

The Monitor

September 2005



Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting September 10, 2005, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH
- Hosstraders October 7-8, 2005
Hopkinton, NH
- TSRC Meeting October 15, 2005, 9:00 am
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH

Message from the President:

As I write this, Hurricane Katrina has caused damage that is, by many accounts, unprecedented in the history of our country. The full extent of that damage and the loss of life caused by this disaster will not be known for months or years to come. News reports making their way out of the affected areas in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama suggest that the responses of residents reflect both the best and the worst of human nature. On one hand, rescuers are risking their own lives to help others survive this catastrophe. On the other hand, looting is becoming rampant in New Orleans and other places.

It seems that officials involved in dealing with the disaster are in a holding pattern, waiting to see how grim the final damage assessment will be. Video from the disaster area shows valiant efforts being undertaken by professional and volunteer rescue workers alike. TV interviews with administrators and others suggest that recovery efforts are proceeding at full speed. Looking a little deeper, though, it is apparent that the confusion, disorganization and uncertainty that characterizes most serious disasters is present at this one as well.

I believe the best thing to come out of this catastrophe will be a fuller understanding of the nature of such disasters and how we respond to them. We will eventually learn a lot about what works and what does not work. We will see how officials respond and improvise when nothing works as it was supposed to. We will get firsthand feedback on what happens when natural events completely overwhelm our ability to deal with them. We will gather data on the resourcefulness of humans when their survival depends on their own ingenuity and resilience. We will gain a new appreciation for the inherent love and concern human beings have for each other, essential traits of our nature that are not always apparent. We will also come away with a new appreciation for the raw power and irresistible force of nature and a reminder of our own relative insignificance.

It might be useful and instructive for each of us to reflect on how we would respond if we were in the immediate disaster area. Would we be able to sustain ourselves and our families? Would we be able to survive through our own efforts and abilities? Would we be able to help others or would we depend on others to help us? Certainly,

Hurricane Katrina will be used as a model in training programs and exercises for decades to come. What can we learn from it ourselves? Many of the things I admire about the most respected members of our hobby, both locally and globally, are the things that would be priceless in a disaster like the one current being played out. Knowledge, resourcefulness, persistence, optimism, preparedness, patience and helpfulness characterize those hams. Those traits are invaluable in any emergency but particularly in a disaster like the one currently ravaging the Gulf Coast.

I have family who live just north of New Orleans. They were fortunate in being able to evacuate the area before the worst of the hurricane reached them and are now safe in Austin, Texas for the time being. I sympathize with any of you who also have family, friends and other loved ones in harm's way. You and yours will be in my thoughts and prayers. Please let me know if Twin State Radio Club can do anything to help.

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 on Saturday, 9/10/2005, for our regular monthly meeting! Please join me at the DHMC cafeteria at 9:00 a.m.

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

What you missed in August:

Greetings:

When you missed the August 2005 meeting, you missed out on several things:

You missed being dubbed with the new club bumper sticker – See last month's note to see what it looks like on a black bumper (mine – David #9 – KE1IW's bumper).

You missed seeing three of the very neatest "radio in a satchel" kits that have come across the table at a meeting. William Daugherty – N8RPD – and Alan Bradford – N1YMQ – brought in their satchel

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radios with gel cells and chargers. It was amazing to see how many electronic devices can be crammed into small cases and still work for hours on end.

You missed meeting a new neighbor.

You missed some pretty good food (not the best, but better than most by a long shot).

You missed the financial report (we've enough for a while). The problem for David #9 – KE1IW – is that he's moving from one very old desk to a new desk and all his financial stuff is "Somewhere Safe."

That's just some of the things that you missed. Keep an eye out for the upcoming newsletter and you'll find out what you could miss, but won't because you want to see and hear all this information first hand.

73,
David #9 – The Bowman – Haseman KE1IW
Yes, I shot over and MISSED a tree.

SEPTEMBER ARRL VHF QSO PARTY FOR W1FN

When- September 10, 2PM local to September 11, 11 PM local.

Where- QTH of KA1LDS/WB1BRE- 328 Old City Falls Rd, Strafford, VT

What- A QSO party for VHF/UHF enthusiasts and those interested in trying VHF/UHF Dxing. Scoring by contacts with grid square multipliers.

