

# The Monitor

September 2004



## Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting            September 11, 2004, 9:00am  
EBAs, Hanover, NH
- Hosstraders            October 1-2, 2004  
Hopkinton, NH
- TSRC Meeting            October 9, 2004, 9:00am  
EBAs, Hanover, NH

## Message from the President:

In my last message to the Twin State Radio Club I asked our membership to think about what changes they would like to see in the club. I have received or overheard a number of remarks suggesting that the club's activities have become predictable, unexciting and lacking in imagination. Since I issued that challenge to the membership I have received a couple responses and a few very good and thoughtful ideas. References have been made to activities of other clubs and to activities that used to be part of TSRC's agenda. I am grateful for these responses and I intend to pursue some of the ideas they offered with an eye toward increasing the "fun quotient" of membership in the Twin State Radio Club.

At the same time, recent events have provided a sobering opportunity for reflection on what Amateur Radio is all about and on "what we do" as ham radio operators. As a member of U.S. Army MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) I often receive bulletins and messages from various MARS officials and groups. Invariably, many of these contain references to recent SKs ("Silent Keys" or Amateur Radio operators who have passed away). It is amazing to read the tributes to some of these SKs which often include remarks like "a MARS member for 30 years" or "died at age 93 with 57 years of MARS experience). Some of these folks were Amateur Radio operators during World War II and were providing communications between military personnel on the front lines and their families and loved ones before some of us had even been born. Since one requirement for MARS membership is the possession of a valid Amateur Radio operator's license, these Silent Keys were hams even longer than they were MARS members. What a powerful testimonial to the dedication and loyalty our hobby inspires!

During the past few weeks I have spent a lot of time monitoring various "hurricane net" frequencies, hoping to hear some firsthand accounts of Hurricanes Charley and Frances. On a recent net I heard the sad news that a boat, the "Ann Marie", had apparently sunk 10 to 12 miles off the coast of Florida near Sarasota. The Coast Guard

had mounted a search for the vessel, also asking ham radio operators to monitor the emergency frequencies for any communication from the vessel. All crewmembers were presumed lost.

I am also active in the local ARES ("Amateur Radio Emergency Services") organization, which is so capably headed up by one of our members, Rex Carr (AA1KL). As an ARES member I am aware of the increased visibility Amateur Radio is enjoying and the elevated level of regard in which it is held by many government agencies, officials and by the general public. What is not so visible is the huge investment in time and effort that goes into making an organization like SGARES (Southern Grafton ARES) an effective and prepared group that will be able to respond quickly and efficiently if they are called into service.

The media is revisiting the terrible events of September 11th, 2001 as we approach the third anniversary of that dreadful day. With the relative luxuries of time and hindsight now available to them, the press is looking more closely at what happened in the hours immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center and other terrorist targets. One interesting fact that has emerged is that Amateur Radio was one of the first and one of the most effective tools used in the hours following the attacks. On that single day in history, thousands of ham radio operators with untold years of experience and preparation among them did what hams have always done. They fulfilled the need for emergency communications quickly, competently and professionally. They were there, prepared and functioning autonomously, when nothing else and nobody else was able to.

On a much smaller scale, I occasionally hear hikers using the local repeater to keep in touch with each other, to report changed plans and, every once in a while, to request assistance. Invariably, someone seems to be monitoring and willing to help. On one occasion, I was personally able to make a difference in the outcome of a group hike that had run into unexpectedly bad weather and become stranded.

The point of all this rambling is that I believe it is sometimes worthwhile to step back from the immediate circle of your Amateur Radio interests and take a broader view of the hobby (or skill, or pastime, or pursuit) you have chosen to become involved with and understand the proud history and tradition that accompany it and that have guided it over the years. Generally out of sight, out of mind and "below the radar", Amateur Radio has always risen to the chal-

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lenge when events have demanded our special skills and capabilities. While technology marches on, new modes and techniques come into vogue and either find a place in our communications repertoire or are discarded as unfeasible, we will always be unique and irreplaceable. No other group can respond as quickly, as efficiently and as independently from outside support as we can. That has been the case since the first days of the old spark gap transmitters and, I believe, it always will be the case.

