

The Monitor

Voice of the Twin State Radio Club

January 2010



Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds everyone enjoying new ideas and activities for 2010. I have noticed a lot more activity on our 2m repeater than in recent winters. We have the usual suspects of course but also quite a few people who visit the area for business or pleasure who join us for good conversation. This is very welcome.

Something I've noticed about the ham experience especially on local repeater conversations is that I really learn a lot about my fellow hams during our QSOs. Most of my nearest and dearest friends I've made in my lifetime have been hams, some that I knew before joining the hobby but many that I met because of it. This is indeed a precious gift. I will often hear a ham thanking the other person for "keeping me company". I certainly think my ham friends keep me company, but it's more than just during a ride in the car: it's companionship on the journey of life!

We have Cal, WA1WOK, coming to speak to us about DStar this Saturday. Whether you love it or hate it, it's an interesting idea and who doesn't like that?

See you at the meeting!

William Daugherty
KX1Y

Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	January 9, 2009, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover., NH
TSRC Meeting	February 13, 2009, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH

Winter Field Day 2010 - the ARRL January VHF Sweeps Are Coming!

The new year brings with it uncertainty and unknowns, but one thing is known and sure- THE ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES!! So Dot and I want to invite any club member or area Ham to join us in the "contest room" at our home in Strafford, VT for a fun weekend of casual contesting.

Many of you know the drill, but for new people and those who haven't tried mid-winter VHF contesting- our QTH is in Strafford, VT at an elevation of 1950 ft with clear views from NE around to the West to the South. There is a ridge to the East, but it is not a problem for VHF/UHF with our towers.

What bands do we operate? This year we will again be operating 6M, 2M, 222, and 432 Mhz for contacting mobile operators and fixed stations. You can operate SSB, FM, CW and digital during the contest. There are four

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separate operating positions in my shack/workshop in the garage in a 225 sqft room with heat, lights and comfortable seating. We always encourage anyone to bring equip for any other VHF/UHF+ band to add to the fun!

How about logging? We will have Writelog available for all positions, but you can do a paper log if you prefer. We just enter the log into the ARRL contest log format for submission.

What's the antenna setup? There are three towers with a 50 ft tower for 2 M, a 35 ft tower for 6M and a 40 ft tower for 432 and 222. All antennas are fed with hardline to minimize line loss and each tower has a rotator. The 2M horizontal yagi is 9 elements, the 6M horiz yagi is 5 elements, and the 432 horiz yagi is 22 elements. There is a 5 element vertical yagi on 222 Mhz.

How about the rigs? We currently have an all-mode radio and amp with 80 wts on 6M. On 2M, we have the offer of a 375 wt amp again this year. The 222 rig is a 25 wt FM only unit which seems to work out well as there are a few 222 stations that operate in VT and NH. On 432, we have an all-mode rig driving a 500 wt linear, on loan from KA1UAG.

When does this happen? The contest begins at 2PM local on Saturday, January 23 and ends at 11:00 PM on Sunday, January 24. Since contact rates are much lower than HF contests or FD, there is more time for QSO's and some ragchewing. For this contest, we use the club call sign W1FN and we are moderately competitive in New England. Last January, with mediocre conditions, we worked most of New England, NY state, PA, NJ, Delaware, and even Wisconsin and Michigan on VHF and UHF.

How do I get there and what about parking, food, etc? If you plan to come or are thinking about it, just let me know and I'll send directions to our home. We are at the end of a 0.4 mile driveway which is all uphill. 4WD always works, 2W, front wheel drive sometimes. We have room for parking at the start of the driveway and I can "ferry" anyone up to our place. I have snowplow equipment, so there is no danger of getting snowed in if there is a storm. Plenty of parking is available at the garage area and we can accomodate a few people overnight.

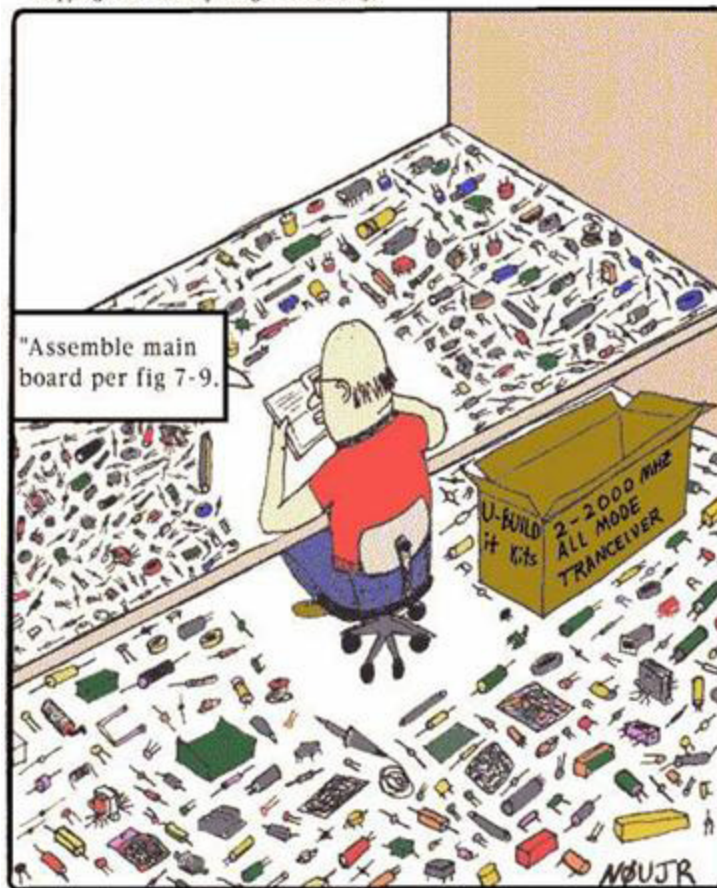
And then there is the food. First, we will have coffee available during the weekend. The evening meal on Saturday will be different this time as we will be providing a meatball "entree" in a cookpot, so it will be hot all the time. We will also have a variety of cakes and cookies for desserts and snacks. We encourage anyone to bring their own potluck speciality-- Dave KA1UAG is famous for his "warm" chili!

If you are planning to stay over on Saturday night, please plan to provide your own breakfast and will have coffee. Sunday lunch just "happens" with the leftovers or other contributions. Suggestions on the food are always welcome!

This is a fun contest with relaxed operation and even time for short QSOs. Depending on band openings, you can get some surprising distance on VHF and UHF. Please plan to join us for this mid-winter club event and experience comfortable operating in spite of wind and snow!

Bill WB1BRE

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Kit fun.

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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
Make it your default start page!
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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