



# The Monitor

September 2007



## Message from the President

I am delighted to report that this month's newsletter has more member-generated content than any previous issue of which I am aware. It great to hear so many voices!

In addition to Ken's, AC1H, usual promo for the next meeting program we have a great article on the Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) 50th anniversary, the Crop Walk event summary and invitation as well as a great article on Near-fest. Speaking of Near-fest, I will have tickets and car passes available at the October club meeting for purchase if anyone is interested.

And you won't want to miss K1DAN's digital contesting presentation next Saturday.

See you at the club meeting!

73 de KX1Y  
William Daugherty  
TSRC President

## Club Meeting Programs

Earlier this year Mill, K1IB, told club members how to operate in contests with a 'modest' station. But what if your station doesn't even qualify as modest. Let's say your rig is a single frequency crystal controlled QRP special built into an oily old sardine can. And what if your only antenna is a pair of rusty bent rabbit ears from an old black and white TV. An maybe the only CW you can remember is how to tap out SOS with a monkey wrench on the hull of a submarine. Can you still operate in contests?

## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	September 8, 2007, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	October 20, 2007, 9:00 am* EBA's, Hanover, NH

*\*Meeting delayed to third Saturday due to Near-fest*

Take heart brave soul because the answer is yes you can. PSK31 is the ideal digital mode for folks with simple QRP stations. And everyone else can do their part to delay global warming by cranking down their transmitter power and using PSK31.

Pat yourself on the back if you've ever used PSK31. And give yourself another pat if you know what the term PSK31 stands for. No, I'm not going to tell you what the letters and numbers mean, but I will remind you that it is just one of the popular digital modes. Another is RTTY (Do you know what those letters stand for?) Those digital modes and others have given rise to a large following of contesters. On average there are three digital mode contests each month. For example this month, September, is the very popular CQ World Wide RTTY contest.

Of course you don't have to be a contester to enjoy the digital modes; they are also popular among DXers and ragchewers. Interested? If so, come to this month's TSRC meeting and learn about these modes from an award winning RTTY contester: Dan Martin, K1DAN. Dan has a great deal of experience operating various digital modes so here's your opportunity to learn from an expert. Don't miss it.

Ken AC1H

## 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.

## NEAR-Fest October 12 & 13th Update

Al Shuman, K1AKS

I am the Director for Commercial Exhibitors for New England Amateur Radio Fest. I thought it would be great to provide a quick update from my perspective on the upcoming fall show.

To start with, a bit of history. In the spring Near-Fest we filled two buildings or roughly 48 commercial exhibitor spaces, but we did it. This was due in part to the fact that the show was pulled together in just over six weeks and it was done mostly word of mouth and with the help of some very creative use of the internet and a forum. Go to <http://www.near-fest.com> .

After what was heralded as a great show in the spring, we decided to contract for a single larger building instead of the two smaller buildings. The larger building allowed for 44 spaces all under one roof and it would be more accessible closer to the tailgate area.

Well what a difference a few months make. As the word got out that "Deerfield" was back and so successful, we have had to expand first, back in to one of the original smaller buildings and as of Friday 8/31 we decided to expand into the second building as well.

This represents a doubling of dedicated exhibitor space. As of Friday 8/31, of the 92 spaces, I have commitments for 77 spaces. Of the 15 remaining spaces, I have soft commitments for 4 of them. All this with six weeks to go before show time.

I am pleased to announce all of your favorite exhibitors was coming with a few new ones to boot. The best news is that HRO has graciously accepted our invitation to attend our fall event. I also have a number of inquiries out to past Hosstraders exhibitors as well.

As things firm up we will post a floor plan of exhibitors up on the web site.

Please talk up the show amongst yourselves and other hams you run into.

On a personal note, working to make NEAR-Fest the premier hamfest in New England has been almost as pleasant as being your past Section Manager. Our thanks to Norm, Bob and Joe for giving us Hosstraders for 34 years by which to build on. The grand tradition continues.....

73  
Al

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## Scouting on the Radio

de WA1ZCN

Most of us have heard of the World Organization of the Scout Movement's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) held the third weekend of each October, but Scouts are active on ham radio and Echolink all year round. Weekly and monthly nets are held around the globe.

