very pleased to announce that TSRC has a field day site for this year's event. We will be at Townsend Farm on Storr's Hill Rd. in Lebanon. The site is less than two miles from the center of Lebanon and has excellent characteristics for our purposes. I would like to thank everyone that assisted in the search for a site, especially James, NOJSR, who put us in touch with Bruce Townsend who owns Townsend Farm. Now we need to do some work with our equipment to insure we are ready. Most of the gear hasn't been used in two years but that probably won't be a problem. We will discuss all the details at this month's club meeting so please participate.

Speaking of the monthly meeting, we are moving back to Everything But Anchovies (EBA) restaurant in Hanover starting May 13th. We will be meeting at the very rear of the restaurant which should give us the sound isolation we need. I apologize to those who feel this move is a poor choice. The officers all agreed that it was a good move as did the vast majority of club members who expressed an opinion to me. Our goal was and is to make the meeting as attractive as possible and while it is impossible to please everyone, we do want to listen to the desires of the membership.

The new communications trailer has been ordered and should be complete in the next few weeks. This means it should be available for use during both Field Day and the Audrey Prouty Bike Ride. Hopefully we can have some time available when those with interest can come help with the fitting out process.

Southern Grafton County ARES now has a weekly ARES training net. The net is held each Tuesday evening at 7 pm EST on the

W1FN repeater (145.330). Anyone interested in serving as NCS should contact me directly or simply show up for the net.

Don't forget: this month's meeting will include the nominations for club officers for 2006/2007.

Finally Bruce, N1RX, will be presenting at this month's meeting. He is a master at kit building and other HAM project fabrication. He will be bringing along some of his projects and talking about his experiences with home-brewing HAM gear. His presentations are excellent.

See you at the meeting!

William Daugherty, N8RPD
Twin State Radio Club President

PLAIN SPEECH

I noted this article in the ARES E-letter and thought about it in terms of Amateur Radio operations in a disaster. We would be interfacing with served agency personnel and key leadership people in a disaster scenario. Presumably, these individuals will have been trained in the NIMS/ICS system and will be using plain speech in communications and message creation.

Hams, like many other specialty groups in this world, have developed their own "shorthand" language to make communications more efficient and to allow rapid exchange of common phrases- QSL, QRZ, etc. While this works well in the Ham community, it may cause some confusion in the world of first responders.

We should think about following the lead of APCO in using plain language both in training and in communications support of actual disaster responses. In the first responder world, accuracy is as important as speed, especially where human life is involved.

Other related aspects of this subject include speaking clearly and slowly, even in dramatic situations, proper microphone useage (don't swallow the mike!) and the read-back of message texts to insure accuracy.

73, Bill WB1BRE

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APCO INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS USE OF PLAIN SPEECH

The Associated Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO) has agreed with the NIMS Integration Center that the use of plain speech in emergency response situations is a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. To best assure the use of common, universal language during a major event, its daily use is required.

APCO said the entire Incident Command System (ICS), an effort of NIMS to provide a common organizational structure for the immediate response to emergencies involving the coordination of personnel and equipment on-site at an incident, requires resources to be managed and functioning under a planned approach that diminishes the risk created by unclear, unfamiliar or misunderstood codes and signals. Using plain speech is a simple remedy to reduce communication failures. This common approach is essential to achieving functional interoperability across all jurisdictions and disciplines.

The ARES E-Letter, April 19, 2006

FCC WRC-03 amateur rule changes now in effect

Several FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) now are in effect. The FCC Order, released in January, affects 97.111, Authorized transmissions; 97.113, Prohibited transmissions; 97.115, Third party communications, and 97.117, International communications. The Federal Register published the changes May 3.

"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC Order said. "The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements."

The FCC Order revises:

* 97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications." The FCC said the change does not prejudice its proposal to amend 97.111(a)(2) to clarify that amateur stations may, at all times and on all authorized channels, transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

* 97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place

between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties." The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station in a country lacking a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

* 97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers." The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

* 97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised 97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the international Radio Regulations.