As a club, I urge you to do whatever you can to make newer, younger members of the TSRC and of Amateur Radio in general aware of the unique, proud history of our hobby. In a future message I will mention a few books that relate some of the proud and remarkable history of Amateur Radio. I believe that the health and vitality of our common pastime depend on looking ahead and envisioning the possibilities technology will offer us but also in looking back and understanding the amazing tradition of which we are all a part.

73,  
Charlie Wilber, N1AOK  
President  
Twin State Radio Club

## Opinions and Volunteers Wanted

The "Program Committee" needs your help in two areas. We need to know: Are you interested in having programs at regular or special meetings? How often do you think the club should have them?

The programs could be about(as examples): . technical advances in ham radio, e.g., use of computers, digital filters, antenna and RF modeling, PSK63 . operating modes and/or technique, e.g., How you can work all counties, the Logbook of the World, how to successfully operate in a dx pileup, packet on VHF, APRS . tales of past experience, e.g., What was operating like prior to transistors: My favorite DXpedition, What is a Simulated Emergency Test (SET)? . a visit to ARRL's W1AW and/or headquarters . regulatory matters, e.g., BPL . (put your choice here).

We need to know what you would be interested in hearing about or in presenting. We need to know if you would be willing to have the programs at a different location and/or a different time. For example if someone wants to make a presentation prepared using a computer and computer projector.

We could use a few more energized volunteers as Committee members.

Please contact me with your opinions and also if you would like to volunteer, either to join the committee or to give a talk.

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## FCC STILL ENFORCING PART 15 RULES IN SOME AMATEUR INTERFERENCE CASES

While the ARRL has accused the FCC of sweeping under the rug several Amateur Radio complaints of interference from unlicensed broadband over power line (BPL) devices, the Commission apparently is not ignoring other Part 15-related interference complaints from hams. With the assistance of the ARRL Laboratory, the FCC continues to dog complaints--some now longstanding--of power-line noise interference to amateur communication. Other cases of Part 15 device interference to radio amateurs have been a bit more exotic. For example, two recent citations issued by the Portland, Oregon, FCC field office involved interference from wireless microphones operating in the 70-cm band.

"The agent measured the field strength at 1500 uV/meter at a distance of 3 meters from the referenced wireless microphones and determined that the microphones were in noncompliance with §15.209 of the Commission's rules, which apply to intentional radiators," the FCC said.

Daniel Bathurst, WA7ABU, of Salem, Oregon, filed the complaint. In citations to FLECO Corp of Chino, California, and The Club Works Sound and Lighting of Salem, the Commission alleged that the devices, which operate on 432.55 and 439.55 MHz, also were not certificated for sale in the US. The FCC citation indicated that FLECO had sold the microphones to The Club Works.

As reported, the FCC earlier this year fined Best Wok, a Westville, New Jersey, restaurant \$10,000 for operating transmitting equipment on the 2 meter satellite subband without a license. The eatery allegedly was using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle.

Other recent cases have stemmed from radio amateurs' complaints about their neighbors' Part 15 devices. In a Texas case that FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth described as "an unfortunate neighborhood situation," the neighbor allegedly not only failed to respond to FCC letters but tossed out the toroid core devices the amateur, William Cooper, W5ZAF, had provided free and which, the FCC said, had resolved the interference.

Hollingsworth told the neighbor that under Part 15, operation of a consumer product "such as a battery charger" must not result in harmful interference to a licensed radio service. He emphasized that it's the neighbor's responsibility to correct the interference--whether or not the neighbor accepts Cooper's help.

In a similar case in Colorado, Hollingsworth on August 10 wrote another amateur's neighbor about interference from an electric fence charger to the Amateur Radio and broadcast television reception of P. E. Muetz, K0AWS.

"Operation of a consumer device such as your fence charger under Part 15 of the Commission's rules must not result in harmful interference to a licensed radio service, and Part 15 of our rules clearly explains that," said Hollingsworth, who'd also spoken with the neighbor by telephone last April.

