

The Repeater



The Official Publication of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc.

Mission Statement of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, as Adopted on September 20, 1993

The purpose of the TCRC is to facilitate the local communication needs of its members by owning and operating a state of the art wide area coverage two meter repeater system. The club will further involve itself in secondary activities intended to (1) promote the exchange of ideas and information related to amateur radio, (2) strengthen the fellowship and camaraderie among the members, (3) serve the local amateur radio community, and (4) increase local public safety.

Field Day 2008

is Right Around the Corner!
(Yes, *this coming weekend!*)



See the articles inside for more information about what Field Day is all about, and the plans that the TCRC has made for this year's Field Day event! Be sure to check inside for maps and directions to the location from which we will be operating. We will be at the same location as last year, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, in Savage, not the old site that we've used for many years in Empire Township, which is no longer available to us. We sincerely hope that you can make it out to enjoy this once-a-year event with us.

Summer, 2008
Volume 31, Number 1

Inside this issue

Mission Statement	1
Field Day 2008: Around the Corner	1
A Field Day Message from ARRL	2
Welcome, New Members	2
Field Day 2008	3
Expired Members, Please Renew	5
Newsletter Articles Wanted	5
TCRC-Sponsored Skywarn Classes	5
Membership Application	6

*Please Join Us
for
Field Day 2008*

*06/27/08 1:00 PM
Setup begins*

*06/28/08 1:00 PM
Operation begins*

*06/29/08 1:00 PM
Operation ends,
Teardown begins*

The Repeater is published quarterly by the Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc. (the TCRC). The TCRC is organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Minnesota, with Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The club elects officers annually. These officers are simultaneously elected for a two-year term on the Board of Directors. The Repeater Trustee is a permanent member of the Board of Directors. Unlike the other Officers and Board Members, the Trustee may select a proxy to serve in his place at meetings of the Board. Membership in the TCRC is \$25 per year. The TCRC is an official ARRL affiliated society.

TCRC Officers:

President: Artie Johnson, WBØJMG
Vice President: Phil Lefever, KBØNES
Secretary: Tanna Morse, KCØURO
Treasurer: Craig Larsen, KCØDMF

Board Members:

All of the above Officers, plus...
 Ivan Frantz, WØBU, **Repeater Trustee**
Ivan has currently appointed Mogens Dantoft, OZ9MD, as his proxy for Board Meetings.

Past Vice-President: Mark Neumann, KCØITP
Appointed: Doug Ayers, NAØVY
Appointed: Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF
Appointed: Kevin Uhler, NØBEL

Technical Committee (a/k/a Tech Team):

Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Chair**
 Phil Lefever, KBØNES, **Vice Chair**
 Doug LaBore, NØBIS
 Rich Kenney, WØRFK
 John Toscano, WØJT

Field Day Committee:

Tanna Morse, KCØURO, **Chair**
 Open, **Vice-Chair**
 Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Site Setup Manager**
 Open, **FOOD Station Manager**

Information Services Committee:

Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Chair** and **Head Webmaster**
 Phil Lefever, KBØNES, **Assistant Webmaster**
 John Toscano, WØJT, **Assistant Webmaster**
 Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF, **Web Calendar Maintainer**

Membership Committee:

Doug Ayers, NAØVY, **Chair**
 Craig Larsen, KCØDMF
 Tanna Morse, KCØURO

Newsletter Committee:

John Toscano, WØJT, **Editor**

Net Control Operators:

Chair: Larry Jenkins, KØLEJ
 1st Tuesday: Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF
 2nd Tuesday: Doug Ayers, NAØVY
 3rd Tuesday: Larry Jenkins, KØLEJ
 4th Tuesday: Phil Lefever, KBØNES
 5th Tuesday: John Toscano, WØJT
 Alternate: Mark Newman, KCØITP

Metro Skywarn Liaison:

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF

Minnesota Repeater Council Liaison:

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF

Emergency Services Coordinator:

Janet Skovran, KBØZFB

A Field Day Message from the ARRL

Thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend. Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called “Ham radio” – was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 28-29, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "When all else fails..." is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 34,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

In the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN) metropolitan area, the Twin Cities Repeater Club will be among the groups demonstrating Amateur Radio on June 28-29, 2008. We will set up in Murphy-Hanrehan Park, in Savage, MN. We invite the public to come and see ham radio's capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

There are 650,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the DHS Citizens' Corps, Salvation Army, FEMA and hundreds of state and local agencies, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. We can even help you get on the air!



