

The Monitor

October 2006



Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting October 14, 2006, 9:00 am
EBA's, Hanover, NH
- TSRC Meeting November 11, 2006, 9:00 am
EBA's, Hanover, NH

Message from the President

Last month's meeting saw an excellent presentation on Radio Direction Finding (RDF) or Fox Hunting as it is also known. Thanks go to N1HAC and several others who brought equipment to the meeting. Afterwards we adjourned to the Hanover Green to field test some of the gear. Perhaps at some future date we will resume the TSRC tradition of having an actual Fox Hunt. I personally have enjoyed these immensely in the past and would love to do it again.

The Repeater and Vehicle committees are looking to have a meeting in the next few weeks. Now that our larger events are over for the year we can think about how to move forward with the trailer and the repeater. Please come to the meetings if you are interested and have the time. All members are welcome.

The next few meetings will continue to have great presentations thanks to Ken, AC1H so don't miss it!

See you at the club meeting!

73 de N8RPD
William Daugherty, TSRC President



Did You Miss It ?

If you didn't attend the September TSRC meeting then you missed a fine talk and demonstration on radio direction finding by Dave McGaw, N1HAC. Dave and several other club members showed a variety of attenuators and antennas used for tracking elusive foxes. Some antennas were factory made -- see ads in the back pages of QST -- but many were hand crafted from scraps of wood and wire. Included were N1HAC's phasing antenna, ZL specials homemade by WA1ZCN and WB1BRE, a commercially made portable 'Arrow' beam of N8RPD (did I forget some?)

Following Dave's talk the group adjourned to the Hanover Green to test and compare the assorted gear. There Dave even showed how an HT with a rubber duck can be used with the human body as a reflector to get bearings. My impression from our limited tests is that all the antennas can be used effectively to track a fox in a clear area like the Green. Perhaps the advantageous of one antenna over another would be more obvious in hilly terrain with lots of reflections.

Don't Miss It

Calling all fanciers of old time radio gear. At the October meeting WB1BRE will describe a project of his involving the restoration of an antique radio. Bill first mentioned the project to me last March. At that time he hoped it might be finished by May, but alas when we discussed it again a few weeks ago he said it is still "a work in progress." That sounds familiar doesn't it? I've never restored anything of value myself, but I suspect Bill has the right idea by taking his time rather than rushing to completion.

Despite having a huge selection of components in his inventory, Bill is still seeking a few critical parts to complete the project. He hopes the Hosstrader gods will shine on him. Come to the October meeting and find out if they did.

Ken AC1H

TSRC E-mail Reflector

The TSRC reflector is a good place to get or give help. list equipment for sale, announce your results in the last contest, recruit volunteers for a public service event, and more!

Point your web browser to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/tsrc> Follow the instructions there and you will be able to do all of these!

ARRL PRESSES FCC TO RELEASE “OMNIBUS” AMATEUR RADIO REPORT AND ORDER

The ARRL has called upon FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and his four Commission colleagues to help end “a very frustrating and protracted delay” by releasing a Report and Order in the so-called “Omnibus” Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140. The 2004 Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) proceeding, one of two still awaiting FCC release, consolidated a dozen rule making petitions addressing various Part 97 rule changes -- including ARRL’s Novice refarming proposal. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O), the Commission proposed to go along with the League’s refarming concept and most other recommendations. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, says the long-overdue Report and Order seems to be stalled for no reason.

“I believe it’s grossly incompetent for a government agency to fail to act on something affecting the Amateur Radio Service,” Harrison commented, “especially after the recognition Amateur Radio has received over the past year from members of Congress, public service agencies and even the President.” The oldest of the rule making petitions dates back more than five years, while the NPRM&O came out two and one-half years ago. “There’s nothing controversial in this proceeding,” he said. “The FCC needs to act on this. That’s the bottom line.”

In an October 3 letter to the Commission <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/ARRL-Ltr2FCCreWT-04-140.pdf>>, Harrison said the Amateur Radio Service asks very little of the FCC, “and our performance during recent disasters amply justifies facilitation of these relatively minor rule changes” that will enhance Amateur Radio’s ability to react in emergencies and disasters. The FCC’s apparent foot-dragging “is not responsive government,” he wrote.

The ARRL’s Novice refarming plan would reallocate current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. Harrison maintained that the League’s proposal and others in the proceeding would “greatly improve the efficiency of Amateur Radio’s use of the high-frequency (HF) spectrum.”

The FCC further agreed with the ARRL’s proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). It also proposed to largely do away with Part 97 rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 10 and 12 meters.

An ARRL delegation that met with Martin’s Chief of Staff Fred Campbell last February was told that nothing substantive was holding up the proceeding. Since that time, Harrison told the Commission, inquiries addressed to Campbell and to WTB management and staff regarding the proceeding’s status have gone unanswered.

“I urge you to release the Report and Order that we understand has been drafted and ready for Commission consideration for more than a year now,” Harrison stressed in closing.

Perhaps more eagerly awaited is FCC action on the “Morse code” proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. WTB staff already has indicated that a Report and Order in the older “omnibus” proceeding will come first, however. The FCC’s Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 last July proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes.

A Report and Order in either Amateur Radio proceeding would formally adopt and spell out the changes and specify their effective dates.

NEW LAW FORMALLY MAKES AMATEUR RADIO PART OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY

A section of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 2007 Appropriations Act, HR 5441 <<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bd-query/z?d109:h.r.05441:>>, formally includes Amateur Radio operators as a part of the emergency communications community. Congress approved the measure before adjourning for its pre-election break. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law October 4.

Amateur Radio is included within the legislation’s Subtitle D, Section 671, known as the “21st Century Emergency Communications Act.” Radio amateurs are among the entities with which a Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECC Working Group) must coordinate its activities. Included within the DHS’s Office of Emergency Communications -- which the measure also creates -- RECC Working Groups attached to each regional DHS office will advise federal and state homeland security officials. The final version of the legislation incorporated language from both House and Senate bills and was hammered out in a conference committee. An earlier version of the 21st Century Emergency Communications Act, HR 5852, included Amateur Radio operators as members of the RECC Working Groups.

In addition to Amateur Radio operators, RECC Working Groups also will coordinate with communications equipment manufacturers and vendors -- including broadband data service providers, local exchange carriers, local broadcast media, wireless carriers, satellite communications services, cable operators, hospitals, public utility services, emergency evacuation transit services, ambulance services, and representatives from other private sector entities and nongovernmental organizations.

The RECC Working Groups will assess the survivability, sustainability and interoperability of local emergency communication systems to meet the goals of the National Emergency Communications Report. That report would recommend how the US could “accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide.” They also will coordinate the establishment of “effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks” that could be brought into play in an emergency or disaster.

In light of the new legislation, the ARRL plans to follow up to determine how it can interact with the DHS and its Office of Emergency Communications.

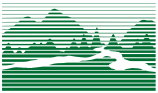
CLUB OFFICERS

President: William Daugherty, N8RPD (603) 359-3745
william@will-do.com
VP: Ken Tentarelli, AC1H (603) 763-9296
Secretary: Nancy Maynard N1QW (802) 295-6080
Lensmaam@mindpictures.com
Treasurer: Chuck Sherman N3WTO (802) 765-9630
chuck.sherman@dartmouth.org
Trustee: Dave Landry KA1CRP (603) 448-5788
daveka1crp@verizon.net
Editor: Mike Maynard, K1IH (802) 295-2650
Lensman@mindpictures.com

ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

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