

# The Monitor

December 2002



## NEQP 2002 Results Posted

The results for the 2002 New England QSO Party have been posted to the NEQP web site at <http://www.neqp.org/>. We had a great first year with logs from 260 people. Hope you'll join in for the 2003 event - May 3-4, 2003.

Congratulations to plaque winners:

Vermont - single operator

Sponsor: Jim Jarvis, N2EA

Winner: Mill Moore, K1IB

## Big Tower Trailer Painted

Thanks to the efforts of new member Larry Richard, KB1CS, Ken N1KRT, Dave "#1" KA1CRP, Alan N1YMQ, Verne N5IEP, Dave N1AHF, Dan K1DAN, Don KB1AYT and Dave WA1ZCN, the big tower trailer lost its rusty brown coat and gained a new gray one. (I apologize if I've forgotten to mention anyone.) Larry brought along an industrial sized 300lb capacity sandblaster and diesel compressor along with a truckload of tools and supplies. Dave WA1ZCN purchased and delivered six hundred pounds of "Black Beauty" sand and a gallon of Sems industrial rust-inhibiting paint. The sand was cheap, but the paint was \$50 a gallon!

On the first weekend, a crew gathered to disassemble the trailer, and re-cable the tower's telescoping winch. The following Saturday, the blast and paint crew gathered at World Headquarters for the "real work".

The crew met around 9am and set up the equipment and trailer. Ken and Larry donned Tyvek suits, gloves, and face protection to operate the sandblaster. The sandblaster made short work of the rust and scale with Ken at the nozzle, until he tripped over something (the hose, his feet, the spare tire?), fell and fractured his shoulder blade - ouch! As Ken headed off to get his shoulder looked at, Larry took over the blaster, and we managed to just get it cleaned off before running out of sand. Dave #1 used a wire wheel grinder to clean up the tire rims and generate the second injury of the day when the wire wheel jumped and ran across his finger. Dave #2 administered first aid to Dave #1, and Verne and Larry laid the new coat of Sems paint on with the spray gun. Dave #2 used a brush to put get some areas. As it turned out, we could have used another coat of paint, which would have taken another quart or two (at \$30 a quart!) more than we had. That will have to wait for next spring.

The weekend after the paint was applied, a small crew met to reassemble the trailer and install the new lights. The trailer is back together and ready to go up for sale. We took some pictures of the tower in both travel and erected configurations. The asking price is \$3500, a real bargain for a trailer mounted 40' tower.

At this writing both Ken and Dave #1 are healing nicely, and Ken is "on leave" from housework duties for at least six weeks. Rumor has it that Dave's wife won't let him play with us anymore because he's too accident-prone. I wonder if she'd relent if we put a suit of armor in next year's budget?

Dave Colter WA1ZCN

Vehicle Committee Chair



## Simulated Emergency Test - 2002, aka "Hurricane Al"

On Saturday, October 26th, hurricane "Al" tested the capabilities of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operators around the state. (Although ARES officials stare at the ceiling and twiddle their thumbs when asked, rumor has it that the "big wind" was named after New Hampshire Section Manager Al Shuman, N1FIK - for reasons no one can fathom.) Nets were operated on 40m, 80m, 6m, 2m and 75cm. Modes included SSB, FM, and packet. The scenario was a

## Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in The Monitor are those of the individual authors and do not reflect the opinions or policies of The Twin State Radio Club, Inc.

strong hurricane that struck the New Hampshire coast and moved inland doing wide-spread damage. Each ARES group around the state was asked to generate realistic weather and damage reports, then send them to National Weather Service office in Gray, ME and Taunton, MA. All messages were preceded and followed by the statement “this is a drill”.

The Southern Grafton County ARES team, led by Emergency Coordinator Dave N1HAC, operated on HF and VHF phone and VHF packet from the comm van, as well as from various home stations. Dave N1HAC and Dave WA1ZCN manned the comm van at World Headquarters in West Canaan. Rex AA1KL and Bill WB1BRE operated from home, while several other stations checked into the 145.33 net during the four-hour drill.

