

# The Monitor

June 2003



## Presidents Message

It's that time of year again when the club membership elects the officers for the next 12 months. Please make your voice heard and come out to vote at the meeting.

By now members have received a ballot in the mail on Constitution changes. We have to do it this way because we haven't had enough voting members attending meetings to have a vote. If you can't make the meeting please fill these out and return them as soon as you can so we can finish this process.

Also this month we will be visited by the VT Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator. If you would like to ask them questions about VT and the ARRL please feel free to join us.

Rex AA1KL is still looking for help on the Audrey Prouty this year. Please contact him if you can spare some time on July 12th.

Field Day is fast approaching and Dave W1IS has graciously accepted the reins as Field Day chairman. If you can help or are going to attend please contact him at dcschaller@earthlink.net. He will be in the upper valley shortly to get things rolling.

See everyone soon.

Verne N5IEP

## Upcoming Events

**TSRC Meeting**      June 14, 2003, 9:00am  
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

**Field Day**            June 27 - 29, 2003  
KUA, Meriden, NH

**TSRC Meeting**      July 12, 2003, 9:00am  
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

## Reminder

We will be voting on the Constitution and By-laws changes at this meeting. This vote was postponed from last month because we didn't have enough voting members present. If you are a voting member and your dues are paid, please plan to attend.

## My 2 Cents Worth – N0JSR

Drag out the soapbox, Sally, I've had a thought.

I am fortunate enough to spend a considerable amount of time with really bright, innovative people. I work daily with engineers, business people, staff, technicians, politicians (yes!) and service people who are driven, charismatic and resourceful. In addition, most of these people are leaders. Why? They are inspired to make "things" better, be it service, product or customer satisfaction on a local or national level. Sometimes, I even spend the second Saturday of each month with a group on these individuals discussing a favorite pasttime of ours: amateur radio. I don't mean to surprise you but, yes, these really are some bright, innovative and charismatic people!

So, here's the conundrum: this group of people (impassioned to enjoy amateur radio, to invite others to join, to write Constitutions so that we can work better, to support ARES and other activities so that we can practice this hobby in the event that we are called upon to provide such communication skills in time of need), bright as they are and wanting to better the Club, doesn't seem to want to lead it forward. It's a head scratcher.

The Nominating Committee identified candidates that it thought would best serve the Club; individuals with strong interests in both the technology and in the goals of the Club. To a person, none expressed an interest in assuming either of the top two positions in the Club's list of officers (President and Vice President). Yet, we have heard from these people that "things have to change" and "we have the same people rotating around in these positions". Opportunity lost.

Several members of the Nominating Committee considered seriously stepping down from the Committee so as to be placed on the ballot. Second thought prevailed; it would look kind of funny if the Nominating Committee, in essence, nominates itself...

What's amiss here? "Takes too much time..." If the role is a chore, then it will take too much time. Always. "I don't have enough experience to lead the group..." How many other activities have you joined and ultimately lead? What's differ-

## 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.

ent here? Do you want the group to focus on certain technologies, provide additional communications support, add new repeater technology, add new communication means? Perhaps a re-think of your place in the Club is merited.

The Club grows (I carefully did not say “survives” or “exists”) because the membership nurtures new members, touts locally new technologies and, don’t your know, just likes to be together. The Club also grows because the membership gets fired up about courses of action and pulls together to ensure success. However, if we just want to make sure the repeaters are working, then the Club will take on a different flavor.

I could argue easily that the membership is obligated (don’t react too harshly!) to foster the Club and, in time, take the helm. Variety is great and, with varying leadership, we can be assured of a broad spectrum of interests, energies and focus.

So, decide what you want for the Club. Decide how you want to help drive this group of great people forward. Decide how much time/effort you are willing to give. Then, let your interests be known and step up to the plate.

Now that the Nominating Committee has fulfilled its commitment to identify a slate of candidates for next year, you can bet that at least one of the Committee members will be stepping up his energy level within the Club!

Okay, down off the box. See you soon at the various TSRC events. Don’t forget to volunteer for the Prouty Ride, the 100-mile Endurance Run, the Covered Bridge Half Marathon, and on and on. Check out the club website. Let the radio coordinators for each event know your willingness to support. Stand by your commitment to the maximum extent possible.

Be of good cheer!

