

The Monitor

October 2002



Presidents Message

Hello all:

Hope those that went to Hosstraders found all the junk they were looking for. Weather seemed too good to be Hosstraders weekend.

The ADA walk-a-thon was another success with our help being greatly appreciated. We have been asked to help again next year.

The club has been asked to help with the BSA JOTA this year the weekend of 10-18, 19 & 20. If you can help out please let me know so I can reply to the request.

The vehicle committee will need all the help they can get this weekend and next to do maintenance on both tower trailers. If you can put in some time please let WA1ZCN know.

Hope everyone is ready for the cooler weather. We have been spoiled by the long run of warm weather but the white stuff is on the way.

7s de Verne N5IEP

Upcoming Events

- | | |
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| TSRC Meeting | Oct. 12, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT |
| Crop Walk | Oct. 13, 2002
Fairlee, VT |
| BSA JOTA | Oct. 18-20, 2002 |
| TSRC Meeting | Nov. 9, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT |
| TSRC Meeting | Dec 14, 2002, 9:00am
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT |

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Tower Trailer Help Needed

The Vehicle Committee will be working on the two tower trailers over the next few weekends, and any help would be greatly appreciated on any or all dates. Larry Richard KB1ICS, has graciously agreed to bring along an industrial strength sandblaster so that we can get a coat of paint on the two trailers before winter. The schedule is as follows, subject to weather. Rain will result in rescheduling, although we can probably disassemble and reassemble in anything but a down-pour - we've got tarps! All work will be done at World Headquarters in Canaan. Talk-in on 145.33. Many hands make light work, and we have other things to do if we have extras.

Saturday, October 12th - (after our club meeting)
Disassemble trailers - strip of all equipment and wires, lights. Replace winch cable on 40' US Tower.

Saturday, October 19th - 9am - Sandblast and then paint trailers - I'm buying pizza for all WORKERS!

Sunday, October 20th - 1pm - Second coat of paint, if needed, touch-up

Sunday, October 27th - 1pm - Reassemble trailers. Done!!

73,
Dave #2 Colter WA1ZCN
Vehicle Committee Chairperson



Hosstraders Comments

I'm sure there are very few hams and electronic hobbyists within 300 miles of Southern New Hampshire who have never been to the Hosstraders flea market at least once in their lives. Some of us have been going since the mid 1970s and I'm sure that the majority of attendees will say unequivocally that it is the best tailgating swap fest there is - bar none! The original "Hosstraders"; Joe Demaso, K1RQG, Bob Tiffany W1GWU and Norm Blake WA1IVB have been running this landmark event every May for over 25 years (and since 1984, in October as well). By their own calculations they have raised over one million dollars to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for sick and injured children in Boston, Springfield and Montreal. Truly an outstanding accomplishment.

There are many of us who have seen Hosstraders grow to a small tailgate flea market in a Seabrook NH parking lot to the magnificent Deerfield Fairgrounds (with an unforgettable side trip to Kingston NH in 1986), to the Rochester Fairgrounds aka "Rainchester" 1993-1999, and most recently in 2000 to the beautiful Hopkinton State Fairgrounds just a short ride up I-89 from Concord NH. The Hosstraders is more than a flea market - it is a community; a family if you will, with a weekly equipment swap net on 75 meters in addition to the semi-annual get-togethers.

We all have tons of personal memories from many years of going to Hosstraders and loads of great stuff in our ham shacks, work benches or computer rooms to show for it. We've had a whole lot of lot of fun in the process and Hosstraders has become a very important part of our lives - a cultural event we can look forward to through the long hard cold New England winter. It has been a true rite of spring every year and even now that the Fall 2002 Hosstraders is only a day in the past as I write this we are all looking forward to the Spring 2003 event.

But will there be an event next spring or for that matter ever again? This remains to be seen. It has been the Hosstraders custom to print the next years dates on the tickets every year but if you were there last October 4th or 5th and looked at yours you may have wondered why there were no 2003 dates on it. Here's why.

There has not been a contract signed with the Fair Committee for any future events because last May several unknown persons stole three 25 kV power utility step-down transformers, commonly called "Pole Pigs", from the fairgrounds during the Hosstraders weekend. For those of you unfamiliar with these things, pole pigs are very large and heavy. Two guys in a Dodge Neon couldn't have done this. It would take at least three strong people with a big pick-em-up truck to haul them away. The only use these things have to hams is to reverse connect them and use them for a (very) high power transmitter or amplifier. They have little scrap value and even less resale value because they are all numbered and no power company would touch them.

The three "Hosstraders" announced this news to the assembled crowd at the one o'clock prize drawing and made an appeal for anyone with knowledge or any information about this theft to step forward and help get them back. As it stands there will be no questions asked the matter will be dropped if the transformers are returned. If you know anything about this you may contact any one of the Hosstraders or any of the undersigned and help us get these back to the Fairgrounds as soon as possible. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone else involved. The transformers may be dropped off at several locations and no one will see anything. That will be the end of it.

However if the stolen transformers are not recovered soon the investigation by the authorities will proceed. The owners intend to vigorously prosecute anyone found to be involved in the theft and it is a pretty sure bet that there will be jail time if they are convicted. The Hosstraders have offered to assume financial responsibility for the missing items and pay for them. This is a substantial amount - several thousand dollars that would otherwise go to the Shriners and their hospitals. The other consequence to us all is that there will be no future contracts signed for the Hopkinton Fairgrounds and it is a sure bet that no other such facility will sign one either. This would mean the end of Hosstraders!

