

The Monitor

June 2007



Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	June 9, 2007, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
Field Day	June 23-24, 2007 Details TBA
The Prouty	July 14, 2007 Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	July 21, 2007, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH

Message from the President

Field Day! That pretty much sums up what's on my mind for ham radio right about now. For me Field Day has always been a chance to really indulge my radio habit. I usually devote a good portion of the three days to the event and I have always enjoyed it. Since joining TSRC I have attended every Field Day event the club has hosted. This has given me the chance to get to know other members and the various ham and non-ham visitors who come to the event. This is what I truly enjoy the most about it. Then of course there is the operating: Point those beams southwest, find an open frequency and have a ball! If anyone reading this has never worked Field Day from other parts of the county, you might not appreciate what an enviable position we have here in New England. Geography dictates that almost all of the continental US is within a 90 degree arc centered on southwest. Not only that but there are relatively few New Hampshire stations on the air compared to most other states. This makes it an awful lot of fun.

We are working feverishly (well, maybe semi-feverishly) on the preparations for this year's event. Volunteers have begun to come forward but we still have openings for a number of positions of responsibility. Field Day is only as good as you make it, so please plan on attending this month's meeting which will be devoted to planning of this year's event.

At this month's meeting we will also hold our annual elections for club officers. Again, you decide how the club will manage by participating in the democratic process.

See you at the club meeting!

73 de KX1Y
William Daugherty
TSRC President

Programs: Past, Present, Future

If you weren't at the May TSRC meeting you missed an informative presentation on "Operating in contests using a modest station" given by Mill K1IB with assistance by Dan K1DAN. The talk ran the gamut from equipment suggestions to operating techniques, and included tips on where to get operating aids such as free logging software. Mill proved that it can be done by showing certificates that he and Dan won in recent contests.

With so many contests being held throughout the year you can start with an edge by choosing favorable contests (for example, scoring in certain contests can favor stations New England) and favorable entry classes. Mill emphasized that the greatest satisfaction will come by setting your own goals for each contest. As a newcomer with a modest station you shouldn't expect to win the CQ worldwide DX contest, but a realistic goal might be qualifying for DXCC during the weekend.

K1DAN enjoys operating PSK and RTTY contests. Later in the year he may give us a talk on those modes -- what they are, where and when there is activity, and why those are great modes for low power and qrp stations.

Our June meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning, and the July meeting will be a Field Day recap. You can help with the recap by going to Field Day with a digital camera and a notepad. Take lots of pictures and make lots of notes so at the July recap we can talk about all the things that went well, the one or two things that didn't, and how to have even more fun next year.

Nominating Committee

At this month's meeting we will be holding our annual election for club officers. The proposed slate of Officers for the new term are:

President; William Daugherty, KX1Y
Vice President; Ken Tentarelli, AC1H
Secretary, Dan Allen, K1UM
Treasurer; Chuck Sherman, N3WTO

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Have you paid your dues yet?

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Section Manager Election Results Announced

In the only contested Section Manager race in the spring election cycle, Sterling Eanes, AK1K, has been re-elected to a second term as ARRL New Hampshire Section Manager. He received 277 votes, while challenger Russell Santos, K1TSV, polled 236 votes. Ballots were counted May 22 at ARRL Headquarters.

A radio amateur since 1962, Eanes has a keen interest in emergency communications and Field Day. He also offers a training program for those who climb towers and provide ground support, so they can put up towers and antennas safely and efficiently.

Elsewhere, John Dyer, AE5B, will be returning to the West Texas Section Manager's post he once held when he succeeds outgoing SM Bill Lawless, W5WRL, who did not run for a new term. Dyer, who ran unopposed in the current election cycle, served as West Texas SM from October 2002 through June 2005.

Several incumbent SMs faced no opposition in their bids for new terms and were declared elected: Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, Rhode Island; Jim Cross, WI3N, Maryland-DC; Dick Flanagan, K7VC, Nevada; Charles McConnell, W6DPD, San Joaquin Valley; and Mel Parkes, NM7P, Utah.

Terms for all successful candidates in the current election cycle begin July 1.

A re-solicitation for nominations for Section Manager in Northern New Jersey will be announced in July and August editions of QST.

RILEY – “LIGHTEN UP” ON HAM BANDS

FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth's main message at the Dayton Hamvention@ <<http://www.hamvention.org>> 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating -- at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

“Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to church instead,” Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. “I've got you now.”

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio community needs to “lighten up” on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. “All of you can learn from each other,” he said, “and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio.”

As radio amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important -- the best interests of ham radio or their ego, pride or perceived “rights.”

“I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative -- and I need you to take this message with you when you go home,” he continued.

As a “homework assignment,” Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the “It Seems to Us . . .” editorial, “Most Effective Use” <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/05/01/1/>>, by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 QST. In his commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands “is simply a fact of life” and that it's “unfair to your fellow amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act.”

Hollingsworth offered good news and bad news. “The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio,” he allowed. “It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis.”

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to “road rage,” is “that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally.”

Hollingsworth urged all radio amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

“We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over into the ham bands,” he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the “big knob” on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the “thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any given time of day or year” as necessary to avoid problems. “The world is ugly enough -- don't add to it,” Hollingsworth advised.

“We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense,” Hollingsworth concluded. “And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN -- Ed] once told me: ‘You can't regulate stupid.’ If we could, we'd be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC.”

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically controlled digital stations would overwhelm the amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a “listen-before-transmit” protocol.”

When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: “Your call sign, your responsibility.”

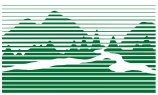
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
Make it your default start page!
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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