As usual, lessons were learned from this SET. This was the most ambitious SET in recent memory, and it exposed several weaknesses in the system and plans. Inexperienced NCS operators on HF created a log jam of messages, the packet network didn't work in some areas, the MARS liaison operator never came up on 145.33 to take traffic for Concord on their digital HF “backbone” system, and it became clear that most members need more practice handling formal messages. Jamming by annoyed rag-chewers on 80m made life difficult. When the net moved to a much quieter 40m, the jammers seemed to follow within a few minutes. It seems that Riley hasn't caught them all, and they're not getting the message.

That said, everyone had a great time despite the un-hurricane-like snowy weather. The ECs will be meeting soon in Concord to discuss the SET and lessons learned. Discussions are on-going regarding the best method to create a robust digital network in New Hampshire, including a revamping of the current packet networks, upgrading to a VHF NOS network, or going to HF PSK-31.

Dave WA1ZCN  
Assistant Emergency Coordinator  
Southern Grafton County



## HUGE PARTS INVENTORY AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS

A couple of years ago, some of us realized we had many boxes of small electronic parts that were going unused. It seemed too bad to just throw the stuff away, so we decided to pool the parts and inventory the whole to make it available to club members for projects, repairs, etc. As a result, two years later we have an inventory of thousands of parts housed in my garage in Strafford. The initial inventory consisting of my stuff and parts donated by Mike N1MS and Matt N1RJF has grown thanks to the generosity of Hams from Virginia to New Jersey and Mass and here in the Valley area.

We have helped school projects and local building projects with hard to find parts. We do receive requests from around the country and occasionally from other countries again, looking for hard to locate parts. Recently, a new ham on the west coast was looking for an integrated circuit for a receiver project- his first building effort. A gentleman in Florida sent me a note looking for two rectifier type diodes for his restoration of an old Evinrude outboard engine— Hey, hobbies are important!! Club members have used the inventory for radio repairs and for building little interface devices for their stations.

With winter upon us, think about some project you have always wanted to try. Send me your parts list and we will see if we can help you make it happen. If you would like to build something, but don't have the technical information, let me know what it is and I can probably put a “kit” together for you and help you get started.

I have included the “preamble” to the parts inventory to help answer any questions you might have.

Bill WB1BRE

### PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE ELECTRONIC PARTS STOCK SERVICE FOR TWIN STATE RADIO CLUB MEMBERS.

The purpose of maintaining the parts stock is to provide a service to TSRC members for personal use for construction of Amateur Radio projects and kits or for repair of Amateur Radio gear and related equipment.

The initial stock of parts is owned by Bill Burden WB1BRE, Mike Schmitt N1MS and Matt Atwood N1RJF and has been pooled, inventoried and stored in Bill's garage.

The parts committee will consist of WB1BRE, N1MS, and N1RJF. The committee will maintain the stock of parts, review the selection and make recommendations for additional parts acquisition or elimination of obsolete parts.

The committee will regularly review the rules and procedures regarding the stock and make changes as deemed necessary.

The parts stock will be maintained by a committee member designated “the custodian” who will maintain and update the inventory, receive requests for parts and distribute parts to members. The custodian as appointed by the committee will be Bill WB1BRE.

## RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. These parts are being made available primarily to club members for Amateur Radio projects, equipment repair, etc subject to the limitations of the stock on hand. In cases where there is only a handful of a part is available, the custodian, at his discretion, may limit number provided to an individual, depending on the size of the request.

2. The parts are made available for use by club members and are not to be sold or redistributed. We may, from time to time, swap parts with other Hams or, in some cases, make parts available other Hams, hobbyists, or to educational or industrial entities subject to our disclaimers.

3. The stock includes both new and used parts. The committee does not guarantee the quality of the parts, nor will they accept any responsibility for problems that might result from their use.

4. The committee will, from time to time, add parts or delete parts from the inventory and the mix of parts will change with time and activity. The custodian will periodically update the inventory list posted on the TSRC web site.

5. Contact the inventory custodian () to request parts or for any inquires. The custodian reserves the right to determine the reasonableness of any request.

### PROCEDURE

Contact the custodian via Email, USMail, or on the repeater and provide him with a list of parts you are requesting. The custodian is down in the Lebanon area two or three mornings each week. A schedule of transfer of parts can be worked out or you can pick the parts up at the the TSRC monthly meeting. Plans to acquire parts should include some lead time so as to minimize any delays.

