

The Monitor

August 2006



Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	August 12, 2006, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
ARRL NE Convention	August 25-27, 2006 Boxboro, MA
CHAD Half Marathon	August 26, 2006 Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	September 9, 2006, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
VHF Contest	September 9-10, 2006
Reach The Beach Relay	September 15-16, 2006
Hosstraders	October 6-7, 2006 Hopkinton, NH
TSRC Meeting	October 14, 2006, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH

Message from the President

Greetings.

I've been pretty busy with work and personal things so I haven't got a lot to say this month. Our last meeting was fairly well attended for a July meeting but I'm hoping to get more attendance at the next few meetings. We are going to hear a presentation on Direction Finding and perhaps even hold a "foxhunt" apart from the regular meeting. We also are still trying to coordinate N1RX's presentation on kit building, which is quite impressive. The trailer committee will be holding a meeting soon to start planning for the fit-out work so stay tuned if interested.

As always I am interested in hearing from you, the members of TSRC with your questions, comments, thoughts, suggestions or ideas.

73 de N8RPD
William Daugherty, TSRC President

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.

August Meeting

This could be your big chance.

Are you one of those hams who regularly gathers treasures at Hosstraders? Then you're bound to be the proud owner of some special trinket that would make you the envy of fellow TSRC members -- if only they knew of your precious find. Well, the August meeting could be the chance to prove your skill at collecting valuable ham radio tokens. The August meeting has been designated as the member show and tell meeting. Everyone is invited to bring a ham radio related item to show at the meeting.

Even if you aren't a treasure (junk?) collector you should have no problem in finding some item to bring. Perhaps you have a new HT that you enjoy using. If so, bring it along and give other club members the chance to see it. Have you worked a DX station that you are especially proud of? If so, bring the QSL card to show. (Does anyone have a QSL card from an astronaut?)

Even simple items are good candidates for sharing. Some new members might never have seen a piece of 600 Ohm ladder line, or a high power transmitting tube, or a Heathkit. The meeting format will be simple: we'll just go around the room and everyone can show and tell what they brought. No speeches necessary.

I already know what I'm going to bring. It's a home made item that nobody in their right mind would bother making. At one time they were available from various manufacturers, but I don't think anyone makes them anymore. However, it does have two distinct functions and you can purchase items that perform one of the functions. You don't need to buy anything to do the other function because it has been absorbed into most HF rigs. Can you guess what it is? Come to the August meeting and see if you're right.

Ken AC1H

TSRC E-mail Reflector

Are you a TSRC member and not on the Club e-mail reflector? Are you on it and need to change your e-mail address or other information? Do you want to be removed from the list?

Then point your web browser to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/tsrc> Follow the instructions there and you will be able to do all of these!

The TSRC reflector is a good place to get or give help. list equipment for sale, announce your results in the last contest, recruit volunteers for a public service event, and more!

So, go to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/tsrc> and join the fun!

CHAD Half Marathon

Despite the relatively short notice, some TSRC members have decided to help provide communications for the CHAD (Children's Hospital At Dartmouth) half marathon race on Saturday, August 26. After all, the event is for a good cause and since it's just a half marathon it won't take that much time: starting gun sounds at 4:30 PM and the official end time will be 7:30 PM.

Last year race participants raised \$57,000 for the benefit of the hospital and this year their goal is \$100,000. The top fund raiser this year has a goal of \$1500 and she already has pledges exceeding that amount. Good for her.

In the past race officials have communicated with aid stations and EMT bicycle-mobile units using cell phones, but some locations are unreachable by cell phone (no surprise there) so TSRC members will try to fill in the holes using our mighty mountain top repeater.

If you are available to help we'd love to have you join us (see me at the meeting). Again, the time commitment is just a few hours, and after the marathon there will be food (for purchase) and music (for free) in downtown Hanover so we can do a bit of socializing.

Ken AC1H

TIME FOR CHANGE----

In my opinion, this article, written by Rick Palm K1CE, editor of the ARRL ARES E-letter, is right on target. In the last decade, the role and mission of ARES has changed significantly in terms of how we serve our client base and how we fit into the ICS/NIMS system used by first responders.

It's time to make the changes to integrate into the emergency management system by using ICS and Red Cross message forms without the cumbersome intermediate steps of converting to and from the NTS format. Making basic NIMS/ICS training a requirement for ARES is long overdue. I just took the NIMS/ICS introductory course again and it was 3 hrs one evening (including the test) with a very good instructor- not a lot to ask if we are serious about being part of the system.

The NTS system exhibits the classic problem of modern technology marching ahead and around NTS, leaving it as a curious anachronism in a world of cell phones, instant messaging, and Voip. NTS was originally conceived as a solution to sending messages across great distances in times of disaster and emergency. Amateur Radio still fulfills the need of alternative communications when other communications infrastructure is overloaded or inoperative. But we need to do this in a new environment of structured emergency response.

Rick's recommendations would move us to that better position and still provide the internal Amateur Radio recognition mechanisms- Public Service Honor Role, etc- that continue to motivate some Hams. Rick was for many years the Field Services Manager for ARRL, which

included NTS, ARES and the ARRL Field Organization. His comments come from a wealth of experience in these areas.

Bill WB1BRE

EDITORIAL: MANDATES FOR TRAINING

My day job requires me to work closely with federal law enforcement, as well as leading emergency managers. In after-work conversations with them, I hear mixed emotions towards Amateur Radio.

They are quick to praise our response, and usually point out that in the first few hours/days after a major event, we are often the only show in town---but in the next breath they will all recite horror stories of poor training, lack of preparation, and unprofessional behavior.

