



The Monitor

May 1999



TSRC-WIFN Upcoming Events

Hosstrader's	May 7th and 8th Rochester, NH
TSRC Meeting	May 15th 9:00am Gillam's WRJ, VT
BSA Camporee	May 22nd Hopkinton, NH
Alumni Parade	May 29th W. Lebanon, NH
TSRC Meeting	June 12th 9:00am Gillam's WRJ, VT
Alumni Parade	June 19th Lebanon, NH
Field Day	June 26th and 27th

From the Prez

This month's meeting will be held at Gillam's Restaurant in White River Jct. at 9:00am due to Hosstrader's on the 7th and 8th. On the agenda for the meeting is voting on the new Club Trustee as well as presentation of the proposed slate of officers by the nominating committee. Also scheduled is a visit from the new NH Section Manager, Mike Graham, K7CTW.

On another note. I've been told we have a group that would like to get tested for licensing and they are having a hard time getting VEs together for a test session. This hobby can't grow and we can't introduce the hobby to others without the VE services. Those VEs that can help out with a test session please contact Matt N1RJF for details.

I hate to beat the drum but without the support of the membership we can't continue with the many events and services provided to the members at the level we have been. Hopefully everyone will be renewing their membership for 1999. If you know any other Hams that might benefit from and/or enjoy the socializing and services of the Twin State Radio Club please contact one of the club officers and we'll send them an info packet and membership application.

73 de Verne N5IEP

QSL Card Sorting

The last sorting session went well, and I have several cards for several members. You can collect your cards at the next club meeting, May 15th (the Saturday after Hosstraders...) or if you make special arrangements with me between now and then.

I have cards for: N1MS WC1M K1IB WA1TKT KE1IW N1S1Z WA1O W1QN AA1KL KA1ZYH W1FN

If you see one of these people or hear them on the air, let them know they can pick up their bureau cards at the meeting.

Micky Corrow

A funny little story

One day while walking down the street a highly successful executive woman was tragically hit by a bus and she died. Her soul arrived up in heaven where she was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself.

"Welcome to Heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you get settled in though, it seems we have a problem. You see, strangely enough, we've never once had an executive make it this far and we're not really sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in." said the woman.

"Well, I'd like to, but I have higher orders. What we're going to do is let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven and then you can choose which ever one you want to spend an eternity in."

"Actually, I think I've made up my mind...I prefer to stay in Heaven", said the woman.

"Sorry, we have rules..."

And with that St. Peter put the executive in an elevator and it went down-down-down to Hell. The doors opened and she found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a country club and standing in front of her were all her friends -fellow executives that she had worked with and they were all dressed in evening gowns and cheering for her.

They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks and they talked about old times. They played an excellent round of golf and at night went to the country club where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner. She met the Devil, who was actually a really nice guy, and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. She was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave.

Everybody shook her hand and waved good-bye as she got on the elevator. The elevator went up-up-up and opened back up at the Pearly Gates and found St. Peter waiting for her. "Now it's time to spend a day in heaven," he said.

So she spent the next 24 hours lounging around on clouds, playing the harp and singing. She had a great time and before she knew it her 24 hours were up and St. Peter came and got her.

"So, you've spent a day in hell and you've spent a day in heaven. Now you must choose your eternity," he said. The woman paused for a second and then replied, "Well, I never thought I'd say this, I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell."

So St. Peter escorted her to the elevator and again she went down-down-down back to Hell. When the doors of the elevator opened she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. She saw her friends were dressed in rags and were picking up the garbage and putting it in sacks.

The Devil came up to her and put his arm around her. "I don't understand," stammered the woman, "yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a country club and we ate lobster and danced and had a great time. Now all there is a wasteland of garbage and all my friends look miserable."

The Devil looked at her and smiled. "Yesterday we were recruiting you; today you're staff."

PROPAGATION - by AD5Q

Edited for The Monitor by K1IB

HIGH BANDS: Ten meters improved during periods of higher flux, opening to eastern Europe and into Russia. May will bring deterioration, as conditions on 10 meters are seasonally poor in the summer regardless of solar flux levels.

