

# The Monitor



June 2006

## Upcoming Events

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

## Message from the President

Summer is here and that means lots of activities for HAMs and in particular for the Twin State Radio Club. Our new communications trailer has arrived at World Headquarters and is ready for outfitting. The 2m repeater on Moose Mt. will soon see the return of our primary equipment enabling us to get back to near 100w. Field day is just a few short weeks away and all those public service/safety events are popping up all over. Just this past weekend I heard a net being held on the repeater for the Vermont Half-Marathon. I also noticed a pretty decent opening to the midwest for Sporadic-E on 6m last week. There's something for everyone!

As for Field Day, we have very little formally planned at this point other than meeting at WHQ around midday on June 23d, possibly after a group lunch. At that point we will sort through and load up the various pieces of club gear needed for the event. I am bringing tables and chairs along with an Easy-Up shade canopy, a screen tent and my generator. The trailer will be used to bring tower, antennas, feedline and any other gear we may need. We still need someone to arrange for the "portable facilities". I think Ken will address this on Saturday. As a reminder: the event will be held this year at Townsend Farm on Storrs Hill Rd. in Lebanon.

Our field day event has taken on different aspects over the years. I really don't know how this year will shape up but I think operating 2A and using a simple setup will be a good place to start. One thing is certain: it will be as fun as we make it. I will also be testing our two FT-990 HF radios along with Writelog prior to the event. Anyone interested in helping or learning about that process is welcome to help out. Just email or call me.

On another note, SGARES conducted a test of APRS over the Prouty bike ride course on May 27<sup>th</sup>. While results were not perfect we did learn much about the technology involved. We will be con-

ducting an additional test June 17<sup>th</sup> which should provide our final validation prior to the Prouty event proper. Much thanks go out to Bill, WB1BRE, Glen, N1NKC and all the others who participated in the test. Bill's digi covers a very large portion of the 100-mile course and will prove essential.

I do have to apologize in advance for my absence at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. I will not be available Saturday due to work-related responsibilities. Ken, AC1H will be chairing the meeting. We will of course be holding our annual election for officers so please come and participate.

Finally, I want to extend an invitation to anyone and everyone to contact me or any of the club officers on any matter relating to the club or its various affairs. We are your servants. As such, our primary responsibility is to listen to the membership. While it is not always possible to make everyone happy, everyone likes to know they are at least being heard.

Thanks to everyone for what they bring to the club.

73 de N8RPD  
William Daugherty  
TSRC President

## REPORT OF THE TSRC 2006 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the March, 2006 meeting of the Twin State Radio Club, President William N8RPD called for volunteers to form the club nominating committee to select and recommend a slate of officers for the 2006-2007 club year.

**Bylaws- The president (chairperson) appoints two or more club voting members no later than the March meeting. The committee is to provide recommendations for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.**

Dave Haseman KE1IW and Bill Burden WB1BRE volunteered to be on the committee, satisfying the minimum by-law requirement. The committee was tasked to present a recommended slate no later than the May meeting.

Prior to the April club meeting, Dot Burden KA1LDS was asked, and agreed to serve on the nominating committee. The com-

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mittee reported the recommended slate of officers to the club at the April meeting:

President- William Daugherty N8RPD  
Vice-President- Ken Tentarelli AC1H  
Secretary- Nancy Maynard N1QW  
Treasurer- Chuck Sherman N3WTO

The report was accepted by the President. At this point, Robert's Rules indicate that the nominating committee's task is complete and the committee is dissolved, unless otherwise directed by the President.

**Bylaws- The officers, with the exception of the station trustee, shall be elected at the June meeting of the club. The station trustee has an indefinite term.**

The June election requires that there be a quorum of at least 20% of the voting membership as of the June meeting- that includes voting members and junior voting members. At the June election, the President may open the floor to nominations, in addition to the recommended slate provided by the nominating committee.

**By-Laws- A simple majority of a quorum is required for election of a club officer.**

The new officers begin their terms at Field Day-2006.

