



The Monitor

June 2002



Presidents Message

This will be my final newsletter as President, although I hope to contribute as an Author several times per year as interesting projects come up now and again. I can say that I have had an exceptionally good time writing these monthly tirades, usually I can communicate much better via written words than I can orally.

But then that is probably obvious, especially if you have attended a monthly TSRC meeting. My leadership and effectiveness as a discussion moderator is not nearly as good as when I sit down to write. When I write I can take the time to think about exactly what I would like to say, and how I would like to say it. At a meeting, everything is an ad-lib. We don't nearly have the amount of time to discuss everything we need to in the amount of detail we would like, and unfortunately that is where my lack of organizational skills takes over...

A lot of the time we as a group need to stop and think about what we want to say long before we say it, again I know I fall victim to this trap and many times, both on-the-air and off I say things I never intended to say. We all do this from time to time, and those who do not fall into this trap are the those who can captivate an audience, those who can hold an audience in the palm of their hands either in person, or on-the-air. Have you ever listened to a repeater where you were so intent on listening to what others had to say that you dared not press the PTT button?

I would prefer to call it the 'release to listen' button at times, but my point is that we all need to stop and think about what we want to say, as well as how we want it to sound or be interpreted. You cannot imagine how many times I have heard someone repeating the same thing over and over because others cannot understand what they are saying because they are driving through a weak coverage area at a high rate of speed with the windows down. Or those who insist on getting on the air and then mumbling or speaking away from the microphone for 2 minutes and 30 seconds, then to realize they need to say it all over because no one heard or understood what they said. It sort of ruins the experience for everyone.

We are a vastly different type of group, with many different interests and reasons for being here. The one common denominator we should all have besides Amateur Radio is that of a Communicator. We should all be effective speakers, whether it be by voice, data or our fists. The method does not matter, it is the Medium that is the Message (as Marshall McLuhan has said in a book) and it is vitally important that each of us realize that while we may prefer to be heard and not seen, it is not so much what we say but how we say it.

That may sound a bit like a contradiction, but if you look at how we say things or communicate, one resounding effect that we all must be sure about is that we communicate clearly. If we communicate clearly, we communicate effectively. And if we communicate effectively, we are communicating efficiently. There is no need to ask for repeats. No retries. The message has been understood already and can be acted upon at the other end.

This is why I say, (and have said in the past) don't use low power unless you can insure your message is going to be received clearly. Don't sit down as a net control op with a six-pack and then expect to be understood in an hour or two. Don't throw in useless hi-his or unknown Q-signals when you are using voice communications. Same way don't feel you have to spell out every word and such when using CW. Don't re-transmit stuff on packet that has already been sent the same route by someone else. We need to start saving bandwidth instead of wasting it.

A few years ago I listed (in this very medium) a few things you should NOT do on a repeater. I feel that list should be expanded for all modes of communication, but nonetheless, I made my point using a narrowband FM mode to pick on for a while. Sure, I may have upset a few people, or lowered my standards a bit by taking aim at a few select repeater abusers, but it was all meant in good fun, and if you found something you could identify with and it put a smile on your face, I accomplished my goal.

No matter what method we choose to communicate, the ability to do this clearly and effectively takes training. Practice makes perfect, but if you keep practicing and don't get any better, then there is something drastically wrong. If you think you are doing OK and others do not, then the standards each of you uses to measure such an attribute must be vastly different. This is the reason there is so much dissention within Amateur Radio, no one can stand up and say that THEY are the definitive answer on everything, and this is exactly why Amateur Radio appeals to so many. Self-governing means many different things to many different people, and if you have not had the opportunity to listen to Riley Hollingsworth speak about this they you are certainly missing out on one of the great communicators of our time.

Again, my point here is to insure that you are being understood clearly. This has far-reaching effects, too numerous to list here. Hopefully I have used this medium to help others, in some small way. I know I have vented a lot of frustration, as well as solicited a lot of new ideas. I have disseminated information, and hopefully introduced others to a new mode or other tidbit of info they can now not live without. I

will surely miss these articles, from the moment K1IH reminds me to write them to the moment that someone congratulates me for writing such a fine piece of work that will forever have enriched their life, and I will miss all of you too.

