

# The KEY

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 8, Number 3

June, 1996

## **CVRC Wins NH QSO Party! 2 Meter, 70 Cm. Bands Threatened!**

**Dale Clement, AF1T**

**Threatened!**

**David Sumner, K1ZZ**

The combined efforts of CVRC members have resulted in an all-time record club aggregate score! Awards and results were announced at the June 1 meeting of the NHARA in Bethlehem, NH. CVRC attendees were N1IMB, NR1N, AF1T, and WA1WOK. We received a nice plaque, which will be displayed at our next meeting.

Our participants and their scores are as follows: K1BKE-50050, N1GJF-3922, N1JHJ-190, N1KPZ-35624, N1JHN-198, KY1M-6864, AA1LU-

Get out a pen and paper, or boot up your computer. There's work to be done! Your help is needed to defend two meters and 70 cm. Yes, that's right -- the two most popular and crowded amateur VHF/UHF bands! But don't panic, and don't "go ballistic."

Here's what's happening, and what you can do about it. The United States is preparing for the 1997 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-97. In the past, the public has been able to participate in the preparations for such conferences by responding to FCC Notices of Inquiry. In March, the FCC announced a streamlining of its International Bureau's preparatory processes for WRCs. Under the new scheme, the NOIs have been eliminated in favor of increased emphasis on WRC Advisory Committees.

For WRC-97, a series of Informal Working Groups (IWGs) of the Advisory Committee has been created to address specific agenda items. The output of each IWG will go directly to a joint FCC-NTIA-Department of State Steering Committee of the Advisory Committee. There, draft proposals as received from the IWGs will be reviewed and forwarded to the FCC for possible release as preliminary U.S. proposals for public comment.

In announcing the streamlined WRC preparatory process, the FCC tried to reassure those who might be concerned about reduced opportunities for public participation: "Interested parties should note that input to the Advisory Committee may be sent at any time directly to the

## **Future Programs**

The June 11 meeting of the CVRC will be held at the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management (NHOEM) in Concord. Join some of your fellow club members beforehand for dinner at Vinnie's Pizzeria at around 6 PM.

In July we will be holding the annual CVRC Lake Sunapee cruise. See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

CVRC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. The Rag-Chew begins at 7:00 PM; the program at 7:30; and a business meeting follows the program and refreshments. Members and nonmembers alike are welcomed. Talk-in is on the K1BKE 146.895 -600 kHz repeater.

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Chair of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee; the Chairs of the Advisory Committee's Informal Working Groups; Cecily C. Holiday, the FCC's federal officer of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, or to Damon C. Ladson, the alternate federal officer."

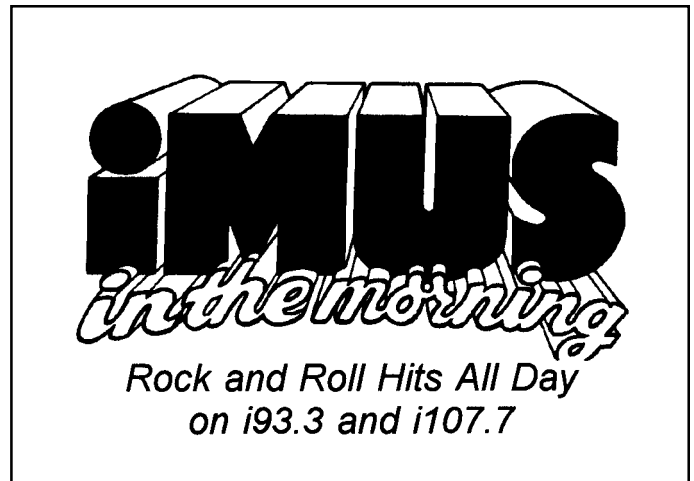
Hold that thought while we shift gears to the substance of the issue.

One of the WRC-97 agenda items includes consideration of possible additional frequency allocations for the mobile- satellite service. So-called "little LEOs," low-earth orbit satellites below 1 GHz, already have allocations. Their proponents claim these are inadequate and are trying for more. The needs of little LEOs are being addressed in IWG- 2A, chaired by Warren Richards of the Department of State. The ARRL technical relations staff participates in IWG-2A to represent Amateur Radio interests.

At the May 7 IWG-2A meeting, an industry representative proposed a list of "candidate bands" for little LEOs. The list includes a number of bands that would negatively impact existing services, and does not include others that would be technically more feasible but to which strong objection from incumbents could be expected -- the point being that some political, rather than purely technical, judgment already has influenced the list.