*For the nominating committee,*  
Bill Burden WB1BRE

## SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

On June 14th, 2006 at 6:00 PM in Room 103 of the Research and Education Building at the VA Hospital in WRJ, VT, personnel from the Burlington Office of NOAA will present a two-hour training for anyone interested in assisting NOAA as a Skywarn Spotter.

Date: June 14th, 2006

Food and Sign-in: 5:30 PM sign-in and food.

Training: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Training.

Place: Research and Education Building, Room 103 at the VA Hospital in WRJ

[From I91 North or South take the White River Jct. Exit, at the end of the exit ramp go West about 300 feet west of I91 to the entrance to the parking lot, which is on your right. Park in the first lot on your left. As you view the VA Hospital from the parking lot the Research and Education Bldg is on the right end of the building.]

You have probably noticed a statement at the end of an Hazardous Weather Outlook message from NOAA requesting information from Skywarn Spotters or the statement: "SKYWARN SPOTTER ACTIVATION IS NOT ANTICIPATED." This is the training provided by NOAA for volunteers who wish to assist NOAA as Skywarn Spotters.

The training class will be about two hours in duration.

Please RSVP on or before June 12th 2006 to

Bill Kearns bkearns@swrcpc.org 674-9201 or

Kevin Geiger kgeiger@trorc.org 457-3188

We need to know the number of persons attending in order to provide the space and the food. Thanks.

This training is open to all who hear about it and have a passion for service and watching the weather. Please invite your friends and neighbors. This will be the one and only Skywarn Spotter training in this area.

LEPC #3 and #12 are co-hosting this training.

Food will be provided.

## APRS: what is it and how do I get started?

Automatic Packet/Position Reporting System (APRS) is a blending of VHF Packet and GPS technologies. If you want to get started the best way (like much in HAM radio) is to listen first. Connect your 2m radio's speaker jack to your computer's line-in/mic-in jack and you have all the hardware you need to start tracking APRS stations. If you already have a TNC connected to your radio you can skip the sound card cable.

The next step is to figure out how to make use of those APRS packets that you can hear on 144.390, which is the national APRS frequency for the US. A very popular choice is UIView32 software. If using the soundcard option there's one other software piece. AGWPE is a virtual TNC that uses your computer's soundcard to emulate a true TNC. If you are only listening (many tracking stations never transmit) you only need that sound cable mentioned above. If you want to transmit also you will need an interface device like a soundblaster or Buxcomm "Li'l Rascal". These devices are much less expensive than a modern TNC but are of course not capable of stand-alone operation like a TNC is.

Once the radio is connected to the PC and the APRS tracking software is installed you are ready to start tracking. Many of the latest versions of APRS tracking software have fairly good instructions on how to use online mapping sources to populate the software. For UIView32 Precision Maps 7 is a very popular choice. The software integrates seamlessly right in to UIView32 and doesn't require an Internet connection.

Many other ways of building a tracking station exist. WinAPRS is also very popular. Kenwood now makes an all-hardware solution that works with the D700A mobile radio. So whatever your budget or interest there are many ways to watch your HAM friends as they travel about. You can also see lots of Weather data and short messages on APRS.

Have fun with it!

William  
N8RPD

## TWIN STATE RADIO CLUB TOPS IN VERMONT IN JANUARY VHF SWEEPS...AGAIN!

Well, we did it again! TSRC was the highest scoring operation in Vermont in the 2006 January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. We were the only club operation in Vermont and outscored three other operations. In New England, it was surprising to note that there were only three club operations for the contest-- we came in second behind the Connecticut AM Society. In terms of all New England contest operations, we were 18th out of 76 entries- in the top 25%. Many thanks to the team- AC1H, KA1UAG, K1XH, N8RPD and N3WTO- for another exciting and successful contest. As I had mentioned in another article, the turkey did not survive the Saturday night feed!!

We ran 500 wts on 432, 375 wts on 2M and 100 wts on 6M. Clearly, more power on 6 would make a big difference and increase the multipliers significantly. That's a major goal for the 2007 VHF Sweeps! I am hoping to do the fall VHF contest with a few hundred watts on 6M and maybe the logging computers tied together to check everything out before the winter winds blow!