Welcome, New Members!

The following folks have recently joined the ranks of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, or have re-joined after a period of elapsed membership. Please welcome them the next time you hear them on one of our repeaters! The club thanks them for their willingness to participate in the club.

Callsign	Name
KDØDKI	Sam MacDonald
KBØKTF	Aaron Pratt
WA6FQT	Reo Pratt
NØDSH	Franklin Haugen
KØMWM	Michael McIlheran
K6JXH	James Hickstein
WØPO	Dennis Pollard

Field Day 2008

by John Toscano, WØJT

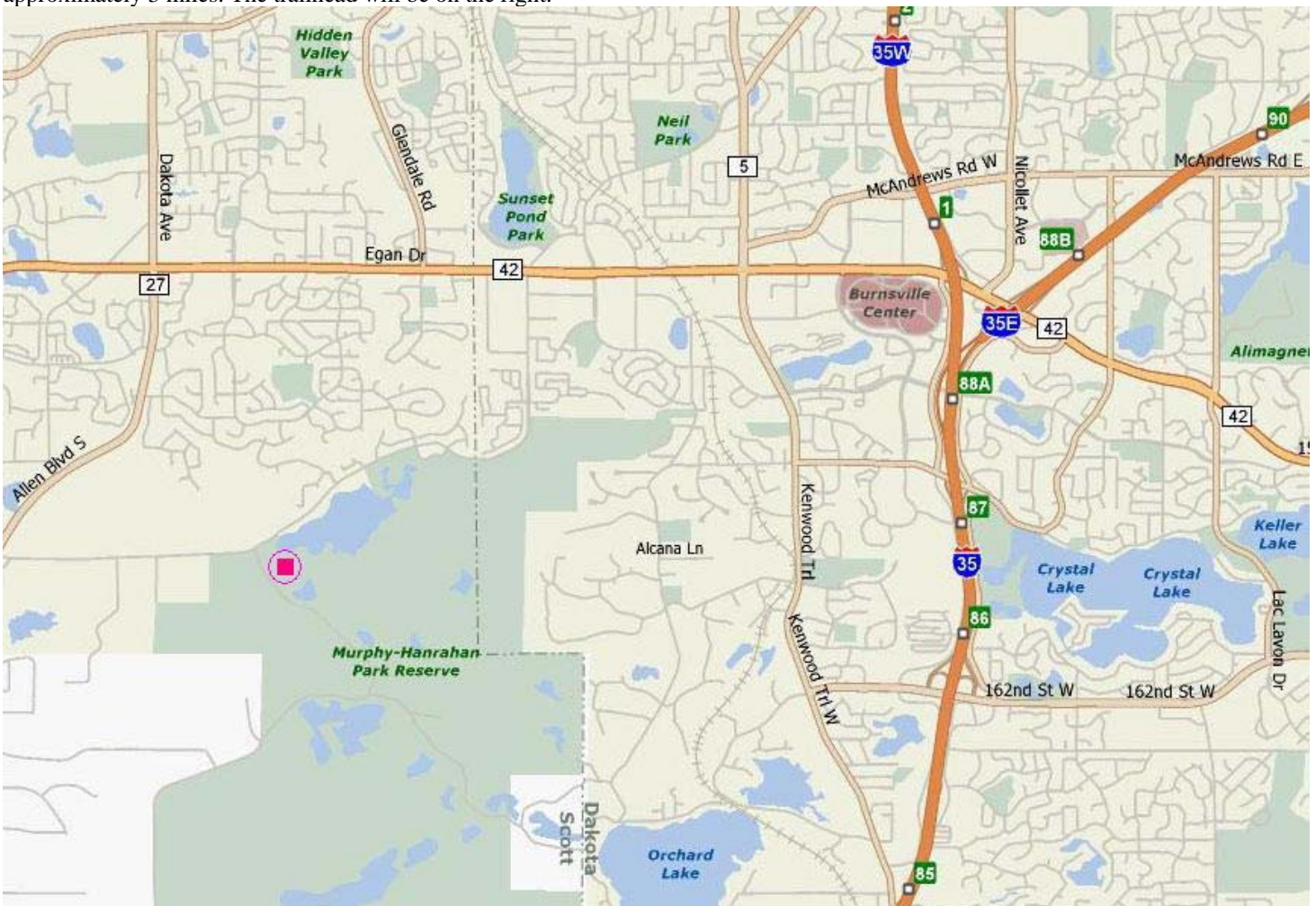
Last year, we relocated to a new Field Day site, which we will be using again this year. It is Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, located in the Southeast corner of Savage, right on the Burnsville line. Since it is a public park, we will be eligible for the 100-point bonus for operating in a public place. A map showing the location is included below, and should help you visualize where the Park Reserve is located in relation to other major landmarks, such as County Road 42, Interstate 35W, and Interstate 35E. The second map is part of an official flyer about the Park Reserve, and shows a little more detail on the corner of the park where we will be setting up shop. For those of you with GPS, the coordinates are (N 044 43.456, W 093 20.820).

