## **Tri County Repeater Association**

Volume 8, Issue 3 May 2004

## **April Meeting**

April 21st, 2004

Dale McGraw - N9XMU

The April Meeting of the Tri County Repeater Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 with the following members present: KC9CGW, WB9WKT, KC9FEE, W9DNB, AB9EJ, KC9EXW, N9RVV, N9XMU, W9GDH, and KA9GNG. Guests present were KC9DUB, KB9YLR, and KG9RA.

The minutes of the February meeting were read by Club President N9XMU. The Treasurers report was given by Club Treasurer AB9EJ. The balance in our account is \$1,697.39. We had 6 new members sign up for a total of 26 members.

**Old Business**: Nobody has spoken to Walt about the repeater controller. Issue Tabled.

**New Business**: A motion was made to use W9NG's call for Field Day and passed. We will be setting up a GOTA station if enough radios can be secured. The GOTA station call will be AB9EJ.

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## **Mike's Code Corner**

Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ

The following is some code that has a message. Some of you will find this very easy, others will find it educational, and others won't bother at all. That's ok. Have fun anyway.

Code Corner #7 – The Amateurs Code

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#### 2004 TCRA Officers

President: Dale McGraw – N9XMU

Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY

Secretary: Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

Treasurer: Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

http://www.tcra.org

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A motion was approved to purchase an Icom IC-718 HF rig from N0DTO for a price not to exceed \$350.00. This will be a club radio.

There was a discussion concerning HF radios for Field Day. AB9EJ volunteered an Icom IC-737. We are still short one HF radio. We have enough antennas, rotors, and towers to cover our needs. AB9EJ has volunteered a vertical for the GOTA station.

N9TUC has been approached about securing the Field Day site and a Porta-Potty.

Discussions were also held concerning the new ARRL Licensing Proposal and Skywarn. These discussions were mostly facilitated by W9GDH and KG9RA.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.

73,

N9XMU❖

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION APRIL MEETING

PLACE: RUBY'S ROADHOUSE IN BLOOMER

DATE: JUNE 1ST, 2004.

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

#### **ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY**

DATE: JUNE 12<sup>TH -</sup> 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2004.

TIME: BEGINS 1800 UTC SATURDAY, ENDS 0300 UTC MONDAY HTTP://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/june-vhf.html

#### ARRL FIELD DAY

PLACE: ICE AGE CENTER: 13394 CTH M, NEW AUBURN WI

DATE: JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2004.

TIME: BEGINS AT 1800 UTC SATURDAY, ENDS AT 2100 UTC

SUNDAY

HTTP://WWW.TCRA.ORG

## **April Code Corner Answer**

#### Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ

The following is some code that has a message. Some of you will find this very easy, others will find it educational, and others won't bother at all. That's ok. Have fun anyway.

Code Corner #6 - Why CW?

Why bother with SSB and CW? Why not use only FM?

For one thing, you don't need repeaters to communicate over longer distances with SSB and CW. Except for the amateur satellites; all VHF SSB and CW operation is direct from station to station. FM operators refer to working without repeaters as operating simplex. SSB and CW operators wouldn't have it any other way! SSB and CW signals are detectable at levels where FM signals can't even be heard. For this reason, SSB and CW are called weak-signal modes. The signals aren't necessarily weak, but you can often copy them even when they are. ❖

# 8 Year Sentence for Radio Interference

May 13th, 2004

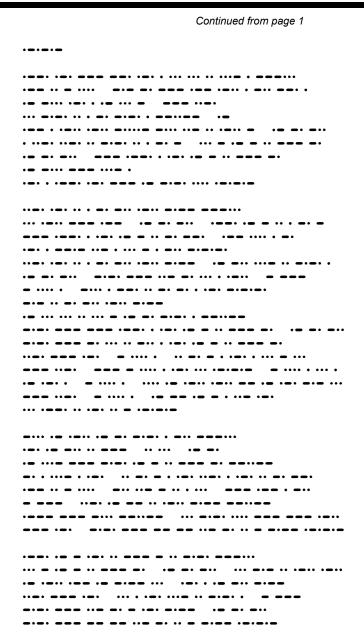
#### http://www.madison.com

A University of Wisconsin graduate student convicted in federal court of intentionally jamming the Madison emergency radio system 37 times last year was sentenced in federal court as a domestic terrorist Wednesday to eight years in prison, placed on three years' probation and ordered to make restitution of \$6,005 to the Madison Police Department.

Although the government considered Rajib Mitra, 25, of Brookfield, the equivalent of a domestic terrorist, based on an application of the Patriot Act that punishes the substantial disruption of a critical public infrastructure, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim O'Shea said Mitra's crime stemmed more from "immaturity than ideology."

"The case was about domestic terrorism, not like what happened in New York, but by the immaturity of the defendant," whose technical skills were further

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Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, wrote the original Amateur's Code in 1928. ❖

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advanced than his social skills, O'Shea said.

It was the first time a sentence for substantial disruption has been imposed since new federal guidelines went into effect in November; otherwise, Mitra may have been sentenced to a maximum of two years, said his attorney, Christopher Van Wagner.

"Rajib was not the guy this guideline was intended for. ... This was a law intended to ... snare terrorists ... and he was a misguided but very gifted young man. Why does he get slammed at that level? ... The answer is because of the Patriot Act's directives," Van Wagner

said after court.

In a defiant statement to District Judge John Shabaz, Mitra bristled at the government labeling him a domestic terrorist and continued to dispute that he intentionally threatened public safety. In asking for leniency, he said he was only close to four persons: his parents, who are in poor health; his grandmother; and his girlfriend, all of whom may not be there when he is released from prison. "My limited social skills will make it difficult to reintegrate into society," Mitra said.

In rejecting Van Wagner's arguments, Shabaz found that the computer science student converted a radio receiver to transmit tones that interfered with the 800 MHz emergency radio system used by police, fire and paramedics. Shabaz recounted trial testimony about the disruptions that prevented police officers from communicating with each other while making arrests, kept paramedics from getting patient information to hospital staffs and decreased safety for firefighters while on calls.

"These are communications used to save lives," Shabaz said.

Shabaz also increased Mitra's sentence for perjury, calling his trial testimony about the accidental transmissions being caused by a loose wire, "almost a fairy tale," that no reasonable jury would believe.

Radio disruptions occurred between January and early October 2003, mainly in the 500-600 blocks of State Street and near Orchard and Regent streets, but turned both areas where Mitra lived last year into a "dead zone," O'Shea said.

The radio interruption on Halloween night continued for three hours. Mitra was also found guilty of interfering with the police radio system for broadcasting on Nov. 11, when he downloaded 12 pornographic sound files from the Internet. The sound was heard over the radio police wear near their collar, causing officers all over the city of Madison to turn down their radios while in contact with the public, O'Shea said.

Mitra has credible grounds for an appeal, including Shabaz's refusal to answer a jury question about Mitra's intentions to disrupt the radio system.

"There's an awfully good chance that Rajib Mitra is innocent," said Van Wagner, who will turn the appeal over to another attorney.

By Kevin Murphy
Correspondent for The Capital Times❖