



The Monitor

July 2007



Message from the President

It has been a busy few weeks for area hams. We had Field Day at the end of June and last weekend was the Prouty bike/walk event. FD was a success with almost 900 QSOs for the event and over 25 participants. We even tried digital modes for the first time. Congratulations to the various members, guests and visitors on making this year's event a great experience.

The Prouty was a chance for hams to really show what we can do. The primary communications system failed almost immediately and once again, ham radio stepped in to fill the breach. There is no question in my mind that our involvement was essential to the safety and security of the event. Countless participants and event staff thanked us for our efforts.

This month's club meeting will be a debrief on both these events.

Our elections were held last month at the meeting and I'm delighted to welcome Dan Allen, N1UM, as our new Secretary. Ken Tentarelli, AC1H, and Chuck Sherman, N3WTO, retain their positions as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. I've taken over the duties of Newsletter Editor and Paul Thompson, Jr., KB1LSO, has agreed to become our new webmaster. I think we are in for another exciting year.

See you at the club meeting!

73 de KX1Y
William Daugherty
TSRC President

Disclaimer

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N1YMQ and KB1HWP knocking 'em down at Field Day

Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	July 21, 2007, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	August 11, 2007, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH



AA1KL and Steve Pixley inside the Prouty comm center

To the Amateur Community:

I want to thank the clubs, individual Amateur Radio operators, and ARES for again supporting the annual Prouty bike and walk challenge benefitting the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. In this 26th year of the Prouty , bike and walker numbers were up significantly and communications became more challenging and critical to a safe and enjoyable experience for all the participants.

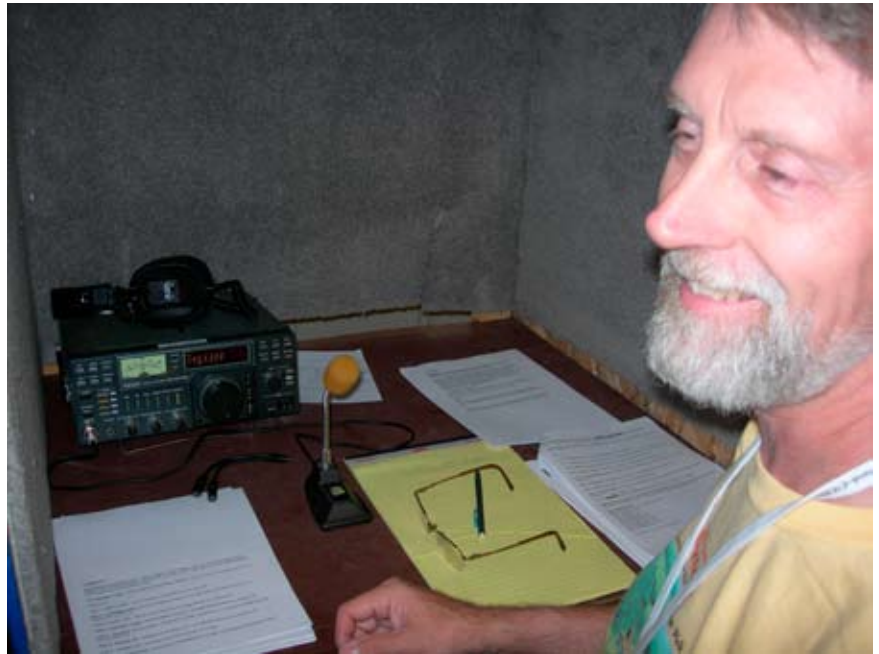
Just to summarize the magnitude of the event, we had a total of 3523 participants riding 25, 50 and 100 mile routes and walking on four walk routes covering an area bounded by Hanover, NH on the south, Warren, NH to the east, Woodsville, NH and Wells River, VT to the north and down the VT side of the Connecticut River on the west. This is one of the more challenging regions for VHF communications in the area.

I want to single out Rex Carr AA1KL for the incredible planning and Ham recruitment efforts he personally put into the event. Without Rex's leadership, and the support of so many Hams, the communications resources would have been very limited. Rex spent a lot of his own time on weekends, and time generating plans and Email messages putting the Amateur Radio network together and it proved, once again, to be the key communications system for the Prouty.

There will be a post-Prouty review of this year's event, chaired by the Prouty Steering Committee, on Tuesday, July 17, into which Rex and others will provide critical critique of their communications experiences and recommendations for next year. I will be at this review and plan to support and advocate for communications improvements, including those recommend for Amateur Radio.

Incidentally, I will be doing post-Prouty reviews with the first responder communities in NH and VT (State Police, local constables, sheriffs and police, ambulance services and EMS) to get their input on communications improvement as well.