If time or location dictate that the items need to be shipped, we will work out a shipping arrangement, with the cost to be paid by the recipient.

This is a volunteer service, so keep in mind that Bill and Dot travel periodically, and the "warehouse may be closed" from time to time.

### CUSTODIAN CONTACT-

wb1bre@arrl.net or william.burden@valley.net  
328 Old City Falls Rd  
Strafford, VT 05072  
802 333 4623

## NHARES NEWS & VIEWS 11/30/02

As many of you may now know, I am the newly appointed EC (Emergency Coordinator) for the Southern Grafton County Area of NHARES. First, thanks to all who recently signed up. It was very much appreciated and was actually noted twice by the SEC and SM for our section. This was done personally and at the leadership meeting last weekend.

Many of you received a survey by email and many have

responded...I am still hoping for the rest soon. Thanks to those that have.....I look forward to thanking the rest. These are very important.

NHARES members and non-members need to know that the face of ARES in NH and the substance of NHARES is changing. Currently, the combined cooperative entity NHARES/RACES is an integral part of the state plan to respond to a statewide disaster. Much of this emphasis does come from the world events that has had an effect on so many of our lives. The state wants to be able to respond with any needed resources...this includes the category of Volunteer Organizations, but ARES plays a special roll in support, logistics, and information communications. We all know how fragile normal communication can be in times of trouble. We are in the plan, and have a position at NHOEM. Recent events is one reason I said yes to becoming EC.

For the past few weeks I have been looking over our situation in this area. We have started contacting local agencies and assessing resources to be prepared. Today our local ARES leadership is meeting to put together a communications plan and to build a better call-up tree. To be clear, I am not talking about a plan to help with special events. I am talking about being part of our state's response....for what we hope will never come.

This area's strongest resources is its people (e.g. Amateur Radio Operators). This is the best time to say "I want to help". This is the time for us to start to work together to know how to respond and what to do.... It is not just a matter of knowing how to talk on the radio. It is a matter of learning how to pass information, accurately. Let's do it together, and let's enjoy what we do. I like being told thanks for being there. There are many of you who have not stepped up. You are all great assets...let's get ready!

Look over this letter from AI, N1FIK: <http://www.nhoem.state.nh.us/voad/VOADLetter1.htm> Then learn more about NHARES here: <http://www.ares.nhradio.org/>

Finally, if you do want to help....put your skills, hobby and interests to more good, go here to fill out an application: <http://www.nhradio.org/application.html> . Or, contact me or one of the AEC's (Assistant Emergency Coordinator) WA1ZCN, K1DAN, N1HAC, or our partner from VT N5IEP, Verne. VT residents can sign up, but you may want to learn more about VTARES.

We will work to make this interesting, rewarding, exciting...and get to use our hobby at the same time..Can't beat that!

TNX for reading this and considering your role.  
73, Rex.

Rex G. Carr, M.D. - AA1KL  
ARES EC Southern Grafton County, NH  
<mailto:rexgcarr@sover.net>rexgcarr@sover.net  
<mailto:aa1kl@arrl.net>aa1kl@arrl.net

## Guest Editorial

Survival is a funny thing. You don't need to go on a DXpedition to the Galapagos Islands to see or understand how it works, there are plenty of examples right in front of us that we should be able to learn from.

One of the most important things about survival is self-propagation. By propagation, I don't mean radio signals, I mean insuring that we can be here tomorrow. It is vitally important for a 'club' (or any group that wishes to survive) to insure it's survival by propagating. We need to insure we have a steady stream of new members to replace the old members that leave. In order to do this there needs to be an active recruiting effort. Membership dues make up the majority of the yearly expense budget. We need to maintain or increase our membership to enjoy the current levels of expenses we have. As well as signing up new members, we need to keep the active membership from leaving. This is a multi-faceted effort, there needs to be enough interesting aspects of membership to keep a member on and actively renewing their membership each year. All it takes is one 'bad experience' for a member to leave and never be seen or heard from again. We need to make sure this never happens, but in a club as volatile as ours, there are bound to be differences of opinion. If this happens a lot, there may be a mass exodus away from the politics, conflict and stress associated with the club. Club Officers especially need to be aware of this as well as any Committee Chairpersons.

