

The Monitor

September 2002



Presidents Message

It's time to start thinking about the cold again. Some of us are glad the heat is supposedly going and some wish it would stick around for a while longer. The 'Snow Birds' are getting ready to head south for the winter and the rest of us are starting to think of getting the winter gear out. Don't give up hope. There are still a few warm days ahead. We need them for a few public service events coming up. We have the ADA walk the end of Sept. maybe. (they haven't contacted us this year yet) We have the Crop Walk around Lake Fairlee on 10-13. Also look for rain the 1st weekend of Oct. It's Hosstraders in Hopkinton, NH.

Meeting day is this Saturday and the Officer's have a lot to bring up the membership so please try and attend. Hope to see you there.

73 de Verne N5IEP

Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	Sept. 14, 2002, 9:00am Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT
HossTraders	Oct. 4-5, 2002 Hopkinton, NH
TSRC Meeting	Oct. 12, 2002, 9:00am Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT
Crop Walk	Oct. 13, 2002 Fairlee, VT

Vehicle Committee's Recommendations

The Vehicle Committee (aka the "Motor Pool" Committee) met several times over the summer to evaluate each vehicle, and how each meets the club's operational needs. The goal was to present a workable and comprehensive plan to the membership. This plan is summarized below, and will be voted upon at the September meeting if a quorum is present.

This was not an easy task, but in the end, the committee arrived at a plan we all feel will serve the club's needs well. We looked at all the different types of events the club has ever undertaken or is likely to attempt. Then, we looked at each vehicle and considered how it might contribute to our goals, its current condition, and what sort of impact it will have on our budget. The bottom line is that we recommend

the club should have one comm truck, and one tower trailer. The rest are surplus to our needs. Below is a brief synopsis of our conclusions.

One or two tower trailers? The original purpose for a tower trailer was to facilitate public and school demonstrations, contests, Field Day, and similar events. Of these, only Field Day requires multiple towers. With the new military push-up towers, the need for a second trailer-tower is diminished. There is also the issue of having enough properly equipped vehicles to tow several trailers, a problem that became evident at this year's Field Day.

Large tower trailer - Low maintenance once painted, but too large, heavy, and unwieldy to fulfill its original purpose, when compared with the small tower trailer. Requires a heavy hitch and powerful vehicle, at least two trained people to erect. Recommendation: sandblast, paint and sell for \$2500. We believe that there is a market for this trailer at this price, including other large clubs, and possible commercial users.

Small tower trailer - Low maintenance, but needs paint and minor modifications to be fully useful. Can handle all our needs. Easy to tow with any hitch-equipped vehicle, can be erected by one person with minimal training. Recommendation: Keep, make repairs/modifications, and paint.

Military comm box - Low cost to mount on Verne's old trailer frame, but we could not clearly identify a use for it. There were lots of ideas, but none were compelling enough to keep it and invest the time and money. Recommendation: Sell as-is, \$300-500.

Military comm truck (ambulance) - This was the tough one. After considerable discussion, we agreed that a fully equipped, self-propelled vehicle opens up many potential activities for the club, and has far more utility than a trailer mounted comm box of equal size due to the speed and ease of use. The current vehicle needs additional body repairs, paint, windshield, and minor mechanical work, but if the large tower trailer and comm box are sold, the proceeds would easily cover all the costs. Verne believes the engine and drive train are basically sound. However, we have an opportunity to acquire a much newer comm truck from the Orange County Sheriff, in much better condition, with about the same size and capabilities - and air conditioning! It is also 4wd, and has a diesel engine. We think that if this truck were to be available at a reasonable price, we should sell the ambulance and buy it. The committee is attempting to make arrangements to make a close-up inspection of the truck this fall. Recommendation: If the Sheriff's truck is a good deal, buy it and sell the ambulance for at least \$500.

The item requiring the largest amount of work by the club members is re-finishing the large tower trailer. Joe,

KB1FDA is attempting to arrange for a commercial sandblaster to remove the rust and scale for us, but we will still have to strip the tower and other items off the frame first, and paint and re-assemble it immediately after it is cleaned. We had hoped to do this by fall Hosstraders, but Joe's schedule was too tight. We would still like to get it ready this fall for the spring Hosstraders, and in the meantime advertise it in a number of appropriate places.

All items will be offered to club members first, as is our usual custom with surplus club equipment. If this proposal is approved by the membership, please contact Club Secretary Nancy Maynard with any offers, in writing. The officers will review the offers, and make a recommendation to the membership to accept or reject. The membership will vote on each offer. If no acceptable offers come from the club, the vehicle Committee will advertise any items for sale to the ham community and general public.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Colter, Committee Chair

HINTS FROM OTHER HAMS ON TESTING AT A VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSION

Testing for any amateur license is supervised by VE volunteers. They give their time to provide tests for fellow hams who wish to up-grade, and to folks who hope to become hams. Here are some hints created by hams who participated in the June 30th 2002 Vermont YL Net on the 146.88 Killington repeater. If you have tested before, these may refresh your memory.

Get a good nights sleep the day before, and plan to arrive 15 to 30 minutes early.

Be sure you have 2 forms of ID. (One should be a photo ID.)

Bring a pen, several pencils and an eraser, and a calculator

Be prepared when the VE asks to look at the calculator, and erase any memory.