As we move the organization of Prouty further toward the Incident Command Structure (ICS) concept, we



WA1ZCN, tired but happy with a job well done

look forward to working with the Amateur Community as our key communications support system for Prouty Operations.

Again, thanks to all for your support and we look forward to working with you all next year!

73, Bill Burden WB1BRE
Prouty Communications Coordinator

TSRC W1FN Repeater Report:

The 2 meter 145.33 repeater is back on its old antenna and has its familiar coverage except when it is getting interference. There is still occasional intermod coming from a mix of a paging transmitter and another carrier that has yet to be determined. Sometimes it is non-existent, sometimes weak, and sometimes almost as strong as many local signals. We are trying to determine the source, but no known mix of frequencies has been able to explain the interference which is coming in on our receive frequency. This unfortunately means that it cannot be solved by additional filtering on our end. We have to find the source. Also, we have heard some evidence of duplex noise of unknown origin, a crackling noise when our transmitter is on, but it appears to be only intermittent.

We have upgraded the antenna on the 443.55 repeater to a 4-bay twinned-element DB Products antenna that has greatly increased its coverage. We have someone in Alstead who was able to get in weakly on the old antenna but is nearly full quieting on the new one. Thank you to Dave #2 WA1ZCN for installing the antenna up on the tower. This change allowed the link to Joe KB1FDA's 147.21 repeater to work flaw-

lessly during the Prouty Ride. Thank you to all, especially to Joe, for their efforts in setting that up. When linked, by using a 100 Hz PL tone on the 147.21 repeater it is passed through to the W1FN system.

That leaves only the 220 antenna to be replaced to complete our antenna work. This, when the 220 link radio also returns to the mountain, should give good coverage for linking Echolink or other portable repeaters into the system.

The repeater went down recently after a thunderstorm. While we feared the worst, the problem on our end thankfully turned out to be that one of our 2 back-up batteries had not been reconnected after one of the recent trips on the mountain (one battery powers the controller and 440 radio and one powers the 2 meter radio). Once reconnected, the repeater came back up and demonstrated that our back-up system does indeed work. However, the reason that the problem was seen was that the mains power had gone out and the Public Service back-up generator once again did not start! It is certainly clear why we and several other systems up there have installed battery back-up systems.

Finally, what had been unfortunately rare DX on the repeater, Dave #1 KA1CRP, has been heard more often on the repeater. I understand this is due to a new radio in his truck. Welcome back, Dave!

73 to all,
David #4 N1HAC
TSRC Repeater Manager

Are hams relevant for modern emergency communications?

I just saw a film this week that included a plot element wherein all commercial and military communications were unavailable. No cell phones, land lines, Internet, TXT messaging, satellite phones, IM'ing, Vonage, nothing. A Senior FBI official fails to get anything that he can use to make a phone call at a critical moment. Ironically the hero of the film uses a CB (portrayed by a 2m FM mobile rig) to contact another "good guy" to provide the hero with vital information he uses to save the day.

Sound crazy? The plot of the film was based on a Wired magazine article entitled "A Farewell to Arms" written by John Carlin that basically assumes that as more parts of our lives become controlled by ever-more-networked computers, the more vulnerable we are to cyber-terrorism.

So, what has this got to do with ham radio? Perhaps you caught the reference to CB radio in the first paragraph. Well, as most of us know CB radio is pitiful in its utility compared to any respectable ham station, mobile or fixed. In the event of a true communications disaster, ham radio would almost certainly be the best game in town.

Last night I participated in a New Hampshire Amateur Radio Emergency Services (NH ARES) communications drill that included members of the Rapid Emergency Deployment (RED) team spread across the state. We all set up in temporary locations, preferably near an actual emergency deployment location, and operated a brief net to determine our statewide communications capabilities.

Every station participating could hear every other station except one fellow who was having a bit of a problem with his temporary antenna. Everyone had only a few minutes to set up and we were all using emergency power. My antenna was a 131 ft. dipole at 5 ft. above the ground. This antenna was easily hung in some small trees outside a school gymnasium. I heard many regional stations very strongly and almost no stations outside New England. For the purposes of statewide emergency comms I don't know how we could do much better.

So, in answer to the original question, I think it is clear that yes, hams are perhaps more relevant than at any time in a generation in terms of emergency communications.

William Daugherty
KX1Y



N1YMQ, K1DAN, KB1ELY and WB9MHI make short work of the last tower at Field Day

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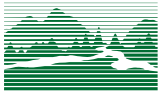
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KA1LDS operating at Field Day



I just never get tired of looking at those tri-banders!