JOTA is the granddaddy of official Amateur Radio/Scouting events, dating back to the 1957. If you've just done the math, you already know that 2007 is the 50th anniversary of JOTA! The idea itself dates back to the 1930s. JOTA was originally created as an opportunity for Scouts who met at World Jamborees to remain in contact. Unfortunately, due to third

party rules, this was, and is, largely wishful thinking. In most cases, only the licensed hams can talk, and they can't pass along questions and answers or even simple greetings from unlicensed Scouts without violating third party rules.

The result is that US stations have a limited list of countries to contact, and most JOTA contacts tend to be with US stations. In European CEPT nations it is much the same.

In the last decade though, the Internet has changed all that. Scouts can talk to other Scouts in nearly any country in the world without restrictions. A few years back, Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) was created, and runs the same weekend as JOTA. The Scouts use a variety of Internet modes includ-

ing IRLP, Echolink, Internet Relay Chat (IRC), Skype, TeamSpeak, email, and even fax. The choice is based more on local availability as any other factor. Contacts are often arranged via email reflectors in the weeks beforehand.

Since IRLP and Echolink both require an Amateur license to connect, they could be considered JOTA/JOTI cross-over modes. However, using either mode for international contacts requires extreme care. If either end is using radio (as IRLP stations must) then third party rules must be observed. It's not always obvious if the other station is on a radio. However, if all stations on Echolink are using direct computer connections, there are no restrictions.

Many Amateur Radio clubs and individual hams continue to host Scouts for JOTA, although the Internet-exclusive modes have largely replaced radio for international contacts. One difficulty from a Scouting point of view is that the event's main purpose, contact and friendships between Scouts, is often lost in the Amateur community's zeal to promote Amateur Radio. Hams typically center the day's activities around radio, and not around Scouts getting to know one another. We need to be mindful of the real goal of JOTA and not push ham radio too hard. If kids find our hobby interesting while participating in JOTA, offer them another way to explore our hobby, such as a Radio Merit Badge Saturday or license classes – at another time.

In Europe, most ham clubs offer both radio and Internet modes. In the Netherlands, a typical setup might include a dozen or more computers running IRC, one with Echolink, radios for VHF and HF phone, and sometimes packet or other digital modes. Since many Scout groups in Europe own their own clubhouse, these provide an ideal place to hold the event.

If you know of a Boy Scout troop in your area, contact their leader ASAP to see if they'd like to participate in the 50th JOTA on October 20-21. You can make the event a few hours long, or the entire weekend. Do it soon, because most troops are just beginning their fall season over the next few weeks and calendars fill up fast. If you don't know who to contact, you can visit the Daniel Webster Council (NH) website at [www.dwcbsa.org](http://www.dwcbsa.org) and check the Sunapee District pages, or the Green Mountain Council (VT) website [www.scoutingvermont.org](http://www.scoutingvermont.org). The GM council site has little information about local units, so you may need to call them at 1-800-704-3089, and ask for the district executive who handles your area.

Ernie, AA1IK, used to host the Canaan and Enfield troops in his own small shack over the weekend – one 6-8 boy patrol at a time for an hour or two. That kept it manageable. First, he'd give them a little presentation about how ham radio works and on-air etiquette, and then get to the business of making contacts. Both Ernie and the Scouts had a ball! If a larger group needs to be hosted, another location such as a campsite, school, or church hall regularly used by the Scouts might be better.

If the JOTA/JOTI weekend won't work for you or the Scouts, all is not lost! The US Scout Net meets on 14,290 USB every Sunday night at 20:30 UTC (3:30pm EST). The World Scout Net meets on the first Saturday of the month on Echolink only at 22:00 UTC (7pm EST) on node 106440.

Information about JOTA and other Scouting nets can be found at <http://home.tiscali.nl/worldscout/Jota/jota.htm>. Information about JOTI can be found at <http://www.joti.org/>. For information on the Girl Scouts' version of JOTA, known as Thinking Day on the Air, visit <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/custom>. □

## Crop Walk Planned for Post Mills, VT This Fall

For the past several years, TSRC has provided communications and safety support for the annual CROP walk held in Post Mills, Vt. The walk is about 6 miles on a scenic route around Lake Fairlee. This year the event is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 7. The start/stop point is the church on Rte 244 in Post Mills.