AMSAT issues first call for papers for 2006 symposium

AMSAT-NA has issued a first call for papers and presentations for its 2006 Space Symposium October 6-8 near San Francisco, California <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2006CallForPapers.php>>. Speakers are invited to submit and present papers dealing with the science of Amateur Radio satellites and associated technologies. Speakers originally scheduled to present at the cancelled 2005 Symposium are encouraged to resubmit their papers for 2006. Recommended topics include--but are not limited to--AMSAT Phase 3E, AMSAT Eagle, microsattellites, cubesats and nanosatellites, ARISS, antennas, ground stations and more. The AMSAT-NA Board of Directors will meet October 5-6, and the annual general membership meeting will be October 6. AMSAT International will meet October 8. In addition, the IARU Satellite Committee will hold a public roundtable discussion on frequency coordination October 8. The ARISS International Delegates Meeting takes place October 9-10. Applications to present papers must be submitted by July 15, and papers are due August 1. An online registration system is available to submit and track abstracts <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2006PapersProcedure.php>>. This system lets users submit papers and subsequent changes online. Complete information on the 2006 Symposium is available on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/>>.

Look who was spotted at the San Diego Zoo!

I am finishing up a job in Los Angeles, and had a day to go visiting. I headed 100 miles down the road to visit the Ex-Pres. Charlie N1AOK.

He is doing well, and settling in to the southern California life style. He showed me his 'Shack' and the antenna farm that sprung up on his ironing board. Not much tower space in a small apartment.

He sends his Hello to everyone back East.

Alan Bradford, N1YMQ



A FORCE FOR THE FUTURE: EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

To those who wonder--or worry--about what the League is doing to ensure the future of Amateur Radio, ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, offers a prompt response: the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP). More familiar to many as "The Big Project," the program has provided turnkey Amateur Radio stations and educational materials to more than 170 schools across the US. More important, Hobart says, the ETP each year exposes many youngsters and their teachers to Amateur Radio, wireless technology,

electronics and even robotics--something that likely wouldn't happen if the program didn't exist. With the ETP kicking off its 2006 fundraising campaign this month, Hobart emphasizes that the program depends entirely on individual donations.

"The Education and Technology Program is unique among ARRL's programs in that it is totally funded by voluntary member contributions, so the onus to continue to put stations in schools and to grow the program rests on those willing to contribute," she says. "This is an awesome responsibility for the Amateur Radio community."

Campaign revenue not only covers the cost of placing stations in schools, Hobart notes. It also funds a burgeoning schedule of Teachers Institutes each summer as well as ongoing efforts to guide national educational standards in science and mathematics. Hobart called the Teachers Institutes "a powerful tool" to inspire educators and to help them develop confidence in teaching about wireless technology and electronics through Amateur Radio.

Generous gifts helped the ETP to expand to five the number of free Teachers Institutes it's offering in 2006, its third year, and Hobart is optimistic that the program will be able to afford additional sessions in the years ahead. Some, but not all, of those who attend are Amateur Radio licensees, while others become hams as a result of attending the week-long sessions. In any event, Hobart points out that Teachers Institute alumni influence thousands of youngsters each year.

In fact, the "poster boy" for the 2006 campaign is Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, a teacher at LBJ High School in Austin, Texas--an ARRL "Big Project" participant. Risinger attended the first ETP Teachers Institute in 2004 at ARRL Headquarters. His success with the program became the centerpiece of this year's ETP fundraising effort.

"Ronny's story is a powerful one," said Hobart. "He's a teacher and a ham who's taken advantage of all the ETP resources at his disposal. This is why we tell his story."

Risinger credits the ETP and the Teachers Institute with his success in inspiring and teaching his students. He says the League program gave him a strong sense of confidence that allows him to be a better teacher, presenting his classroom material in unique and engaging ways--and especially hands-on projects that captivate his students.

Hobart says Risinger is just one example of how ETP participation and attendance at a Teachers Institute can inspire educators and help their students to embrace both wireless technology and Amateur Radio.

"Supporting the ARRL Education and Technology Program is an opportunity to do something about the future of Amateur Radio and attracting the younger generation," Hobart says. "Outside of the League's ongoing and essential effort to defend our spectrum, I can think of no other initiative that prepares ham radio for its future."

Contribute to the ARRL Education and Technology Program by July 31 via the secure donation Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/education/education.html>>. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

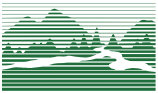
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
Make it your default start page!
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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