If you are easily distracted:
Bring ear plugs
Plan to sit away from others, and back to the center of activity

Some life savers, or mints, may help your concentration.

Hopefully you have not "memorized" the answers by "A", "B", "C", or "D". (The test answers may not be in the same order as your study guide.)

Listen to the instructions from the VE team, and:
GOOD LUCK!

Now the test: RELAX

DON'T HURRY Don't worry about being the last to finish!

Take one question at a time, read it carefully, and answer it if you can.

Always be sure the question number matches the number on the answer sheet. (A misalignment of the answer sheet could mean you fail the test!)

If you are unsure of the correct answer, write that number on the scratch paper you were given. When you have answered all you can, go back to the list. Cross off each from the list as you answer that question.

Even if you need to guess, never leave a question unanswered, because that will be counted as a wrong answer.

After you have finished, WAIT FOR THE RESULTS!

Stay to help complete any paper work

If you passed, you will receive a CSEC. Don't lose it. That is the only proof you have that you have passed, until your license comes from the FCC.

If you failed, ask for a second test
(Remember — the instructions given to you were that a second test is available, should you want it. May folks have passed the second test) There is a charge for this test, also.

Dot KA1LDS

NTIA HEAVES POTENTIAL MONKEY WRENCH INTO 5-MHZ BAND PROPOSAL

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only, secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. The last-minute recommendation followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from organizations--including the ARRL--and from individuals.

In an August 21 letter, the NTIA's Fredrick R. Wentland said federal agencies are making extensive use of HF for emergency services, including communications support for the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and Department of Justice law enforcement activities. "NTIA believes the

Commission's current proposal does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations primary in the band," said Wentland, who is NTIA's acting associate administrator for spectrum management.

In its recent comments, the ARRL called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Wentland's letter arrived at the FCC beyond the cut-off date for reply comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 02-98. Wentland said that without a more complete understanding of the interference potential to federal operations, the NTIA believes the secondary amateur allocation would be "premature." But he said that NTIA would work with the federal agencies, the FCC and the amateur community to determine whether "some future accommodation" for amateurs at 5 MHz would be possible. That could include limitations on power or emission types, a reduction in the size of the proposed band, the use of discrete frequencies or geographical restrictions, he suggested.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that while he and the ARRL Board of Directors have been long aware of the concerns registered by the US Coast Guard and the US Department of Justice with the NTIA's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), he was surprised by the tone of the NTIA letter.

"This is a lot worse than we were told to expect," he said, noting that the FCC had cancelled a meeting to discuss issues expressed by the NTIA several months ago and went forward with its proposal despite the NTIA's concerns.

"We don't know how seriously the FCC will take NTIA's comments," Imlay added. "We're in the process of expediting coordination arrangements and other means to identify and satisfy NTIA's legitimate concerns."

On May 2, the FCC proposed granting the ARRL's requests for new amateur allocations at 5250 to 5400 kHz and 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and to elevate the Amateur Radio allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary and to create a primary Amateur-Satellite allocation there. Imlay said the 5250 to 5400 kHz segment was proposed because it appeared to have the fewest US government assignments.

Ironically, the ARRL's own timely filed comments and reply comments in late July and mid-August noted that the eagerly anticipated 5-MHz allocation request was "essentially uncontested" and enjoyed "extensive support" within the amateur community."

The FCC went along with ARRL's proposal to permit amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes or to break the band down into mode-specific subbands. In its comments, the ARRL said that the band should be open to General and Extra class licensees and that band planning was sufficient to maintain order among modes.

Two non-amateur organizations commented negatively. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance (HPPA), while not opposing the allocation, suggested that its Part 15 home wiring telecommunication devices operating in the 5 MHz range be presumed to not cause interference to amateur operations and not have to cease operation if interference is alleged. The ARRL called HPPA's request "absurd."

The Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) said the FCC should not grant the 5-MHz band request because amateurs could interfere with its planned deployment of Part 15 broadband devices operating in the same region. "No Part 15 device manufacturer is entitled to oppose an allocation to a licensed radio service based on future deployment of an unlicensed device, period," the League said in its reply comments.

Many more negative comments were received regarding the proposed 136-kHz low-frequency allocation, most of them from utilities that employ unlicensed Part 15 power line communication (PLC) systems. The ARRL reiterated its request for 200 W PEP power-output limitation but in no case greater than 2 W equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) on 136 kHz. The League also asked the FCC to reconsider granting an amateur allocation at 160 to 190 kHz as it had requested in its initial petition.

The League also took a dim view of a suggestion by the IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee that Part 15 devices operating in the 2.4 GHz region enjoy a "safe harbor" of operation. The ARRL reminded the FCC that such Part 15 devices have "no allocation status at all."

The ARRL's comments and reply comments urged the FCC to immediately implement the three proposals. "The Commission cannot make allocation decisions based on non-technical assertions of Part 15 users or user groups or manufacturers of such devices," the ARRL said. "ARRL contends that compatibility between amateur uses in the subject bands and those of incumbents is not a substantial concern in any of the three cases."

A copy of the ARRL's comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-comments.pdf>> and a copy of ARRL's reply comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-reply.pdf>> in ET Docket 02-98 are available on the ARRL Web site.

The NTIA letter is available on the FCC Web site <http://gulifoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513290159>.

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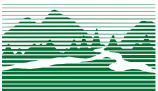
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
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<http://www.w1fn.org>



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