In a seeming turnabout-is-fair-play situation, the FCC contacted a Mattawan, Michigan, resident to follow up on complaints that the individual's TV set was causing harmful interference to the Amateur Radio operations of Robert Lawson, KG8QD. Sharon Bowers, deputy chief of the FCC's Consumer Inquiries and Complaint Division, noted that Part 15 obliges the TV set's owner to resolve the interference promptly. Under Part 15, a TV set or a computer monitor is considered an "unintentional radiator."

In July, the FCC contacted Illinois Power Company to report receiving complaints that the utility's equipment may be causing harmful interference to the amateur operations of Earl Shaffer, WB9UWA, of Normal.

"The complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to work through your usual complaint resolution process, and, as a result, the matter has been referred to our office," Bowers said in a form letter to the utility's CEO. In both cases she handled, Bowers provided the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the ARRL's Radio Frequency Interference Desk as a source of "help and guidance about radio interference that involves Amateur Radio operators." More than five dozen power line interference cases have been referred to the League this year.

## **DXCC DROPPING ANNUAL LIST DEADLINE, ADDING REAL-TIME STANDINGS**

The ARRL DX Century Club Program (DXCC) has announced that, effective immediately, there no longer will be a submission deadline for the DXCC Annual List.

"We have been working toward this end for several years," says ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. In the past, he explains, September 30 has been the traditional cutoff date to compile entity totals for the DXCC Annual List, published in the DXCC Yearbook.

Moore says that in the past, DXCC participants have tended to collect their cards and submit them once a year to ensure the highest possible total for the listing. A major downside of the deadline system is that DXCC typically has received more than 25 percent of annual credit submissions during September. That, in turn, created a huge increase in workload and lengthened processing time.

Under the deadline-free system, complete lists on the ARRL Web site will replace the lists of DXCC standings that customarily have appeared in the DXCC Yearbook. The new Web-based lists should be on-line early in the first quarter of 2005--about the time the DXCC Yearbook typically publishes. After an initial posting, DXCC will regularly update the Web lists. These listings also will include the standings of all DXCC members, not just those who made a submission in the previous year, as had been the practice.

ARRL will publish a scaled-down version of the DXCC Yearbook that will contain highlights of the standings, along with other features. For more information on the DXCC program, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>>.

## **ARISS PUTS ISS PHASE 2 EQUIPMENT TO USE AS FM "EASYSAT"**

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program this week put one of the two ham stations aboard the ISS to use as a U/V (Mode B) FM repeater (437.80 MHz up and 145.80 MHz down). The new Phase 2 ISS ham gear--primarily used for packet operation and tests and briefly by Expedition 9 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, during Field Day 2004--was pressed into service for several days as a low-Earth-orbiting FM "EasySat." The crossband repeater experiment, announced August 28, was shut down with the other ARISS gear September 2 in preparation for a September 3 space walk. The Amateur Radio equipment aboard the ISS will be powered back up no sooner than 1700 UTC on September 4, said ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Ken Ransom, N5VHC.

"Mike Fincke [KE5AIT] reported hearing stations actively using the repeater over North America, the southern portion of South America, South Africa, Europe, Australia and Japan," Ransom said. He got lucky on the ISS repeater September 2, snagging a QSO with V31KD in Belize City, Belize (EK57).

The Phase 2 gear was scheduled to return to RS0ISS packet operation following the space walk, but the repeater experiment could be back for a "repeat" performance. ARISS International Team Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the crossband repeater test provided an opportunity to further experiment with the ISS Amateur Radio system.

Last December, ISS Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, set up a new Kenwood TM-D700 Phase 2 dualband transceiver in the ISS Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. With the help of the ARISS Japan team, Kenwood donated the TM-D700 transceivers to ARISS and made specific hardware and firmware modifications--including limiting its power output to a maximum of 25 W--to prepare it for flight. Plans call for using the Phase 2 station at 10 W output during ARISS school group QSOs, starting with the arrival of the Expedition 10 crew this fall.



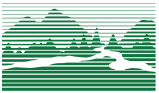
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Make it your default start page!  
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