Our participation includes maintaining a net control station at the church with immediate access to tel/9-1-1. This year the planners of the walk are considering adding a kayak route around Lake Fairlee to the walk plan. They feel this might encourage more participants for the event. They are also looking at a swim across the lake (in October??) as another possibility. We have recommended to the walk planners that, if the water activities are included, they request the state lake patrol service to provide some assistance on this.

For the walk part, we are looking for one more vehicle with a radio and one Ham to ride with the nurse (radio/antenna provided) and a couple of bike/mobile units. We will be using the APRS system that worked very successfully last year. We can always use one or two more mobile units.

I'm not sure how the water-borne part of this will play out, but if there is a state patrol boat on the lake, we would plan to put a Ham with H/T in the boat. If anyone has a boat he/she would like to use to support that effort, that would be an additional help. Using APRS on a boat would work very well as there would always be a clear shot to the satellites.

Last year William, KX1Y, set up an APRS display on a laptop and also projected on

a movie screen in the dining room of the church and this was a big hit! People spent lots of time watching the progress of vehicles during the event. We were also able to help pin-point the location of a downed walker part way through the walk to help first-responders reach the spot.

Dot KA1LDS and Bill WB1BRE will be coordinating the event again this year with Dot as NCS at the church. We will provide timing and other details as the event gets closer and will follow up on the plans for the water-borne activities.

In addition to being a good training session for portable/mobile net operations, the humanitarian goals of the CROP project are well worth supporting. For those not familiar with CROP, I have included an explanation from their website.

NEW YORK / ELKHART, IN -- The humanitarian agency Church World Service (CWS) announces the start of its spring season of CROP community fund-raising walks -- and the 60th anniversary CROP events. Since 1947, Church World Service's CROP community events have provided an effective means for individuals, congregations, and communities to respond to humanitarian needs worldwide.

While CROP Hunger Walks have largely replaced the grain canvasses of an earlier era, the goal remains



*Part of the APRS setup used by KX1Y  
Garmin eTrex, AGM battery and bike antenna  
Front bike bag held TH-D7A and hand mic (not pictured)*

the same: Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Some 2,000 communities across the country participate in CROP events each year, raising funds for local hunger-fighting agencies as well as for the international relief and development efforts of CWS. The agency works in partnership in some 80 countries globally, and has offices in South America, East Africa, Southern Africa, Pakistan/Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Indonesia.

CWS Indonesia is helping residents of Banda Aceh to rebuild their homes and livelihoods after the tsunami two years ago. In Pakistan CWS is working with the remote populations still affected by the massive earthquake and by overriding poverty. Many people are still in temporary shelters, and are learning new trades to support themselves. CWS Vietnam has brought water and sanitation to schools and villages in the mountains. And in the vast Chaco region of South America, CWS is working with indigenous populations to establish legal claim to their ancestral lands and establish sustainable enterprises to support their communities.

CWS also provides relief and recovery assistance when disasters strike in the United States. CWS is working with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes in the Gulf Coast and provided “care for the caregivers” workshops to the traumatized clergy and relief personnel who have worked throughout the Gulf Coast region.

With up to 25 percent of the funds raised by a CROP Hunger Walks going to support local hunger-fighting efforts in the U.S., CROP Hunger Walks gather churches, synagogues, mosques, school classes, and youth groups to help alleviate hunger at home and around the world.

Each day, more than 27,000 children die from hunger, malnutrition, dirty water, and preventable illnesses like diarrhea and malaria, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund.

CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to raising funds and awareness to make a difference in the global fight against hunger and poverty. One 94-year-old Walker in California has been participating for 28 years. One group in Indiana walked despite recent tornadoes. They walked through a rainstorm in San Luis Obispo, California. CROP Walkers remember the millions of people around the world who walk for water, for food, to get to school, to get to jobs. “We walk because they walk,” is the motto of CROP Hunger Walks.

Local CROP Hunger Walks can be found by visiting [www.churchworldservice.org/CROP](http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP) or by calling 888-CWS-CROP. □



*Dot, KA1LDS, at the Crop Walk 2006*

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