The site is on Murphy Lake Boulevard (Scott County Road 75), just south of the intersection of Scott County Road 74 and Scott County Road 75, which is also known as Hanrehan Lake Boulevard, in Savage. For many of us, the best way to reach the site is to go south on Burnsville Parkway from County Road 42, then follow it around the bend (to the west, where its name changes to Hanrehan Lake Boulevard). Watch for the red barn on the right, and a lake on the left, because just past those landmarks is the turn-off (a left) onto Murphy Lake Boulevard. Travel another 100 meters or so, and the park, and the TCRC, will be on the left. Note that the area is also the parking lot and trailhead for the mountain bike trails, so we will have some company, but the parking lot is **big**, and there will be no problems holding all of us.

Other ways to reach the park, from the park's official web site, which approach the park from the south:

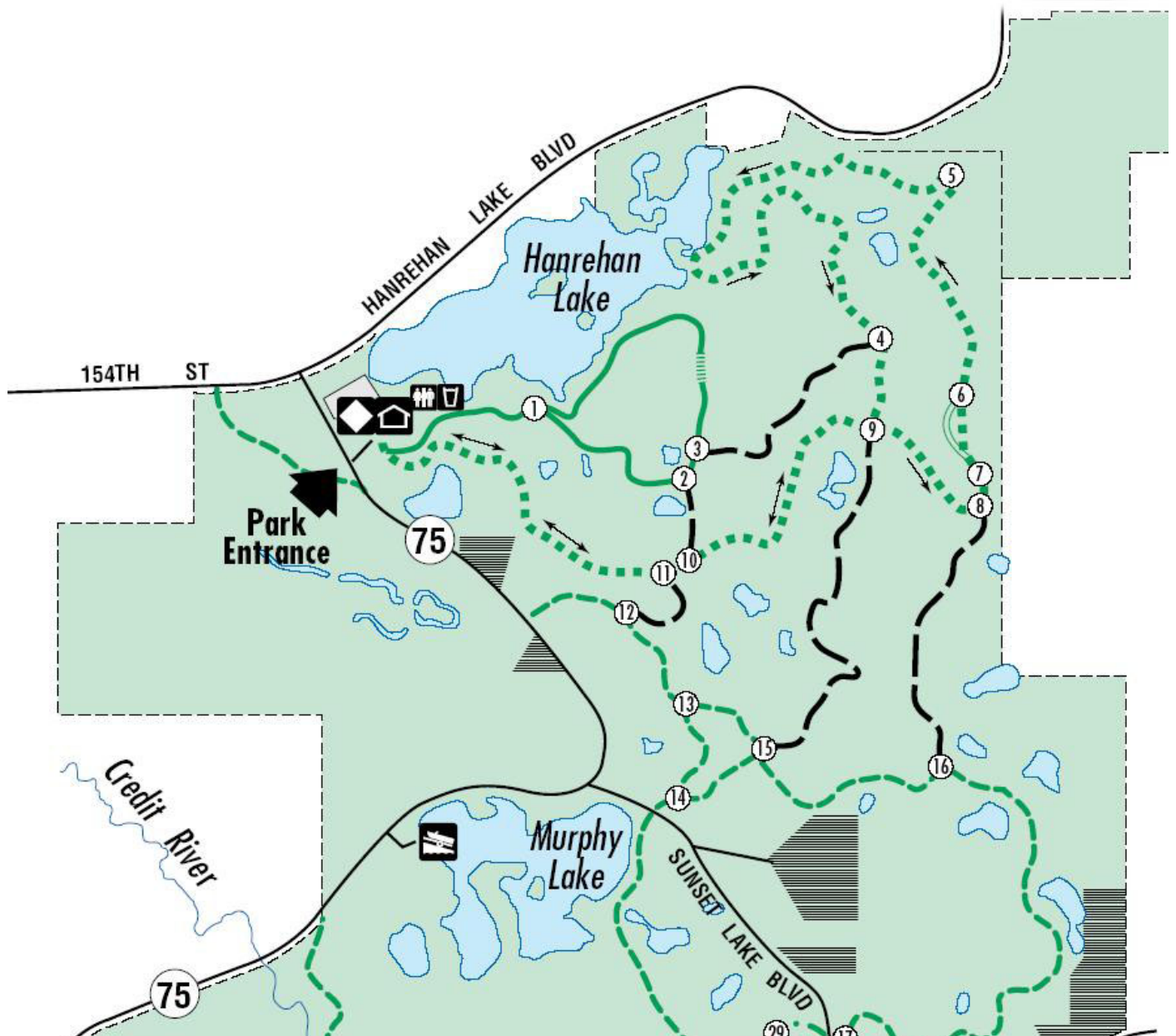
From 35W, exit at 185th street in Lakeville (becomes CR-21 at Scott County); head west approximately 5 miles to CR-75/Murphy Lake Blvd; turn right; follow gravel road approximately 3 miles. The trailhead will be on the right.

