

# The Monitor

Voice of the Twin State Radio Club

December 2008



## Message from the President

As I write these words we are hearing a weather forecast that holds much to be concerned about. As you read this newsletter, please take a few moments to consider your personal preparedness. Even if you aren't interested in Emergency Communications, we all owe it to our families and to ourselves to be as prepared as possible for power and communications outages.

If you are devoted in some measure to EmComm, please make sure that you have your go-kits in order, that you have plenty of fuel and other supplies for your vehicle and make sure you have that Comm Plan printed out and with you.

Hopefully by Saturday's club meeting the weather will have moderated. We will have a short presentation on Echolink which should be interesting.

See you at the meeting!

William Daugherty  
KX1Y

## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	December 13 2008, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	January 10, 2008, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover, NH



Winter Field Day 2009 -  
The ARRL January VHF  
Sweeps Once Again!!

Once again, 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 the ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST.

Many of you know the drill, but for new

## Disclaimer

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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 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 separate operating positions in my shack/workshop in the garage in a 225 sqft room with heat, lights and comfortable seating. We may add



*The coordinated wardrobe is always a nice touch.  
Thanks KB1MOV and WB1BRE!*

one more higher band, but won't know until close to contest time.

How about logging? We plan to 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 horizontal yagi is 5 elements, and the 432 horizontal yagi is 22 elements. I have 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. (Looking to borrow a 6M amp with 200-400 wts if you know of one). On 2M, I can do 100 wts and, if it works out, I hope to borrow 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 17 and ends at 11:00 PM on Sunday, January 18. 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, usually ending up in the top one-third on score.

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 accommodate a couple of people overnight. Ahh- the food! We provide a turkey dinner on Saturday evening -with all the fixings and constant coffee during the contest. Overnight people should plan to bring their breakfast, and we provide lunch on Sunday- mostly leftovers from Saturday evening! Oh, on the Saturday evening meal, we encourage anyone who would like to bring his or her food specialty. (Dave KA1UAG is famous for his "warm" chili).

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!



This guy looks familiar, doesn't he?

Club email reflector:  
 TSRC@mailman.qth.net  
 subscribe at:  
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/tsrc>

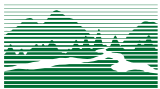
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Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!  
 Make it your default start page!  
<http://www.w1fn.org>



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