

# The Monitor

October 2005



## Upcoming Events

- Hosstraders**                    October 7-8, 2005  
Hopkinton, NH
- TSRC Meeting**                October 15, 2005, 9:00 am  
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH
- TSRC Meeting**                November 12, 2005, 9:00 am  
DHMC Cafeteria, Hanover, NH

## Message from the President:

The jury is still out on the effectiveness of amateur radio as a critical resource during Hurrinanes Katrina and Rita. However, as more reports make their way out of the affected areas it seems increasingly evident that ham radio came to be depended on by a large number of agencies, municipalities and individuals as the dual disasters developed.

Most of us have seen the video footage of the commanding general in charge of managing the impact of Hurricane Rita. Much has been made of his use of a "cell phone with a dying battery" to communicate with the units he commanded. I have seen little in the media about the assistance rendered by ham radio operators during the hurricanes but it is obvious from various newsletters and mailing lists that ham radio truly did work "when nothing else would" on many occasions.

On a very local and personal level, I recently moved from my residence in Hanover to a house in Lebanon. Having lived in the same place for 18 years, the move was a prodigious undertaking, bringing to mind the tale of the Aegean Stables. In the process of relocating, I took advantage of the opportunity to rid myself of many things I had collected over the years. The final bill from the waste disposal company which supplied my "roll-off dumpster" indicates that I disposed of almost four and a half tons (yes, tons!) of no-longer-necessary stuff. My point is, though, that I had more offers of help from members of TSRC than I could possibly have accepted. As In Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, when there was a need, no help had to be requested. It was there, as it has always been. I thank all of you who offered and who helped with my move. Your generosity is typical of the amateur radio heritage and history, both of which I am very proud to be a part of.

As always, 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, October 15th, for our rescheduled monthly meeting! Please join me at the DHMC cafeteria on the

lower level at 9:00 a.m. Anyone with an interest in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergewncy Services) can arrive an hour earlier and participate in the Southern Grafton ARES meeting in the same location.

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

## AMATEUR RADIO VANITY PROCESSING FALLS VICTIM TO HURRICANES

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has suspended the processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. A WTB staff member, speaking to ARRL on background, said the FCC halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for hurricane-affected licensees in certain states could adversely impact the vanity system. The WTB staffer pointed out that the filing extensions announced this month also apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period."

"Because these extensions apply to the grace period, it could affect vanity processing," the WTB staffer told ARRL. "We stopped processing when it came clear that some call signs could be affected." No decision has been made on when vanity processing will resume.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The WTB staff member emphasized that the FCC intended the deadline extensions to apply only to licensees who have been directly impacted by the storms. "These are not statewide extensions," the staffer said.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant. The staffer confirmed that WTB had disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) so that it will not automatically cancel licenses that have not been renewed by the end of the grace period.

"We can't assume based on address who might be affected," the staff member explained, "so we're not auto-terminating anything at this point."

In the meantime, the FCC is encouraging radio amateurs to continue filing vanity applications as they normally would. "Everything will be held in queue," the WTB staff member said.--thanks to Dean Gibson, AE7Q, for alerting ARRL to this situation

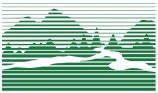
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!  
Make it your default start page!  
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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