### OUR SCORE FOR 2006-

Total QSO's- 172

Multipliers- 64

Total Score- 13,440

Bill WB1BRE



### Member Station

Mike had mentioned the idea of articles on member's stations for the club newsletter. As many of you know, I have been working on my "ideal" station setup for the past couple of years. After 30 years in Ham radio, one tends to accumulate a lot of equipment, rigs, antennas, etc. When I began this project, I decided to put together a station that would start at 80M and include HF, VHF, UHF and microwave operations, SSB, CW, and various digital modes.

Originally, I had stations scattered around my shop in the garage with coax feeds to various antennas. One big event that focused my efforts was the major lightning strike that we had a couple of years ago. It took out some of my rigs and I spent a year replacing equipment and working with my insurance company. The outcome was very satisfactory (if you can characterize spending a year recovering from a lightning hit satisfactory) and actually helped me to incorporate some safety and improved operating features in the final design.

I say design, as the concept was to emulate the wrap-around console approach that one sees in so many pictures of dispatch centers, etc to consolidate all operations at one position. I have a standard sized desk in the shop and used that as the base for the console.

I did a console design in three sections, using plywood construction and attached them together on the desk to achieve the "wrap-around" effect. Careful design of shelf spacing allowed me to include nine radios, two TNCs and a couple of hand-made mode switching boxes. In addition, I had room for books and other paperwork on the top two shelves. With the exception of the HF rig, any of the other radios and TNCs can be powered from a 12 v power supply or from one of two large lead-acid batteries (with chargers) at the flick of a switch. The HF rig can be quickly attached to a battery if needed.

At the center of the console is an HP Pavilion computer with a 17" screen and a 40 Gb hardrive. The computer runs RTTY, PSK31, PSK63 and PACTOR1 software on selectable radios. In addition, I have a wide variety of information screens- repeater directory, net schedules, AirMail S/W, etc and digital mode S/W for call-up at a keystroke.

All antennas now use hard-line feeds into a ten connector bulk-head plate on the north wall of the shop. I can disconnect up to ten antennas in less than 30 seconds if there is any danger of thunder or lightning. I also learned to add quick disconnect plugs to the three rotor control boxes for safety.

In the accompanying picture, the left hand section of the console holds two- 2M rigs, two TNCs and a 220 rig. The center section holds a 2M all-mode rig and a ten meter all-mode rig. The right hand section includes a 6M all-mode rig, a 902 Mhz rig, a 2M/440 dual band rig and an HF rig.

Logging is done on the computer and paper printouts come from a recently added printer. The computer is also connected to Internet dial-up for Email/WWW and I am active on Telpac/AirMail.

I want to acknowledge the many people who have helped in making this "dream" station possible- Dave KA1UAG, Joe KB1FDA, Rex AA1KL, Rich W1HZN, Dave KU1R (SK), Verne N5IEP and many others who helped in the project in ways they may not realize. A special thanks to the club inventory manager, Nancy N1QW for the continuing loan of the club-owned 220 Mhz rig. The station is the result of a vision helped by many suggestions and helping hands over a period of two years.

I hope to see many of you in upcoming contest activities or to just to "play" at the console!

73, Bill WB1BRE

## CLUB OFFICERS

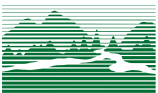
President: William Daugherty, N8RPD (603) 359-3745  
william@will-do.com  
VP: Ken Tentarelli, AC1H (603) 763-9296  
Secretary: Nancy Maynard N1QW (802) 295-6080  
Lensmaam@mindpictures.com  
Treasurer: David Haseman KE1IW (603) 675-2678  
David.B.Haseman@dartmouth.edu  
Trustee: Dave Landry KA1CRP (603) 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.arrlnh.org/>  
\*Tom Frenaye K1KI-NE Div. Dir. [k1ki@arrl.org](mailto:k1ki@arrl.org)  
\*R. Sterling Eanes, AK1K, NH SM [ak1k@arrl.org](mailto:ak1k@arrl.org)  
\*Dale Drake, AA1QD, NH ACC [aa1qd@arrl.net](mailto:aa1qd@arrl.net)  
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>

## It's Here!



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