## For Sale:

Hallicrafters SX-122A dual conversion general coverage receiver and R-50 speaker. Covers .540 to 34 MHz and has AM, SSB, and CW modes, three selectivity positions, antenna trimmer and noise limiter.

This is arguably the last tube radio designed under founder Bill Halligan’s control of the company although this “A” model was built by Hallicrafters after it was sold to Northrop, and so it was built around 1970. The “A” is a minor update and has a coaxial antenna connector instead of a terminal strip.

Works fine and in very good clean condition physically. Only mod is a reasonably well matched slide switch next to the calibrator switch that turns on an added commercially built 500 kHz calibrator - which is extremely useful. It does have the normal 100 KHz optional calibrator.

Plenty of web references around, a good one is:  
<http://www.roveroresearch.com/sx122/sx122.html>

Will sell the pair (together only) for \$250. Can bring to the meeting.

73,

-Pete, WB2QLL, petef@sprynet.com 603.632.5707

## 2003 VERMONT CITY MARATHON

On Memorial Day weekend approximately 3000 marathon runners participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual 26.2 mile Vermont City Marathon. The weather on race day started with light rain, which stopped just as the race was getting started. The cool temperatures created almost ideal conditions for the runners. A 5-leg relay race was run simultaneously with the marathon, along the same route. Approximately 2400 additional relay runners participated, most of whom were capable of completing a 5+ mile leg. The radio Nets utilized two repeaters, and the Nets were much quieter than normal. There were fewer stalled runners needing Pickup Bus transport and fewer medical calls. The common problem among most Aid Stations this year was an inadequate supply of water cups.

This was the second year that the VCM utilized sensor chips. Each runner had to weave his shoe laces through a small electronic chip, attaching it to his shoe. A series of sensors across the road interrogated each chip, tracking each runner as he moved through the course. The system worked well.

The VCM Communications team included 43 licensed hams. My sincere thanks to Robert/K1WML, Rachel/KA1KHA, David/W1HRG, Stan/KB1JYH, Janet/KB1DSR, Derek/N1ZLN, Burton/K1RMF, Thomas/KB1DSO, Clair/W1CQD, Steve/N1EQP, Avi/K1AKE, Greg/KB2TON, Gladys/KB2VTI, Ron/N1LDT, Charlie/W1CHG, David/KD6RA, Chris/N6EUP, Steve/KB1IVE, Cliff/N1RYS, Chris/KB1EMC, Jim/N1UWV, Ray/KC1BT, Betty/KC1YW, John/N1WQS, Paul/KB2TBK, Doug/N1DTQ, Marcia/N1DSO, AJ/N1ZWL, Tyler/KB1GRI, Rick/W1RLR, Linda/W1MP, Mark/N1MR, Jay/K1UC, Geoffrey/KB1DSQ, Roger/K1CRS, Debbie/W1DEB, Jim/WB2OMZ, Tom/N1EXY, Mike/N1UFI, and Wayne/W1BHL. Special thanks to Mitch/W1SJ and Jeff/N1YWB, who helped in Net Control.

Finally, I’m happy to report that the number of amateur operators who had difficulty using their HT’s was significantly lower than last year. Most operators were able to program their HT’s for repeater offset operation, were able to program their HT’s to move to the secondary repeater frequency, and were able to transmit a signal into a repeater which was intelligible. Last year we had many problems in these areas.

Thanks again to all who helped with the event. I hope you had a good time. Thanks also to the radio amateurs who volunteered after the roster was already full. Please consider volunteering again next year!

Carl Phillips / KC1WH

## NEW 60-METER BAND TO BECOME AVAILABLE JULY 3!

The new five-channel 60-meter amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12:00 AM) local time on July 3. The local time designation means that amateurs in the US territory of Guam likely will be the first to get a crack at the new band.

The new band will be a secondary allocation--federal government users are primary--and the first on which the only permitted mode will be upper-sideband (USB) phone (emission type 2K8J3E). The FCC last month announced it would grant hams access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels instead of the 150 kHz-wide band ARRL had requested and the FCC initially proposed. The League remains optimistic, however, that Amateur Radio eventually may be able to enjoy a band segment with multiple mode privileges at 60 meters. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has said that in the meantime hams will have to be on their best behavior when taking advantage of the limited channelized allocation, open to General and higher class licensees.

