

# The Monitor

Voice of the Twin State Radio Club

May 2010



## Message from the President

TSRC attended NEARfest in Deerfield, NH as a club April 30th and May 1st. We had great weather and an ideal location. We were able to sell virtually all the gear we brought and I got to play the part of wheeler-dealer. This gave me a chance to talk to a very large number of people over the course of Friday. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I think the other club members in attendance did also. I would strongly encourage others within the club to try and attend this event in the future as it is a great opportunity to talk about our club and show off the comm trailer.

Don't forget this Saturday's club meeting will feature a presentation by Barry Baines WD4ASW, President of AMSAT-NA (The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation-North America). The meeting got some great PR exposure via ARRL. I received a press release that was generated by the Section. Thanks go out to Bill, WB1BRE and Dave, N1HAC, for all the work they've done to organize the meeting program and the special location (Wilder Hall room 104 on the Dartmouth campus).

We will also be naming the slate of officer candidates and beginning discussions on Field Day 2010.

See you at the meeting!

William Daugherty  
KX1Y

## Upcoming Events

TSRC Meeting	May 8, 2009, 9:00 am Dartmouth College Wilder Hall rm. 104 Hanover, NH
TSRC Meeting	June 12, 2010, 9:00 am EBA's, Hanover., NH

## Old QSTs – A Treasure Trove of Fun!

Dave WA1ZCN

Back when my brother and I were in high school and tinkering with electronics in our basement "lab," my dad mentioned this fact to a ham friend who worked for a local car dealership. I no longer remember Frank's call, but I'll be forever grateful to him for passing along a stack of relatively recent issues of QST. Later on, our high school library offered us another large stack. It went down into the lab as well.

Those magazines not only inspired me to eventually become licensed (my brother never did,) but provided hours of enjoyment as well. Eventually those magazines went into a box in the basement. Fast forward to a few years ago, and my parents wanted us kids to claim anything we still cared about. The magazines ended up in New Hampshire, and we've become reacquainted.

It's amazing now to look at the ads and articles and realize that all those "antiques" were state of

## Disclaimer

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the art when I was a kid. The August 1961 issue on my desk has an ad introducing the brand new Collins 75S-3, as well as ads for famous old brands like Hallicrafters, Heathkit, RCA Electron Tubes, Hammarlund, among others.

Deep inside is an article about a DXpedition to US Navy controlled Kure Island, home of the Gooney Bird (not to be confused with the Gooney Box radio). The crew was flown to the island from Midway Island by the US Coast Guard. I can't imagine that happening today. Or lugging those big heavy tube rigs all that way! My childhood Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver (also a gift from Frank) weighed in at 75 pounds, and transmitters often weighed more. Freeze dried food didn't exist back then either, so the food had to be fresh or canned. Operating wasn't easy either, since the Navy's Loran station was causing serious interference. Fortunately, the hams were able to talk the chief engineer into turning the power down a bit – to just 220kw!

But what really brings back memories are the articles by funnyman John Troster W6ISQ. Throughout the sixties and seventies, Troster's humorous articles poked gentle fun at hams' odd

behavior and bad habits. I read them out loud to my brother as he was trying to solder components into our latest medium wave transmitter (we got up to a kilowatt before our mother pulled the plug on us, but that's another story). It was fun, but not very good for productivity because we'd both get to laughing so hard that I could barely get the words out and he was burning his fingers.

Troster also wrote a number of serious articles about DXing (his main passion) and other subjects, but it's the funny ones he'll be remembered for. John is still kicking around California and occasionally still gets on the air even in his late 80s, but it's been quite a few years since he wrote for QST. Most of his articles are available from the ARRL website QST archives, or at hamfests. Those old QSTs cost 50 cents new – now you can get them for free if you wait until the end of the day!

Troster's humor just has to be shared, so last month I wrote to QST and was quickly given permission to reprint a particular favorite of mine, The DX Dazzling Demoralizer in this newsletter. Enjoy!

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## DXMANSHIP – Phase I “The DX Demoralizing Dazzler” By John G. Troster W6ISQ

“Ok, Charlie, ok. I know you're still sore because 4KFC beat you in Sweepstakes.”

“Not only him, but also 9IOP and everybody else who was on. Even W1LVQ beat me.”

“I say Charlie, you did poop out!”

“I don't think I like them Hamsmanship ploys you told me about, 'cause I spent three hours just looking for a VE8 to zero beat.”

“Experience, Charlie, old man, merely experience. But that was last sweepstakes. It's DX

Contest time now. So how did you do in the first half?”

“I worked a VE8. Called him an hour and he finally got mad and come back to me and said he didn't count, so quit QRMming him.”

“Maybe you could use a little help then, Charlie?”

“Yeah, but don't gimme no more of them Hamsmanship ploys like zero beating VE8's.”