From 169, follow Hwy 13 into Prior Lake. Turn left at CR-21 (east); turn left on CR-75/Murphy Lake Blvd; follow gravel road approximately 3 miles. The trailhead will be on the right.



Setup begins at 1 PM on Friday. Usually, the majority of the setup chores are complete by nightfall, and often we have a little celebratory dinner for the setup crew on the site. If you are free, please stop by the Field Day site, and help pull the towers into the

sky. Some folks camp overnight at the site, while others go home for one more night in a comfortable bed before coming out early Saturday morning to put on all the finishing touches to the setup. Operation begins promptly at 1 PM on Saturday afternoon, and continues nonstop for 24 hours, until 1 PM Sunday afternoon. As always, the TCRC hosts a pot luck picnic on the Field Day site on Saturday, starting at about 5:00 PM, so bring your family and friends (along with a dish to share), to meet and greet and put a face to those voices you have heard on the best repeaters in the Twin Cities area. And, as always, visitors are very welcome. Radio operations end at 1 PM on Sunday, and teardown begins. I am always amazed at how much faster teardown on Sunday afternoon goes than the prior setup did. I guess that's just the laws of entropy at work!



Field Day Operating Class: In most of the past years, we have operated in the 3A class, which means that we set up and operated 3 HF stations, plus the VHF+ station (which serves double-duty as the amateur satellite station), and the Novice/Tech or GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Last year, and again this year, we have elected to operate in the 2A class, due to difficulty in keeping operators in 3 HF stations for a substantial portion of the 24 hours of operating time available. We figured that if we aren't going to use 3 HF stations, we shouldn't knock ourselves out by setting up 3 HF stations. Of course, if there is a surge of interest in operating the radios during Field Day, we would certainly reconsider changing back to Class 3A in future years. All of the stations, except for GOTA, will operate under the callsign of WØBU. Licensed Extra-Class control operators will be available on site, so people of all license classes as well as folks with no amateur license at all will be able to operate any of the radios on site (with proper supervision of the control operators, of course, to stay legal!) This could be an opportunity for you to work in bands or modes that you never have operated before, or even to make your first amateur radio contact ever! We hope to see you there!

(Expired) Members, Please Renew!

Please look carefully at the mailing label on your copy of this newsletter. If the label shows that your membership dues are “in grace” or “expired”, it is time for you to pay your \$25 annual membership fee. Please take a moment to renew now! You can mail us a check, send us a payment via PayPal on the Internet, or even give the payment to a club officer or committee chair at a club gathering of any sort, such as Field Day, a Tuesday night coffee gathering, a Saturday morning breakfast, a club meeting, etc.

