



Tri County Repeater Association



December 2002

<http://www.tcra.org>

◆ Christmas Party & December Meeting

The annual Christmas party and December meeting will be held December 3rd, 2002 starting at 6:30 P.M. This will be held at N9XMU's residence in Chippewa Falls. Dale's address is 12568 44th Ave. If you need help getting there give a call on the 145.470 repeater and someone will be able to help you get there. This will be a potluck event so bring a dish to pass. We will be having our December meeting and election of officers for the year 2003. There will also be a door prize given out. Hope to see everyone there!

◆ October Meeting

The October meeting was held October 1st, 2002 at Jon Henry's in Cornell. Vice President W9RAY took the minutes in KB9TYC's absence. AB9EJ gave the treasurers report and advised we had \$1844.71 in our account as of the June meeting. Since then we have had 2 new members join. They are Dick, W9NG and Bill W9NNS. AB9EJ advises that Field Day expenses were \$91.79 and our current balance is \$1792.79. All new memberships after the October meeting will count towards 2003.

N9XMU advised that we made 614 contacts this year at Field Day. 585 contacts were ssb and 29 were cw. Our final score was 1,786 points. A rundown of the contacts made is below.

Band	Contacts
80	2
40	14
20	102
15	127
10	206
6	133
2	1

W9RAY also advises that the new meeting location will be Rudy's in Bloomer.

◆ **Web Site Changes**

The Tri County Repeater Association's web site at <http://www.tcra.org> has undergone some major changes. There is more content available on the site and club members may post items to the site. The web site provider has been changed so hopefully it will be faster to load than before.

The mailing list is different through this provider and you will be able to change your email address on your own and change how you would like to receive messages. You will now be able to send attachments due to the provider having anti-virus software on the server. If you have anything that would be of interest to the members of the club just send it to members@tcra.org.

◆ **Upcoming VE Sessions**

There will be a VE Session coming up on January 11th, 2003 put on by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. It will be held at South Middle School from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. The address is 2115 Mitscher Ave. You are to enter door number 7 on the northeast side of the building. Please bring a picture id your original license, and a copy of your license.

And Now That You've Read That

◆ **ARRL VEC Examination Fee To Rise**

ARRL VEC examination fee to rise (Nov 14, 2002) -- Starting January 1, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$10 to \$12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges. Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of \$12. Additionally, the maximum reimbursement ARRL VEC allows ARRL volunteer examiner (VE) teams to retain to directly offset their prudently incurred out-of-pocket expenses will increase from \$4 to \$6 in 2003 (this fee has remained at \$4 per person served since 1991). "While the number of examinees has remained relatively unchanged in the past 24 months, our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs--continues to rise," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "An adjustment was needed in the 2003 test fee if we intended to maintain the same level of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect." Jahnke said that adjusting the reimbursement level for ARRL VEs who retain a portion of the fees to offset their out-of-pocket, exam-related expenses was also past due. For more information, contact ARRL VEC.

Have a Safe Holiday Season,

Paul – KB9TYC