Details- As described in the last newsletter, we have the towers and antennas setup at the QTH. We have some rigs, but will need a 6M rig, at least 100 wts and a 2M amp.

The contest starts 2PM on the Saturday of the TSRC meeting and I'll be at the meeting with last minute info, etc. Directions to our home available on Email- just send a note.

As noted, Dot and I will provide the Saturday evening meal. Other meals are individual responsibility. Pot-luck offerings gratefully accepted!!

Veteran operators encourage to join us-- new Hams, anyone who has not experienced contesting or VHF/UHF Dx especially invited to have fun and to get the experience!!

W1FN has participated in the annual ARRL JANUARY VHF Sweepstakes Contest for several years and has placed well at national, regional and state levels. We have just received a certificate for our first place showing in Vermont in the Jan 2005 Sweeps.

The September QSO party will be a first time for W1FN and QST notes that September frequently has good tropo openings that

can be unexpected and very beneficial to getting many grid square multipliers. Join us for any amount of time you can-- hope to see you on the 10th and/or 11th of Sept!!!

Dot KA1LDS
Bill WB1BRE



Rohn 25 parts needed

My call is N3WTO, Extra Class. My address is below.

Bill Burden, WB1BRE, and I visited Alan Bradford, N1YMQ, in Canann and found some usable parts in the Club's depot. We measured and managed to find six lengths of cable that will probably do the trick to help me build a 50 foot tower for a beam antenna (I'm considering a Steppir). The microwave dishes to bring broadband to Strafford are already on order.

I still need a few parts for my tower:

- one fixed concrete base plate (part #BPC25G retail price \$89)
- one Pier Pin for BPC25G (3/4x12 PP, retail \$12)

For the guys:

- 2 Guy assemblies (GA25GD @ \$75) (I think... I plan to guy to two levels, 20 ft. and 40 ft.)
- 3 anchors (I think I need to drill into the rock that is 18 inches below the surface.)
- 3 equalizer plates (two or three holes in each)

12 Chinese puzzle guy cable connectors (or some other way to form the loops at the ends)

grounding rods and wires

a bag of nuts and bolts to hold 5 sections and the top sleeve together

Rotor plate (AS25G, \$49)

Sleve top section (25AG2 @ \$119) or (25AG3 @ \$149) (I don't know the difference)

and, of course, eventually a rotor and an antenna and antenna lead cables.

If you can place a note in the newsletter it might help me find a source of used parts. Else I'll drive down to HRO in Salem to get this project "off the ground".

I can always use free advice and volunteer help. Perhaps after I get the parts assembled, we can have an antenna-raising party.

Thanks,
73, Chuck

Chuck Sherman
129 Pennock Road
Strafford VT 05072
land 802-765-9630
cell 860-967-6543
Chuck.Sherman@Dartmouth.org

Higher Amateur Radio vanity call sign fee now in effect

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide this week, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

In a Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7, the FCC raised the vanity application fee for FY 2005 from \$20.80 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities. The fee went up from \$16.30 to \$20.80 a year ago.

A reevaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications--or "payment units"--accounts for this latest fee hike. The FCC says it anticipates 7600 vanity applications--up only slightly from a year earlier.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html.

Comment deadlines set in FCC "Morse code" proceeding

The deadline to submit comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, is October 31. Reply comments are due November 14. The NPRM&O proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes. The FCC turned away several other petition requests, however, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Comment deadlines are established by the NPRM&O's publication in the Federal Register, which occurred August 31.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <http://www.regulations.gov>.

People with disabilities may contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc) by e-mail, FCC504@fcc.gov, or telephone 202-418-0530; TTY 202-418-0432.

For additional information, contact William T. Cross, William.Cross@fcc.gov, in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0680; TTY 202-418-7233.

Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), via e-mail request, FCC504@fcc.gov, or by calling the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530; TTY 202-418-0432.

An FCC Report and Order in this proceeding is not likely until late 2005 or early 2006.

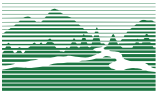
CLUB OFFICERS

President: Charlie Wilber, N1AOK (603) 643-2914
n1aok@arrl.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

ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

*ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/>
*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nhradio.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