



The Monitor



August 2005

Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting August 13, 2005, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH
- TSRC Meeting September 10, 2005, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH

Message from the President:

In an effort to better understand the cycle of interest and apathy that seems to affect most clubs from time to time, I have been observing the responses to various volunteer activities that TSRC and other ham radio club members typically involve themselves in. It's my impression that many of these events are also showing signs of waning interest and participation. This makes me wonder if some of us are just becoming overwhelmed with our myriad activities and somewhat burned out with ham radio and other "extracurricular" activities.

Repeater activity seems to be down. There's an awful lot of silence when I am tuned in these days. Meeting attendance has been substantially less than it was only a few years ago when we had trouble finding a place large enough to accommodate everyone. Perhaps we are in a low period of the "cycle" and simply have to wait for the next peak to come along. I hope that is the case but time will tell.

Meanwhile, I have heard a few ideas about generating new interest and regenerating dormant enthusiasm for club meetings and other club activities. I have even had one or two of my own. I believe there are ways to do this and to keep our ham radio activities interesting, fun and gratifying. The TSRC officers are discussing a few projects that will be different from anything this group has attempted in the past. They are challenging and, in my opinion, exciting. Watch for more information about these in the near future. We will also be continuing the "guest speaker" program that was initiated by our past vice president, Ed Feustel (N5IE). Our current VP, William Daughert (N8RPD) has generously offered to continue this legacy and has some great ideas in that regard.

Finally, I urge all members and all amateur radio operators to remain aware of the fragile status of our hobby. I'm sure you are all aware of the recent decision to do away with the Morse Code requirement for amateur licensing. Those of you who are involved with any of the military radio programs such as MARS are also aware that Morse Code has actually been forbidden on all military frequencies since 1997. If we allow ourselves to be lulled into complacency we might find ourselves with reduced privileges and diminished frequency ranges in which to ply our radio activities. Visibility, coordination and education will be critical in maintaining the privileges and frequencies we enjoy today. Please do what you can to preserve and further amateur radio and never assume that our hobby is safe from those who covet what we have been privileged to use.

As always, my thanks go out to our dedicated club officers, William (N8RPD), Nancy (N1QW), Dave (KE1IW) and our newsletter editor, Mike (K1IH) for their efforts on behalf of our club. I am grateful to them.

I hope to see you all this Saturday for our regular monthly meeting! Please join me at the DHMC cafeteria on the lower level at 9:00 a.m. Anyone with an interest in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) can arrive an hour earlier and participate in the Southern Grafton ARES meeting in the same location.

73,
Charlie Wilber, N1AOK
President, Twin State Radio Club

JAN VHF SWEEPS RESULTS AND PLANS FOR SEPT VHF QSO PARTY

The scores on the January Sweeps are out and TSRC is hovering around the top quarter in New England in terms of score. Nationally, we were just into the top 25%. Both these positions are very similar to last year's results, although our score was down considerably this year.

Propagation probably accounted for the lower score and the problem was similar across the country. In Vermont, there were only three entries and I have summarized the results here:

| | Score | QSOs | Multipliers | Class |
|----------------|--------|------|-------------|--------------|
| N1JEZ (Mike)-- | 11,741 | 137 | 59 | Single op |
| TSRC | 7,544 | 134 | 46 | Multi, multi |
| KA1BSZ | 21 | 7 | 3 | Single op |

Mike was operating from his location and had a couple more bands than we did. Note that the QSO count was within 3 and that the multipliers made the difference in score. I would assume that Mike having 1KW on 6M versus our 100wts was a big factor. But even with that power limitation, we held our approximate scoring position in New England and nationally.

And we had a lot of fun. With the new tower setups, there was much less time spent outside and more time operating.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party will be on the weekend of September 10-12, 2005. Start time is 2PM on Saturday and end of the contest is 11PM on Sunday.

Disclaimer

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I am inviting anyone who would like to participate in this contest as a club activity to join us at the home QTH in Strafford, VT for part or all of the weekend. We have sleeping accommodations for 8-10 people (beds available, bring your own sleeping bags or bedding). We will provide the Saturday night meal and we encourage "Potluck" participation by anyone who has a special recipe.

By the time September arrives we will have completed the work on the 6M tower and will have vertical and horizontal 6M beams in place. We will be able to work 6M, 2M, 222Mhz, 70Cm and 900 Mhz from our location. Any additional band equipment is welcome. This will be the first time we will have done the VHF contest in the fall, and operating in comfortable temperatures, snow free, may take some getting used to!!

At this point we have 500 wts for 70CM and 25 wts for 222 Mhz. Amps for 2M and 6M will be needed. It would be good to get 300-500 wts on 2M and anything up to a KW on 6M. 900 Mhz will be a limited operation and we hope to catch a rover on three adjoining grids. All antennas except the 222 yagi are now fed with hard-line, thanks to Joe KB1FDA, Dave KA1UAG and Rich W1HZN. I hope to have hard-line on 222 before the contest.

Drop me a note if you are interested in participating for a few hours or for the whole contest. Also let me know if you can help with any of the amplifier needs.

73, Bill WB1BRE



“You Missed This”

Well, you missed the club meeting. You are not alone in this. The next meeting is Saturday, 13 August at 9:00 (0900hrs) in the Mary Hitchcock Medical Center Cafeteria.

The things we discussed in the July meeting were:

The commo van is still ours - though we may start listing it on EBay. There have been some folks interested in the truck, but once viewed - well - it's still ours

The “way huge” trailer, that Alan Bradford so generously donated to the club, needs some minor repairs before it can be offered for sale.

David Colter - WA1ZCN - is arranging for replacement parts and looking for someone to help with some minor welding.

You also missed receiving your Twin State Radio Club bumper sticker that Mike Maynard - K1IH - created. It looks Great. If you see one of them ask the driver if (s)he has another one for you. You may be pleasantly surprised with the answer.

There are lots of upcoming events that need your help if you have time, equipment, and interest. They're listed on the club's website: <http://www.w1fn.org/> Give the contact person a call if you can help.

Charlie Wilbur brought in his K2 Transceiver. It is the one the club used during Field Day. It's a sweet rig and built from a kit.

Speaking of kits, my QRP produced a prodigious volume of blue smoke at the last use. I'm looking for folks who are interested in Rig/equipment assembly. If you're one of those folks, give me a shout or return email and we'll get some hams together with soldering irons, solder, kits, and Magnifying lenses (yes I need them too) and we'll find a day and time to get together and do some construction/assembly.

William Daugherty brought one of his “Go Kits” to a meeting last year and has offered to tell us how he did it. If your interested, send him an Email (I'm already on his list) and let's see if we can get together and make one for our car/truck/RV/basement.

Oh, and this month's QST is the annual antenna issue. If you want to assemble a wire antenna, give us a shout and we'll find a field, antenna analyzer, coax, and a connector and we'll make one with you. David #9 Haseman - KE1IW - has offered to shoot a pull line over any tree under 100' tall to get the antennas in the air.

That's about it for now.

More Later,
73,

David #9 - The Bowman - Haseman - KE1IW -

CLUB OFFICERS

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|----------------------------------|---|
| President: Charlie Wilber, N1AOK | (603) 643-2914 n1aok@arll.net |
| VP: William Daugherty, N8RPD | (603) 469-3005 william@will-do.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 |