



The Monitor



June 2001

From the Prez:

Hello all.

Summer is upon us and the events are starting as well as Field Day rapidly approaching.

Next meeting we will be voting on this year's officer's, doing more planning on Field Day, and doing equipment inventory. If you have any club equipment it must be turned in to Nancy N1QW for inventory by this meeting. Please contact her before the meeting or bring it to the meeting.

Equipment will be inventoried and signed back out after Field Day. Please make every effort to do this so we don't have to chase after the equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

de Verne N5IEP

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| TSRC Meeting | June 9th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |
| Field Day | June 22nd - 24th, KUA, Meriden, NH |
| Audrey Prouty Walk/Run | July 7th, Hanover, NH |
| TSRC Meeting | July 14th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |
| TSRC Meeting | August 11th, 9:00am Gillam's Restaurant, WRJ, VT |

Secretary Report

BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED

At the May meeting, an amendment to the Bylaws was proposed. It now reads "2.3 NOMINATIONS - At the April meeting, the Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chairman and two or more volunteers from the Voting Membership to prepare a slate of nominees for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer." The proposed change would be: "2.3 NOMINATIONS - At the March meeting..."

INVENTORY

Part of my job as secretary is to take inventory of all club owned equipment. This year, we would like all club equipment (except that equipment needed to operate the club's re-

peaters and the parts inventory) returned to me at or before the June meeting. You may sign out equipment again after Field Day. I will email a list to those people who were the last to sign out equipment. We are missing some cables to connect computers to the radios.

Nancy N1QW

Report of the TSRC Nominating Committee

The TSRC nominating committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of officers for the year 2001-2002:

President – Micky Corrow K1XH
Vice President – Verne Burden N5IEP
Treasurer – Dave Haseman KE1IW
Secretary – Nancy Maynard N1QW

The committee consisted of:
Bill Burden WB1BRE - chairman
Dave Colter WA1ZCN
Dave McGaw N1HAC
Mike Schmitt N1MS

After the committee appointment in April, we began to correspond on e-mail and used that method for most of our discussions. After sorting out the procedures we were to use for proceeding with the process, we began to seek out potential nominees.

We first asked each of the current officers if they would want to be considered and what positions they might consider. Then we began to work through a series of names and made many telephone calls to see if people were interested in being considered.

The resulting slate represents, in our opinion, a reasonable balance between "new blood" and experience. We recommend this slate of outstanding club members for your leadership for the upcoming year.

Bill Burden WB1BRE
Chairman, TSRC Nominating Committee

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.

911 Autopatch In Service

by Dave Colter, Repeater Manager

As of Memorial Day, the new 911 autopatch is in service on the W1FN repeater system. By dialing the access code and 911, you will be connected to the New Hampshire 911 dispatch center in Concord. Since we accomplished this by using an unregistered cell phone, no other numbers can be dialed.

The autopatch codes will be provided to members only by email and at the next meeting. Please do not give the codes out over the air. If someone does not know the code, please dial and hang it up for them.

A few tips for using the patch:

Before bringing up the patch, say "(your call) on autopatch." After entering the access code, there will be a slight delay while the call goes through. No dialing is heard on the air.

Identify yourself as a ham radio operator to the dispatcher. This lets them know that this is a half-duplex conversation and that only one person can speak at a time. They may be confused by the fact that will we show up on their console as a cell phone, so if they ask you can tell them that the call is relayed by a permanently installed cell phone. Tell them right away what state you are in. If you are in Vermont, they will transfer your call to the Vermont dispatcher.

The patch has a three minute timer on it. Before it expires a warning message will play, allowing you time to enter a timer reset code, which will give you another three minutes. This would only be necessary if the dispatcher has asked you to stay on the line for a long period of time, such as if you are following an impaired driver.

After you hang up the patch, identify your self once more and say "clear autopatch". This lets others on the frequency know that you are done.

If someone else is on the patch, don't transmit unless you can add critical information. Another voice in the conversation will only serve to confuse the dispatcher.

Since this is a new feature, there may be unanticipated problems with the hardware or programming. If you experience difficulties, please report them to the repeater committee so that we can fix them as quickly as possible.

For Sale

Kenwood TS520 S w/manual tuner – \$250.00
Contact: K1DAN – K1dan58@aol.com
Ask for club member discount!

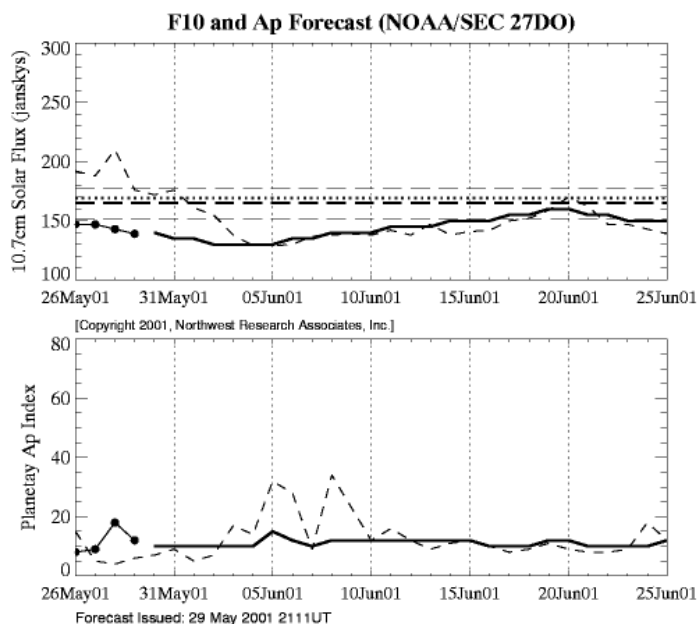
June Propagation Outlook

by AD5Q, edited by K1IB

Moving into summer, we can expect 10 meter DX to be very sparse but 20 meters is likely to be excellent as a night-time band. This is the time for our seasonal peak on 15 meters, but due to lower solar fluxes, conditions may not be as good as last year.