The FCC has granted amateurs center-channel frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the amateur experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom <<http://www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk/5mhz.htm>>. To be "on channel," users of 60 meters should set their transmitted carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel-center frequency. In terms of day-to-day operation, the new band is expected to resemble the sort of channel sharing typical on local repeaters.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says hams need to be very careful if they're considering modifying their current transceiver or transmitter for 5 MHz. The ARRL advises that members check with the appropriate equipment manufacturers regarding specific modification information. Some modifications not only may void the warranty but could affect or alter a transmitter's operation in unpredictable ways.

"Hams need to be sure that any modifications put them right on the desired channel," Hare said. "Most hams are used to just having to think about band edges, so on other bands, if a mod were a bit 'off,' all operators would need to ensure is that they are not transmitting outside the band."

Hare recommended that on 5 MHz amateurs remain within "a few tens of Hertz" of suppressed-carrier accuracy. He also pointed out that hams have a mandate not to have any of their signal occupy spectrum outside the assigned 2.8 kHz channels.

Noting that high-frequency audio response can vary considerably from radio to radio, Hare has suggested restricting occupied channel audio bandwidth to 2600 Hz, rolling off below 200 Hz on the low end and above 2800 Hz on the high end.

Last-minute opposition to the granting of a band segment at 5 MHz came last year from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which cited the ongoing spectrum requirements of federal government licensees having home-

land security responsibilities. The NTIA administers spectrum allocated to the federal government. A compromise between the FCC and the NTIA resulted in the limited, channelized allocation.

The NTIA selected the channels the FCC authorized to minimize the possibility of interference to federal government users, and it dictated the use of USB so that federal government users--who also use only USB--could readily identify amateur stations if necessary.

The FCC has set maximum power at 50 W ERP and said it would consider a typical half-wave dipole to exhibit no gain.

## KID'S DAY II IS JUNE 21!

The second Kid's Day of 2003 will be June 21, from 1800-2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, offers a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, on-the-air event. Now in its ninth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants.

Kid's Day is intended as an opportunity to share Amateur Radio with young people--licensed or not--in the hope that they'll enjoy the experience and possibly pursue their own license in the future.

Activity for Kid's Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>> takes place on 20, 15 and 10 meters and can include local 2-meter repeaters. It's an opportunity to introduce your own youngsters, neighborhood kids and nieces and nephews to participate to the magic of ham radio and perhaps spark a lifelong love for the hobby.

Kid's Day is not a contest, and patience is a must. The role of the licensee and control operator is to help with the basics, keep an eye on the technical aspects of the operation, observe third-party traffic agreements and be sure to ID at the proper intervals. In this event, it's quality of the contacts that counts, not quantity.

The suggested exchange for Kid's Day is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station again if the operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Suggested frequencies are 14,270 to 14,300, 21,380 to 21,400 and 28,350 to 28,400 kHz, and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club <<http://jzap.com/k7rat/>>, the event now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation and assistance of the BARC.

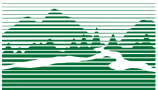
## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Verne Burden N5IEP (802) 295-7533  
vburden57@aol.com  
VP: Dave Colter WA1ZCN (603) 526-7120  
dbcolter@rcn.com  
Secretary: Nancy Maynard N1QW (802) 295-6080  
Lensmaam@mindpictures.com  
Treasurer: David Haseman KE1IW (603) 675-2678  
David.B.Haseman@dartmouth.edu  
Trustee: Dave Landry KA1CRP (603) 448-5788  
JDLandry@innevi.com  
Editor: Mike Maynard, K1IH (802) 295-2650  
Lensman@mindpictures.com

## ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

\*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>  
\*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nhradio.org/>  
\*Tom Frenaye K1KI-NE Div. Dir. [k1ki@arrl.org](mailto:k1ki@arrl.org)  
\*Al Shuman, N1FIK, NH SM [n1fik@arrl.org](mailto:n1fik@arrl.org)  
\*Dale Drake, AA1QD, NH ACC [aa1qd@arrl.net](mailto:aa1qd@arrl.net)  
\*Paul N. Gayet, AA1SU, VT SM [aa1su@arrl.org](mailto:aa1su@arrl.org)  
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>



Twin State Radio Club, Inc.  
PO Box 5078  
Hanover, NH 03755