Keeping up interest and involvement in projects is not particularly challenging in and of itself, but maintaining a diverse array of projects that the club is involved in may take a little more effort than anticipated. With any project there needs to be a core group of people that will lead, and fortunately we in the Upper Valley have a very rich core to choose from. We have many talented people amongst our membership, and we are very fortunate to have many of them lead the way as far as many of our projects are concerned. Many times, unfortunately, we get stagnant within our project teams, and sometimes need to be re-energized. Members are not going to work on beat-up old comm vans forever, the thrill will eventually wear off. Project leaders need to constantly think of new ways to keep up interest, but one often overlooked aspect of any leader's abilities is that of continuing professional development. Formal classes are often very expensive, and unless they pertain to one's employment and are funded by such, they are usually cost prohibitive. Experience can be the best teacher here, and for those who need an Elmer, the only way to get anyone to volunteer to lead a project is to recognize the expertise in an area and exploit it. Here is another example where actively recruiting someone for a position can be challenging but yet ultimately rewarding to many.

Speaking of projects, where has all the innovation gone? As far as I can see, we have only 1 or 2 people with the desire to try something new and different. Everyone else seems to be caught up in doing what other people have done long ago. Why is there no high-speed packet backbone in the Upper

Valley? How come no one is experimenting with digital HF? What about remote control and new video modes? Even older stuff such as meteor scatter and ELF don't have many proponents in the UV. New and exciting challenges come along quite often, but we must be open enough and have a little desire to try something new. We can't be held back by the chance that we may fail. It is these types of interesting projects that will attract new members and re-energize old members.

Take for example the IRLP project. While not a club project, it has generated TONS of interest, as well as igniting all kinds of fires under hams in the area to start using the frequencies above 2M. Club members have designed and built the system in the Upper Valley, using their own talents and equipment. These are the kinds of things we need to promote as not only advantages to membership, but as to the achievements of our membership. While the hard work and the funds came from club members, they have made the fruit of their efforts available not only to the club membership, but to all hams in the area or passing thru.

Fundraising is the biggest beast to tame, everyone wants to spend the money, but no one wants to go out and beg for it. This is a big problem. Everyone needs to be involved with fundraising. No exceptions. There is enough to do so that everyone can find something they should be able to handle. Fundraising needs to be a constant, ongoing effort. It needs to happen ALL THE TIME. There should be some sort of effort going on every minute of every day. If we don't raise funds, the repeater will not get moved. If the repeater goes down, we will lose membership. If membership goes down, we will not survive. Fundraising is CRITICAL to survival.

Another aspect of fundraising, as well as anything else the club does is Marketing. You may not think we need to 'promote' ourselves, or 'sell' the club to anyone, but you may be mistaken. Why is it we don't have working agreements with any of the Emergency Management departments? How come the county and state leaders forget who we are and what we do until there is some sort of emergency and we all of a sudden show up? It is because they haven't a clue as to who we are and what we can accomplish. They don't know about us or our organization. They haven't heard of ARES or RACES. They think Amateur Radio operators are a bunch of fat old buzzards talking about the weather and bitching about their health on the radio all day and night. (that could be true to some extent...) We need to actively promote who we are and what we do. We need to do more than just help out at public service events to try and get some exposure. We need to advertise. We need bright orange vests with COMMUNICATIONS on the back that also has our TSRC logo and wording printed clearly when we attend public service events. We need marketing efforts such as blanketing the area with our name. We need to publish our repeater frequencies to scanner listeners. We need to turn our radio-equipped mobile vehicles into billboards promoting the club. We need to work with other agencies such as the fire, rescue and police departments. We need to insure NOAA knows how to contact us and vice-versa. If they don't know who we are, we need to tell them. We need to have a 1 or 2 page glossy color flyer that we

can hand out to EVERYONE stating who we are and what we do. We need hooks into the state government and legislature, as well as into the federal agencies. And we need to have 501.C.3 status.