We are personally outraged by this theft and the prospect of not having the Hosstraders events to look forward to in the future. We want to help get this matter resolved to everyone's satisfaction as soon as possible so plans for May and October 2003 can proceed. We want to help Norm, Joe and Bob raise a second million for the hospitals. We want more Hosstraders, more stuff, more good times and more memories!

Of course we are hoping that someone will step forward and help get the transformers back and as mentioned we will act as intermediaries. We can guarantee your anonymity and assure you that no questions will be asked. For the rest of you please do not speculate or point fingers at anyone or any particular groups of hams. It will not solve anything and only serve to alienate and divide us at a time when we must all stand together to save our Hosstraders. It has been suggested that publicizing this unfortunate incident will reflect poorly on amateur radio but we do not feel that it is so. We should not nor cannot assume legal responsibility for the acts of a few criminal individuals. Remember, the Hosstraders is a public event and anyone with the price of admission is eligible to enter. There is no hard evidence that we know of as to exactly when these items disappeared or that the persons who stole these items were attending the flea market or are licensed hams, although practically speaking, who else would have any use for them?

Nonetheless, we need to take the practical responsibility here and see to it that this incident is quickly resolved to the satisfaction of the Fair Committee and the Hosstraders organizers to ensure that the event does not die due to the criminal and irresponsible acts of a small group of individuals. It is conceivable that in the five months that has elapsed these

transformers have been disassembled or even disposed of and are simply not available for return. If for whatever reason they do not surface within a reasonable time, say the end of October, we would like to recommend the following course of action: Suitable and equivalent replacements be located, purchased and offered to the Fairgrounds Committee requesting them to sign the 2003 contract thus allowing us to continue holding the event at Hopkinton. We figure that three new custom-made replacements can be purchased for about \$1,000.00 apiece from a manufacturer in the Midwest. Then next May and October if necessary, have a "drop bucket" for people to contribute to the cost of purchasing the replacements. As an alternative a surcharge be added to the gate fees until the cost has been recovered with any overage going to the Shriners. Knowing the Hosstraders community as we do we have no doubt that this sum will be quickly and cheerfully raised.

It would gall us to have to pay for what the thieves stole last May but we all must collectively bear the financial responsibility and not permit the Shriners Hospitals to lose out which they would in the final analysis. A million bucks buys a lot of equipment which can save lives and alleviate suffering of sick and injured children and we'd like to see this outstanding act of benevolence on the part of Norm, Joe and Bob and everyone else involved in this wonderful happening that has become a very important part of our lives to continue to the two or even three million dollar level. We just cannot and will not allow three or four common thieves to take this away from us.

Signed

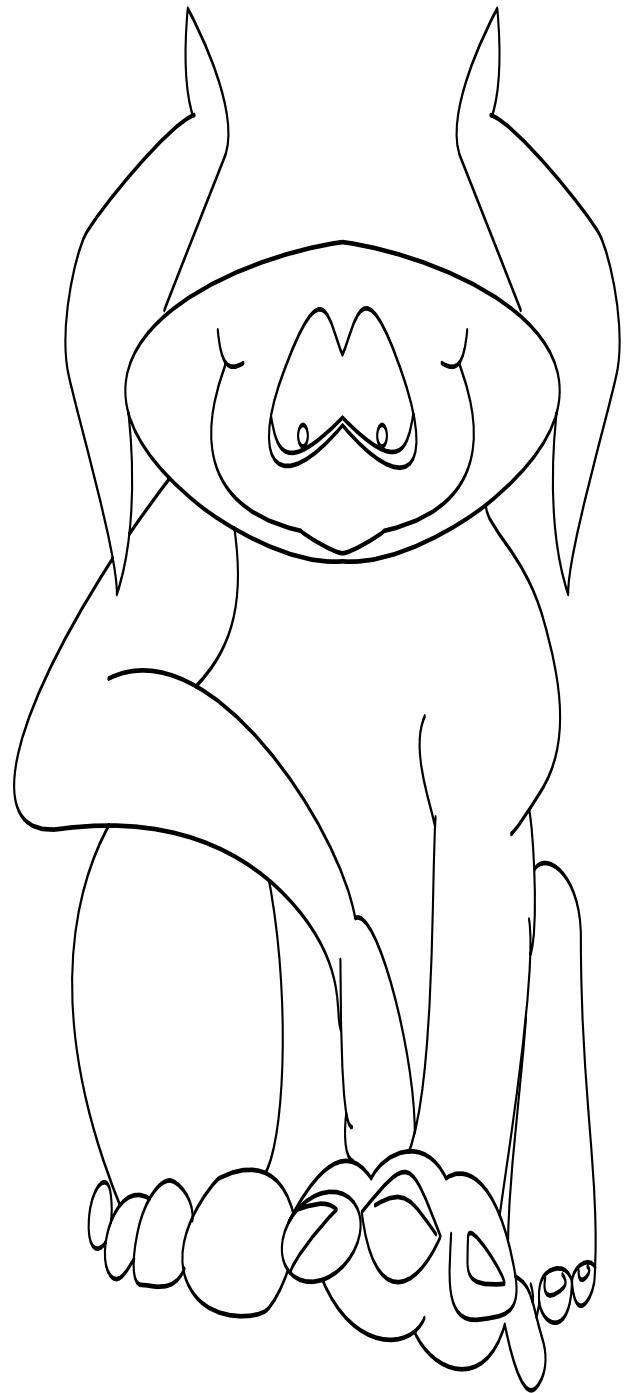
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The Hosstraders official Web site is: <http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg>. It is the only source for official news about the Hosstraders and their events.



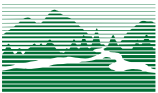
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
Make it your default start page!
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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