Because of the demise of most Hamfests in the Twin Cities area (which often prompted some folks to renew each year), and our difficulty in publishing four full newsletters each year (volunteers/articles always welcomed!), it seems to be easier for people to forget when their club dues come due. (We’ve even had club officers and committee chairs forget to renew!)

We really do hope you will consider renewing your TCRC membership, and help us keep our four repeaters on the air.



Newsletter Articles Wanted

by John Toscano, WØJT, your Newsletter Editor

Like last year, our dream of publishing a quarterly newsletter is in jeopardy. Like last year, we are off to quite a late start, with the year nearly half gone before the first issue hits the post office. Last year, we managed only three issues, but at least we came to within 25% of our goal. For this year, well, who knows?

Editing a newsletter, as far as I am concerned, is a “piece of cake”. I enjoy being a little creative at the keyboard. I enjoy creating something that is nice to look at and contains useful information. I enjoy staying in touch with the club and its membership. But writing the entire thing myself is a bit of a challenge, especially at a time when it seems that the entirety of my entire waking hours is consumed with work and keeping my house in good repair. Leisure time is scarce. I missed the entire June VHF contest and its (allegedly) spectacular 6 meter and 2 meter band openings, unable to so much as turn on the radios that weekend to listen for activity.

Do you have anything interesting to share with the members of the TCRC? We would welcome your contributions to the newsletter. You don’t have to be a terrific writer; you just have to have an idea that you want to contribute. Send me an entire “polished” article, a rough draft, an outline, or even an idea. As editor, I will be happy to do my best to take your submissions and turn them into a finished product as part of a future newsletter. As you can see from the current issue, articles don’t need to be exclusively related to FM repeater operation, although such articles are certainly welcome. But Amateur Radio has so many diverse niches that are fascinating to explore that we’d love to expose more of them to the members of the TCRC.

You can send your submissions to me via email, addressed to my callsign @ tcrc.org if you wish.

What have you done for your club lately?



TCRC Sponsored Two Skywarn Classes New Location This Year

As is usually the case, the TCRC sponsored two Skywarn Spotter training classes this year. They were both held at our new location, which worked out very well for us. It is the Open Circle Church, 2400 Highland Drive, Burnsville, Minnesota. We trained 29 spotters in March, and trained another 63 spotters in June.

As you will recall, each Skywarn spotter is required to retrain every two years to stay active. Next year, we hope to use the same location that we changed to this year. All Skywarn classes for the current year are now finished, and we will begin again in March 2009. Also, this next year, in January 2009, we will re-certify Skywarn **instructors**. If you are a Skywarn spotter and have an interest in moving up and becoming a certified instructor, please contact me and I will put you in contact with the appropriate people. My phone number is 952-927-0201. You can also reach me at my callsign @ tcrc.org if you prefer email.

Jeff, WØKF
TCRC Skywarn Liaison



Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 11534
St. Paul, MN 55111-0534

**Place
Stamp
Here**

Your Membership Dues Have Expired.
 Please Renew your Membership Today!

Join the Twin Cities Repeater Club!

P.O. Box 11534, St. Paul, MN 55111-0534

<http://www.tcrc.org>

Fill out this Membership Application Form, and mail it with your check for \$25.00 payable to the Twin Cities Repeater Club, to the mailing address listed above. You can also fill out this form electronically at the web address listed above, and either send us a check, or pay online using the PayPal system.

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Computer Phone _____

Ok to list your address in club publications? ___No ___Yes

Ok to list your phone in club publications? ___No ___Yes

Are you available for Emergency Service? ___No ___Yes

Are you a member of the ARRL? ___No ___Yes

Are you a member of Metro Skywarn? ___No ___Yes, spotter ID: _____

Are you a member of ARES? ___No ___Yes

Would you like an autodial speed dial number? ___No ___Yes, to phone # _____

Would you like a club ID badge? ___No ___Yes (free to new members, otherwise \$5.00)

What is your internet e-mail address, if any? ___None

Would you like an e-mail alias set up, so that mail sent to **yourcallsign@tcrc.org** gets redirected to the e-mail address you listed above? This can be handy on the air! ___No ___Yes

Do you want a copy of the TCRC Handbook? ___No ___Yes (add \$9.50, which includes postage)

Do you want a TCRC binder to hold it? ___No ___Yes (Add \$5.50 to the above)

This is ___New Application ___Renewal ___Other Change ___Callsign update, old call was _____