Critical to changing this attitude is a real push by the League to mandate standards that reflect the needs of our served agencies. That means ICS/NIMS compliance. It also means adopting standards for digital communications. I personally saw the value of Winlink2K in Hancock County after Katrina.

Among the actions that could be taken quickly:

1. Incorporate ICS-100 into the basic ARRL ARECC Level 1 course. Simply require students to complete the on-line FEMA course and e-mail their mentor a successful completion notice. No reprinting of course materials, no huge costs, just immediate benefits.

2. Mandate that NTS messages follow the ICS message format standards. Reprint those silly radiograms with their meaningless "word counts", etc. I love CW too, but we have to stop living in the past.

3. Require advanced NIMS/ICS training for leadership positions with ARES. It's available online for free.

4. Endorse digital standards. If Winlink is the HF standard, then work with dealers to obtain a discount for ARES groups, or seek to obtain grants to help offset the costs of amateurs purchasing the equipment. Ditto for a VHF/UHF standard.

5. Reward amateurs. The QST "Honor Roll" for those who complete all three ARECC training courses is a step in the right direction, but the top people need to be put on a par with top DXers or contesters. Why? Because they are going to be willing to spend their own money, and build truly useful mobile and base EMCOMM stations if they feel that it gives them status, the same way that they now build super DX stations, and contest operations.

I'd revamp the "Public Service Honor Roll." Stop giving out points for sending messages with meaningless content like "CW is great X Use CW today" -- instead reward people for taking advanced training. Empower SECs to reward hams who provide exceptional service during emergencies.

Les Rayburn, N1LF, ARES Official Emergency Station; National Communications System; SHARES; SKYWARN; ARECC Level 3

VANITY CALL SIGN FEE TO DROP SEPTEMBER 6

The regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said this week. The new fee will be \$20.80 for the 10-year license term. This year promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred in 1996. Licensees who want to retain vanity call signs issued under the current (post-1995) system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

"Consistent with our established practice, we plan to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2006 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC explained in a July 17 Report and Order (R&O), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68. The FY 2006 vanity fee is a bit higher than the \$20.10 for the license term that the Commission had proposed in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making last March. The current vanity call sign fee of \$21.90 remains in effect for applications received by the FCC before September 6.

Amateur Radio licensees may file renewal applications no sooner than 90 days of their license expiration date. While the regulatory fee payment is required from licensees wishing to keep their current vanity call signs after renewal, vanity holders can opt to get a sequential call sign and avoid paying any fee when they renew.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says the FCC has been handling vanity call sign license renewals from June without any delay or problems. "I'm sure Gate 2 will go just as smoothly if you use one of the automated methods of filing, such as via the ARRL or using the Universal Licensing System (ULS)," she predicted. "Paper filings to the FCC can be confusing and difficult." The FCC renewed nearly 3000 vanity call sign licenses during June and July.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

Somma says the ARRL's new license renewal/modification Web pages <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>> contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on how to renew or update a license using the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>.

Montenegro operations continue apace

As of late July, the Montenegro International DX Festival 4O3T operation <<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival-montenegro-2006/>> already had put 50,000 QSOs in the log with a couple of more weeks to go. An online searchable log is available on the SRACG Web site <<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/log-book-search.html>>. Martti Laine, OH2BH, said the first wave of operators from various parts of the continent and the US did "a mammoth job." They also contended with setting up camp in temperatures well in excess of 100 degrees F. "They have not seen clouds or rain during the entire week," he said. During a dinner cruise for home-bound operators July 27 on the Bay of Kotor, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, announced that he was looking forward to circulating a proposal on behalf of Montenegro to become an IARU member-society. DXpedition leader Ranko Boca, YT6A, indicates that everything is on track for the next 50,000 contacts with the fresh fleet of operators that came aboard over the July 29-30 weekend. The 4O3T stations, operating from sites in Obosnik and Klinici, have been putting loud signals into North America. Meanwhile, the unrelated YU6AO Montenegro DXpedition team <<http://www.yu6ao.info/>> also has been making the new DXCC entity available on several bands and modes. There is a log search engine for YU6AO too <<http://www.yu6ao.info/log.html>>.

IARU Region 3 Conference special event on air

India telecommunication authorities have authorized the operation of a special event station in conjunction with the 13th International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 Conference. Using the call sign VU13IARU, the station commenced operation August 3 and will remain active until August 11 on HF and VHF from the conference venue, Hotel Hari International in Bangalore. Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) Governing Council member A.R. Prathap Kumar, VU2POP, will manage the special event station.--ARSI

Irish radio amateurs seek 500 kHz allocation

According to the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society has applied to Irish communications regulator ComReg for a small allocation in the region of 500 kHz for Amateur Radio experimentation. The move follows a similar proposal made by the RSGB to UK regulator Ofcom in 2004. Ofcom has not yet made a decision on the RSGB proposal, but the society is hopeful of an allocation between 501 and 504 kHz. There is also a possibility that Ofcom might designate the spot frequency of 500 kHz as a maritime memorial frequency. In recent years, there has been little traffic on the band 415 to 526.6 kHz, after most countries stopped using it as a Morse emergency maritime frequency in the 1990s.

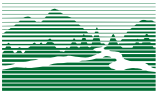
CLUB OFFICERS

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: Chuck Sherman N3WTO (802) 765-9630
chuck.sherman@dartmouth.org
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
*R. Sterling Eanes, AK1K, NH SM ak1k@arrl.org
*Dale Drake, AA1QD, NH ACC 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>



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