If we don't get 501.C.3 (tax-free) status, we don't have a shot in hell of getting any major donations or contributions. So what if we have to spend \$300.00 to get it, if we can get \$5K or more in return wasn't it worth it? Is it that much trouble to have a vision, or must we be remain short-sighted and wallow in a puddle of self-pity forever? How much trouble can it possibly be to pay for the application and then fill out a report each year at tax time? Stop and think about it, filling out a contest entry sheet and checking logs for Field Day or for the January VHF Sweepstakes is much more complicated than any tax form I have ever seen, yet we do this religiously each year after the contests are over. Why can't someone contact the League and get some help with this if necessary? Aren't they supposed to help clubs with legal problems? Is a magazine half-filled with advertisements all we get for our dues?

And speaking of the League, what ever happened to our Special Service Club designation? We have everything we need to gain this recognition, yet it either doesn't interest us or we have no need for this honor as bestowed by the ARRL. The more recognition we can get, the better off we will be. We need to start gaining this recognition right from within our own ranks, we need to become a leader and then maintain that status so that we can build a strong foundation on which we can further promote ourselves and our activities. We also need to promote and recognize individual efforts from members of our club, as I have mentioned before we are very fortunate to have a wealth of talent right within the club, from contesters to engineers, doctors and even past officials. These people need to be recognized for their efforts and brought out into the light where they can shine. We have many League officials amongst us, and because we border two states, we quite possibly have twice the normal density of officials. How many of you know what an OES is or how many are within our own ranks? These are the things we need to tell people. We need to list the collective efforts as well as the qualifications of our membership.

Unfortunately we are not made up from a group of Marketing experts. We are a vast, multi-talented bunch with special abilities and a desire to succeed. This makes us prime candidates for the tasks at hand, there is no reason whatsoever we cannot accomplish anything we set out to do. There will be leaders and even more who will rise to the task, if only given a chance to do so. The club leadership needs to re-energize and re-organize these people so that we have a fighting chance at survival. No one man can do it alone, and certainly even the club as a whole is bound to fail at something. Be that as it may, we cannot lose sight of our goals. We need to prioritize and then execute. We need to all realize that we need to work together and help wherever we can, whenever we can in order to raise money and awareness.

Club officers need to look down the road a bit, instead of concentrating on what is currently playing on the

radio. Means need to be instituted NOW to insure we can survive in the future. We needed to start fundraising LAST YEAR. We need to have marketing materials available for ANY opportunity. We have to get our names and faces recognized in the newspapers and by the government, as well as other public service agencies. Lets hope it doesn't take a disaster to put us in the public eye. Any amount invested in our future is just that - an investment. We cannot afford to ignore our future needs any longer with the short-sightedness of our current situation. Instead of short term plans for the repeater, lets focus on long term funding of everything. If we establish goals, and then try to work towards them, we cannot go wrong. Problem is, we need to identify and plan our future. Living day-to-day will work, but a subtle, non-descript existence is not really what we as a club deserve.

If you agree with me, please echo these sentiments whenever you can, and as always, you can contact me by email at <mailto:opus@vermontel.net>opus@vermontel.net .

Micky - K1XH

*Happy  
Holidays!*



## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting      Dec 14, 2002, 9:00am  
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

TSRC Meeting      Jan. 11, 2003, 9:00am  
Ramada Inn, WRJ, VT

## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Verne Burden N5IEP      (802) 295-7533  
BurdenV@aol.com

VP: Dave Colter WA1ZCN      (603) 526-7120  
dbcolter@rcn.com

Secretary: Nancy Maynard N1QW      (802) 295-6080  
Lensmaam@mindpictures.com

Treasurer: David Haseman KE1IW      (603) 675-2678  
David.B.Haseman@dartmouth.edu

Trustee: Dave Landry KA1CRP      (603) 448-5788  
JDLandry@innevi.com

Editor: Mike Maynard, K1IH      (802) 295-2650  
Lensman@mindpictures.com

## ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

\*ARRL Website      <http://www.arrl.org/>

\*NH ARRL Home Page:      <http://www.nhradio.org/>

\*Tom Frenaye K1KI-NE Div. Dir.      k1ki@arrl.org

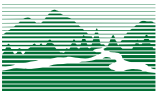
\*Al Shuman, N1FIK, NH SM      n1fik@arrl.org

\*Dale Drake, AA1QD, NH ACC      aa1qd@arrl.net

\*Paul N. Gayet, AA1SU, VT SM      aa1su@arrl.org

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