I don't have the space to list each and every facet of every member, but during the coming months you can probably expect some sort of parody encompassing the membership. I promise not to fall off the map, as some past presidents have done, but please again let me thank each and every one of you for the insight, advice and respect you have shown, you cannot ever know how much it really means to me.

73, Micky K1XH

TSRC Members In First New England QSO Party

Several TSRC members took part in the first New England QSO Party. The aim of the event was to generate more on-air activity than the traditional single state QSO Parties produce and to get all 67 New England counties on the air.

The event began at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4, and ran until 11 p.m., then resumed Sunday morning and ended Sunday evening. Scoring was one point for ssb and fm contacts and two for cw. Stations in New England counted states, Canadian provinces and up to 20 foreign countries as multipliers. Stations outside New England counted New England counties as multipliers. Details and the announcement of next year's event are available at www.neqp.org.

TSRC results:

	QSOs	Mults	Score
K1IB	342	41	41,724
W1KRT	92	56	7,000
KA1CRP	107	33	3,861
N1NKC	100	33	3,300
WIIS/4	76	32	2,432
AC1H	35	15	788
WB1BRE	14	9	126

Soapbox

"I was surprised at how many people outside of New England were on calling 'CQ New England QSO Party.' I thought that just New Englanders would be taking the contest seriously but there were several (many?) enthusiastic participants from outside New England as well. Many of my contacts were in the West and Southwest. I only worked a couple of stations in New England. Would it be possible to work all New England counties from here?" – AC1H

"Activity was great Saturday evening but much slower during Sunday. I called CQ on 20 cw around 7:30 p.m. Saturday and worked 36 stations in the next 18 minutes. I kept hoping for more nice runs like that later in the contest, but the rate never again went above 20 to 30 per hour. I worked many Euro-

peans on 20 and 15—it was hard to decide whether to aim my tribander toward Europe or North America." – K1IB

"It was moderately busy the times I was on the air. Worked Verne on 146.55 in both Essex County and Washington County, NY and into western Vt." – WB1BRE

"It was interesting operating from outside of New England. I tried calling CQ, signing '14' with very little success. Admittedly, my signal isn't great but I've generally been able to hold a frequency in a stateside contest. It seemed like there wasn't a whole lot of activity, at least not on cw. Very few New England stations in S&P mode and with those stations that were active, you'd end up working them on all bands. I think the concept of a six-state contest is great but the timing is off. My suggestion is to move it back to the first weekend in February and I think there will be a lot more activity." – WIIS

"I started on 40 fone as the Party opened, but after a bunch of contacts I gave the frequency to N1RL/m as I was having problems with my software. After figuring out the software I returned to operating but 40 was a mob scene by then. I went to 10 fone and did some work there. After a break I came back but 10 was gone and the others mobbed so I then went to cw. Stayed on cw for the rest of Saturday. Early Sunday morning I made a few more contacts." – W1KRT



VERY INTERESTING AND SUCCESSFUL ARMED FORCES DAY SPECIAL EVENT

Our third special event saw many firsts. The biggest being the snow that we had all morning long. While it only accumulated a little on the grass, was a great topic with contacts we made. This year we worked CW for the first time and we made a decent number of contacts. Operating and cooking inside a garage was definitely different. Thank goodness no smoke alarm in the garage and the sprinkler did not go off. The best surprise for the day was watching Nancy, N1QW making a contact. She has been our faithful map per-