“OK, Charlie, ok. I think maybe...yes, I think I'll let you in on a novel little secret ploy used by our Hamsmen who are DXers...otherwise known as DXmen. We call this introductory course, 'DXmanship – Phase I', subtitled 'The DX Dazzling Demoralizer.' And Charlie, with this

new little maneuver you'll be able to reek havoc... oops...sorry... be able to make things a little more enjoyable for yourself in the DX contest."

"Yeah, I do need to be enjoyable for a change. So what do I do?"

"All right, Charlie. Let's suppose there's a pretty good pileup on Gus over at say, AQ9. So the first thing a good DXman wants to do is demoralize the opposition....right? So, what's the best way to foul things up?"

"Me get on the air."

"Right...you call "CQ DX dead beat with Gus."

"You're backing me into another Wouff Hongin'."

"Not at all, Charlie, my boy, because you really get an answer."

"Me? I can't get an answer with a Tuesday night CQ on 40."

"Yes, but who do you suppose comes back to you?"

"A VE8?"

"YC7XZ...yessir...right out of the F2 layer you answer this YC7. You thank him for his fine call. Give him a 579 report and ask him if he's in the contest."

"What's he say to me?"

"Come on Charlie...it's a make-believe YC7 – turn up your receiver!"

"Ohhhhh...thought I had a new country there for a minute. Would help my status a bit, ya know."

"So after a few minutes, you go back and say, 'thanks Yorik, for the great report. Glad you want to work some of the other fellows. Just call 'CQ contest' on this frequency and see if you don't get some nice calls. 73 etc, etc.' Got it Charlie?"

"Then what?"

"Well, about this time, some of the fellows who were cursing you for zero beating Gus are straining their audio to hear this YC7. And sure enough, a few of the superior operators are positive

they hear him in there. And they start calling him blind...like their DX status depended on it."

"Poor Gus. He'll never forgive me."

"Quite okay. It'll give Gus a chance to have a hot yak-buttered coke and a red cigarette. Now you have the opposition demoralized... right? They're all calling this YC7 blind, and QRMing each other, and swishing up and down and around. So now it's all yours...and in true DXmanship fashion, you sit back now and enjoy yourself."

"You mean go after a VE8?"

"You wait a minute, then go back on the air... 'W6\*\*\* (calls have been changed to protect the guilty)... 'didn't you hear Yorik answer you?' you say. 'He gave you a 337 and said to QSY up 15 kc.'"

"Gee, W6\*\*\* usually has a good T9 note."

"Listen up, will ya, Charlie. This is you making believe. Now...by this time, W6\*\*\* is so excited he can hardly paddle the keyer, but he comes back with a 'TU Yorik cu up 15'...whhh-hhoooeppppp. And off he beeps up 15 with half the band ditting and dahhing right behind."

"So now Gus is in the clear and I call him to see how he likes his yakked-up coke...right?"

"Right...and after you say 73 to Gus you Whoooosshhh up 15 kc, and call your YC7 buddy and say, 'my, how strange these powerful stations with the big aerials can't hear you at all, Yorik. Too bad, because they all need YC7 for a new country. I'll tell all these powerful stations to give you a long call.' OK fellows, QRS and give Yorik a long call."

"Wonder if they have a International Wouff Hong at 4U1ITU?"

"And so the band comes apart, and you can hear those variacs screeching and the signals snapping from S6 to S9."

"How does a Wouff Hong sound in action?"

“And when it quiets down a bit, you come on again and say something like, ‘alas poor Yorik, I worked him well’...haw...ha...hee.”

“What does that mean?”

“Harrummph...ahhh, never mind Charlie....just say, ‘alas poor Yorik came back to W2\*\*\* and gave him 228 and says he is so sorry no one can hear him, so he is going to QRT. Says he wants to write Bob White to claim new country status.’ I tell you, Charlie, that’ll put the opposition on their knees sorting resistors.”

“Say, you think I could work the YC7 just once more before the contest is over?”

“Sure, that would be perfect DXmanship mystique! You demoralized the opposition once already: so you are in an excellent and advantageous position to administer the coup de humiliation.”

“Oh, that’s good. Sure hope he can copy me next time.”

“Sure he can always copy you...why?”

“Cause he forgot to tell me who was his QSL manager.”

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*For Sale by member. Available in Etna, NH*

*All Wave Ten Tec Pegasus Transceiver using Computer Panel and Panoramic Display Computer control. PC Computer and terminal included. Also Ten Tec Model 302 Encoder/Key Pad,*

*Ten Tec Model 607 Keyer Paddle, Ten Tec Microphone, Ten Tec Model 963 Supply, At-11 AutoTuner, Micronta Regulated 12 v Power Supply*

*Best Immediate Offer Accepted 603-643-3933 [Ian@Valley.net](mailto:Ian@Valley.net)*

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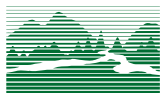
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

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



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