Solar flux in a typical month now ranges from about 120 to 200. When at the lower end of this range, the bands will close earlier in the night and we will lose, for example, the sunrise sweep across Europe. When the solar fluxes swing to the high end of this range, we will get phenomenal European/Russian openings at night and during much of the day.

This season we should keep an eye on the flux numbers for their influence on 15 meter propagation. Fluxes are plenty high enough to keep 20 meters open all night, so we will have this band to fall back on when 15 isn't working, but only at night. We will also have the 20 meter morning stuff to the Far East, with the Indian Ocean and southern Africa via long path.



Solar Flux & Geomagnetic Field Forecast

These plots show forecasts for the 10.7cm solar radio flux (F10) and the planetary geomagnetic activity index (Ap) for the next 27 days (heavy solid lines). The light solid lines and filled circles at the start of each plot are the observed F10 and Ap for the past few days, and the light dashed lines show the observed F10 and Ap from the previous solar rotation. The three horizontal long-dash lines on the F10 plot indicate the mean (heavy line) and expected range (light lines below and above the heavy line) of F10 from the NOAA SEC long-range prediction for Solar Cycle 23. The single horizontal dotted line is the 90-day mean F10 flux for the preceding 90-day period.

Yes, But Does He Have A Life?

Quoted from the Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin, May 7 edition:

ARE WE HAVING A GREAT YEAR FOR DXING? Joe, W1JR, thinks so. Joe wrote to OPDX and states, "Just a note to tell you DX this year is doing well and possibly ahead of all years. Each year I try to see how many DXCC entities I can work. In a good year I can make about 280-290. Hence, on January 1, 2001 I started anew AGAIN. I guess I never learn! Yesterday (May 3rd) I worked XU7 for DXCC #270, all in just over 4 months. This is the earliest in the year that I have ever worked 270 entities. I figure I have missed about 10 others. I do keep a normal sleep pattern and don't catch them all! The DX is there. You just have to listen and work them!"

FCC TO AMATEURS: DETAILED REGULATION "NOT IN THE PICTURE"

The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation. Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs.

"I hope that those of you who are thinking about asking us to carve up a band by fiat will think again," he told the packed forum. "You really are asking us to tie your hands regarding your use of your spectrum."

Before the FCC initiates any rulemaking proceedings in the Amateur Service to change privileges, Cross said it wants to see proposals involving the implementation of "new and more modern communications technologies," such as digital. In addition, he said, any future proposal "must include all licensees, and it must include all bands," and—most important—the amateur community must reach a consensus on the topic.

Cross said the FCC does not want and cannot handle "multiple proceedings that address piecemeal changes in operating privileges" that affect only certain classes of licensees or certain bands. "You, collectively, need to reach agreement on how you want to use your spectrum," he reiterated.

Cross said he expected the issue of restructuring operator privileges to come up "in a couple of years" at the outside. "Changes in operating privileges for the different classes of operator licenses are inevitable," he said.

ASTRONAUT THRILLS MISSOURI, WASHINGTON STUDENTS VIA AMATEUR RADIO

While he doesn't yet hold a ham ticket, astronaut Jim Voss has been making a lot of friends on Earth via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Voss on May 23 completed an on-air conversation with youngsters at the Moran Prairie Elementary School in Spokane, Washington. The previous week, Voss chatted with students at Parkway Central High School in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Youngsters at the Washington school asked questions ranging from bone density to exercising in space, radiation and solar flares.

"I think your brain does work a little bit differently up here," Voss said in response to a question from one Moran Prairie youngster. On the ISS, Voss said, "you're floating around, and your mind is having to do a lot of things that aren't natural to interpret the way you see things upside down." He said the crew members "have to be a little bit more careful up here."

Voss told the pupils that he enjoys space walks and was looking forward to an excursion outside the ISS in a couple of weeks could prove more challenging than usual. Voss said he even enjoys microgravity in his free time. "Sometimes I do things with the zero gravity, floating around and doing flips and somersaults—it's like playing in space."

Voss told students at both schools that the astronauts are enjoying "quite a variety" of foods on the space station's menu. He also said he misses his family but told the Missouri students that he felt "lucky and blessed" to be aboard the ISS and that he enjoyed the inspiring view. "The earth is quite a gorgeous place, and we can't take pictures that are good enough to make it look as good as it really is," he told the Parkway Central students May 17.

The high schoolers also wanted to know about such issues as sleeping in space, what the crew does if someone gets sick, and what it takes to become an astronaut and ISS crew member. Both contacts were made directly, via 2 meters, and Voss used the NA1SS call sign for the QSOs.

Voss, astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Russian crew commander Yuri Usachev, RW3FU, are approximately halfway through their Expedition Two tour of duty aboard the ISS. They will return to Earth in July.

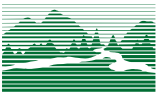
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