son since we started and was sure nice to have her finally get on the air. Maybe she can be coaxed to make a few more next year. We had a brother and sister team of Jake, KB1FCX and Sarah Noll (working on her license), from Unity, NH who filled many log sheets with 20M contacts. Bob, KB1BDW came from Woodstock and worked some CW. His XYL, Joan, KB1HWP worked her first HF. She had great fun being on the receiving end of a 20M pile up. Other operators who helped put 233 contacts in the log were Ken, W1KRT; Mike, N1ZDR; Mike, K1IH; Jeff, KA1OLE; Bob, KB1EYM (Brandon, VT); John, N1HLG (Rutland, VT) and Dave KE1IW. Special thanks to the set up and take down crews, many of whom came by on Friday to do preliminary work: Dave, KA1CRP; Ken, W1KRT, Mike N1ZDR; Mike, K1IH; Dave, KE1IW; Jeff, KA1OLE and Charlie, N1AOK. Thanks also to Charlie, N1AOK; Dave, KE1IW, Ken, W1KRT; and Rex, AA1KL for volunteering equipment.

We bested last year's contact numbers by over 50 with 233. We worked 34 states, 164 counties and 8 DX entities. All in just close to 6 hours on the air working three bands. QSL and certificate requests are ahead of last year. By any count it was a success just from the tremendous number of comments received. Many were former service members or retirees. No question that all the time and effort spent pulling this short event off is well worth it.

Have already set one specific goal if we shall have our 4th annual event. That will be to have Verne, N5IEP make some contacts. Three years and he has never made a contact. Yup, good goal for next year.

Thanks again to everyone who helped in any way, shape or form to make our 3rd event a success. You endured wet/snowy weather, a cold garage and a different type of cook out to bring it off. And, a special thanks to the club for use of the call sign and club equipment.

Finally, will someone tell the Marine cook that hotdogs are supposed to be cooked on the outside, not black and crispy; and the inside is not supposed to be a Popsicle. Same goes for the burgers. (HI, HI)

VRY 73 de Karl, KB1DSB

TSRC "Lending Library"

One of the benefits of membership at the Twin State Radio club is the "Lending Library" where members may borrow equipment for a month with renewals at the discretion of the secretary. The primary purposes of this equipment is for the club to use in an emergency or during club functions. The secondary purpose is to let members experiment with a new band or different mode or as a "loaner" while their own rig is being repaired or for a new ham to get on the air right away. We have ATV equipment, HF transceivers, power supplies, antennas, 2 meter radios, etc. It is NOT intended to provide members with equipment permanently. If a person

has had a piece of equipment for more than a month and another requests it, he must return it.

If you would like to borrow some equipment, contact the secretary or another officer.

Nancy – N1QW lensmaam@mindpictures.com

Upgrade Sale

Yaesu VX-1R dual-band hand-held with speaker mic adaptor and AA battery case. \$50.00

Icom IC-2000 2 meter 50 watt with Larson KG-144 glass mount half wave antenna. \$75.00

73, Kim Kimura - KE1LF

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration

Registration opens Monday, June 3, for the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001), Monday, June 10, for the Level II course (EC-002), and Monday, June 17 for the Level III course (EC-003). Courses must be completed in order, starting with Level I. Registration for the Antenna Modeling course (EC-004) opens Monday, June 10. Registration for the HF Digital Course opens Monday, June 17. Registration on all dates begins at 4 PM Eastern Time. Beginning July 1, registration fees for all on-line courses will increase by \$5. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org.

Ham radio could have role in Phenomenon sequel:

Amateur Radio is poised to hit the big screen yet again in a movie tentatively titled Phenomenon II. Phenomenon debuted in 1996 and featured John Travolta and his ham operator friend Forest Whitaker. In one scene, Travolta's character appears to be able to copy RTTY transmissions by ear. For the original Phenomenon movie, ARRL provided several props for the ham radio shack. The sequel is still in the very early stages of development. A researcher working on checking facts in the script contacted ARRL to ask if operators actually used the term "CQ" when initiating contacts. She also told ARRL Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, that the possibility exists for the creation of a television series based on the Phenomenon movies. Hagy offered further assistance if needed. No further details were immediately available.

Disclaimer

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Upcoming Events

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

TSRC Meeting July 12, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

TSRC Meeting Aug. 10, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

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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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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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