Fifteen meters has been staying open into the evening. We have had access to Europe most of the day, with a broad opening to the Far East in the evening. The rest of Asia has been workable over the pole with openings in the morning and early evening. Equatorial stations on the other side of the world are able to work the USA over the pole in late evening (their time). This path seems to skip over Siberia, where 15 is already closed.

Twenty meters is even better. The seasonal peak and high solar flux levels keep the band open most of the night. Most noticeable are the polar openings to Russia, but tune carefully and you will find the band open to more than half the world-at once! High MUF's have turned 20 into a nighttime band with pipeline conditions into morning and evening zones. Twenty meters peaks during late spring, but much of what you hear will continue through the summer.

LOW BANDS: This is not where the action is and we will not have much to say about the low bands for the next few months. Forty meters is actually in good shape and will remain open to Europe through the summer. Hardly anybody is left on 80 meters. If you need Southern Hemisphere countries on 80, tune patiently through the noise and you may get lucky.

20 LONG PATH: There is an excellent morning path to Africa and the Indian Ocean but the other LP circuits are out of season. Later in the sunspot cycle we will get good LP most of the year, even on 15 meters.

de K1IB

The solar flux was extraordinarily low during most of April. If this trend persists, AD5Q's advice may be overoptimistic until we get higher solar activity levels.

The low activity has prompted speculation among some solar cycle watchers that this eleven-year solar cycle's peak may be abnormally low. According to ARRL propagation forecaster K7VVV, the experts at NOAA "are still sticking with their forecast made last year, that the peak of cycle 23 is probably a year from now, or perhaps it will peak at the end of 2000. It is important to keep in mind that when looking at past solar cycles, we are often observing smoothed numbers, and in fact there are often periods before a cycle reaches a peak when there will be a lull in activity. There is also a possibility that this cycle could be like cycle 22, which had a broad double peak." For a look at how the current solar cycle compares to the previous two, check the web site: www.dxlc.com/solar/cyclcomp.html

One easily can check AD5Q's statement "you will find [20 meters] open to more than half the world-at once!" by listening occasionally to the International Beacon Network. The beacons are on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 mHz. Sixteen beacons (of 18 planned) are on the air around the world. Each transmits in a 10-second window by sending a CW identifier followed by four long dashes. The callsign and first dash are sent at 100 watts. Subsequent dashes are at 10 watts, 1 watt and 100 milliwatts.

The entire group of beacons completes one worldwide cycle in three minutes, so a three-minute check at one frequency reveals the condition of the band to nearly everywhere and can reveal unsuspected propagation opportunities. For beacon locations and other details on this interesting system, check the web site: www.ncdxf.org/beacon.htm

AD5Q's April advice to watch for good propagation into Siberia and central Asia on 20 meters and for equatorial Asia on 15 meters was excellent. I have worked stations throughout Siberia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia on 20 during April, and I worked Indonesia on 15 meters with great signals.

ATV Bootleggers

Gentlemen:

I just got an email from WA2SWS that a security company has put in a video system from the Las Vegas Paramedics to the ambulance and then to the hospital. Paramedics use 2.4 GHz but the ambulances use 900 MHz and high power (not part 15 and probably not licensed). They want more DX so are proposing to do it in our 420-450 MHz band. I am sending you this as a heads up so you can watch for it in your areas and get the FCC after them. Below are copies of the emails I got on it. There is still the perception that the ham bands are FCC enforcement free and there needs to be an example case soon or there will be quite a few of these bootleggers causing interference, and possibly taking over our bands if local governments and security companies pressure for it. 73, Tom O'Hara W6ORG

SCRRBA Technical Committee Member

ARRL TA for Spectrum Management and ATV

Got a call from a purchasing agent in Las Vegas this morning.

They have been trying to implement a wireless video program whose concept apparently was sold to them by one of these spy shop type places.

The particular phase they called me about was the need for a video link from ambulances to a hospital 1.5 miles away. Apparently they need quite a number, and have immediate funding.

They have been using one of the spy shops who has been applying amateur 900 megacycle video, unsuccessfully. The guy who called said they have huge antennas, amplifiers hanging everywhere, tens of thousands of dollars in equipment coming in all rush overnight, no two pieces of equipment with the same brand name, homemade plastic boxes, and nothing is working at all. The guy who called was brought in specifically to try to get this wireless video project finally working. Now he is convinced he needs 400 megacycle equipment to rescue the project. I'm not sure where or how he came up with that; most likely from their current vendors.

I educated him on the legality, and it ended up with him claiming none of that matters, huge amounts of money has

been spent, it has turned into a political thing and several people's jobs are on the line. He kept saying they were government, it was a political project, and they could do anything they needed.

He kept pushing me for equipment, and I kept telling him the first thing they need to do is engage an engineer to design the system properly and legally on paper. If the build what was put on paper by a competent engineer, they system will work and only after the engineering should they start calling places looking to buy equipment, not before or instead of. He said "I don't have time for that, I have to get this working NOW" and finally hung the phone up on me when I told him his job probably was impossible to do legally. I did not get a name or number but it should not be hard to chase down. The FCC should pay them a visit.

I say they were using amateur video because the guy who called admitted such, and also said the technicians trying to get the system working were using ham "walkie talkies" with ham callsigns to coordinate their work. Apparently the guys doing it were not trying to hide the fact they were using amateur.

I bet this fellow who called will get through to some spy shop who will make all sorts of promises, get an emergency overnight order for 5 figures, then ship all sorts of amateur gear and huge amplifiers out there. And the place who sells it will have zero field experience with wireless video and zero regard for any law. I repeat that I did tell the guy there were no local or state frequency allocations for wireless video in 900 or 400 megacycles and even with federal auspices that did not mean he could do anything he wanted.

Project is live video from the paramedics back to the hospital. Body worn video on 2.4 from the paramedic to a crossband repeater in the ambulance linking out on 900 megacycles to the hospital.

The guy called back again today after my first message to you and we spoke for another hour. They are using a one man company out there called "Pragmatic". A totally hobby company according to the guy I spoke with. The guy took apart one of the video transmitters while we were on the phone, and he said the boards had names scraped off of them and numbers sanded off the chips, but he did see one name underneath: "PRO-4". Doesn't mean anything to me.

Said the history of the project was no paperwork, engineered on the fly by the vendor, outrageous claims for performance (they originally were told to expect 100% coverage at 15 miles), Yagis and amplifiers everywhere and fans on the amplifiers. I've personally seen this myself in other law enforcement applications.

Las Vegas County is paying \$7000 each allegedly for a 4 watt 900 megacycle AM link supposed to go a mile and a half.

WA2SWS

My Year 2000 Statement

Contrary to popular belief, the new millenium begins on January 1, 2001. The reason it does not start in the year 2000 is because of the work done by abbot Dionysius Exiguus (circa AD 525), who was responsible for preparing an estimate for the date of birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Lacking the mathematical concept of zero, the abbot assigned the year before 1 AD as 1 BC. Since there was never a year 0 in the Gregorian calendar, the new millenium will start on January 1, 2001, exactly 2000 years after the year 1 AD.

FOR SALE LISTINGS

Provided as a service to TSRC Members.

Your listing must be renewed each month to be included in that issue.

FOR SALE

1-Kenwood 830 Contact Dave KA1CRP

FOR SALE:

CushCraft R7 seven band, no tune, vertical antenna. Antenna is up and may be inspected / tried out at QTH of N1MVU. Was \$120. New Antenna Season Special Price, \$100. or best reasonable offer! Contact Kim Kimura N1MVU w.kimura@valley.net (603) 448-4193

FOR SALE

Drake T4XC-R4B/w/PS - Digital Readout, 2 - D104 mics - 1 G Stand and Acc. \$125.00; Icom 2AT HT/w/2 chargers - DC-DC - 2 BP-3 packs \$50.00
WA1TKT 802-484-3304 after 5

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*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>
*NH Amateur home page <http://www.inetmarket.com/hamradio/nh>
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Part 97
<http://oak.oakland.edu:8080/pub/hamradio/arrl/infoserv/rib/part97.txt>

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



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