Incredibly, 144-148 and 420-450 MHz were included on the list! This is the first time in memory that another service has been proposed for the two-meter amateur band. We must make sure it is also the last time.

We do not need to explain to ARRL members the extensive use that is made of these bands




by amateurs. The two bands provide the backbone of our local public service communications effort. Voice and data, mobile and fixed, even television -- the list of present amateur uses is a long one, and of future uses is even longer. Both are already used for satellite services and for moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power.

Apparently we did need to explain all this to the little LEO industry representatives, so we did just that -- both at the meeting and in a followup letter on May 15. We also explained that we had to regard the matter as extremely serious. No one with the slightest background in radiocommunication could possibly believe that a mobile- satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future amateur operations. Therefore, we said, if we did not receive assurance that they would be taken off the list of candidate bands by the deadline for this issue of QST, we would have no choice but to bring the matter to the attention of the entire membership.

The response we received was unsatisfactory. In effect, we were told the little LEO industry would consider our views but that until their spectrum needs are satisfied, all bands must remain under consideration.

So, this is a call to action. We must get across to the industry and government participants in IWG-2A that the 144- 148 MHz and 420-450 MHz bands cannot be considered as candidates for

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Christopher Sieg  
603\464-5625

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# ***From the Secretary's Notebook...***

***Marc Fraser, N1QGM***

Thanks to Nancy Robinson (N1IMB) our program Coordinator, our Club meetings continue to have a good selection of speakers with a very interesting array of topics.

April's meeting featured Mike Stains (WA1PTC) with a discussion of Amateur Television (ATV). His experiences with ATV are both many and varied. He described several different methods of modifying commercially available equipment for ATV including video cameras, receivers (cable boxes, etc.) and using the 900MHz "Rabbit" VCR extender transmitter/receiver pair as an ATV station. This generated lots of comment and interest among those in attendance. Bill then showed a video tape of a Tournament of Roses parade that was covered by ATV. There were scenes of emergency crews responding to a medical situation where Amateurs were able to provide Parade coordinators with information to allow the emergency crews to navigate the parade route with minimal holdups. This was a very enlightening demonstration of the positive uses of Amateur Radio.

May's meeting featured NH's ARRL Section Manager, Al Shuman (N1FIK), who spoke at length about the League and its role in New Hampshire's Amateur community. The most visible aspect of the League to most of us is our monthly delivery of QST magazine. What many of us don't realize is that the League is our voice in State and Federal political and (especially) regulatory circles. It's the ARRL's efforts that help keep our spectrum as wide and as varied as it is. You should be aware that with the ever-increasing demands of new electronics the amount of the radio spectrum we are being allowed to keep is constantly being challenged. Added to this, the potential for interference is steadily increasing, even from those devices that don't directly use the air waves as part of their basic operation. Microprocessors that operate at 166MHz and

above present new challenges to manufacturers and users to keep QRM down to acceptable levels.

The League also works at the State level to push for legislation helpful to the Amateur community. One very important piece of legislation recently enacted is House Bill 1380-L prohibiting local communities from taxing Amateur antenna structures as real estate. Al gave several examples of how this bill convinced local towns that taxes levied on Amateur antenna structures were not allowed by law in this state. He also showed that New Hampshire recognizes Amateur Radio as a benefit to Emergency Preparedness and Community Service by displaying several citations issues by Governors past and present.

Field Day plans continue to be finalized. If you like to operate VHF or UHF and are free anytime the weekend of June 22 and 23, I'd like to meet with you at the June meeting to discuss making simplex contacts during Field Day operating times. Also, if Packet is your favorite mode (as it is mine), I'll be operating a 24-hour packet station for Field Day. One interesting aspect of packet operation is that the use of a node for connecting to other stations IS ALLOWED! Contacts are not limited to simplex. Therefore, we are allowed to make contacts through CENTNH or any other node within reach. This has the potential for high scores with each digital contact worth 2 points.

Don't forget to buy raffle tickets for the meals package at Field Day. A \$1.00 raffle investment could earn you a 5-meal package worth \$10.00. I know I'll be taking a chance or two!

73 for now and hope to catch you all a little further down the log.

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

*Classified ads are free for C.V.R.C. members. Ads received by the fourth Tuesday of each odd numbered month will appear in the next month's issue.*

2 meter 5/8 wave mobile antenna with magnetic mount - \$20. Contact N1JHN

# **Alton Disaster**

**Nancy Robinson, N1IMB**

**Cal Calvitto, WA1WOK**

On the evening of March 13, 1996 the people of Alton NH were abruptly aroused when a call came in that there was a leak in the privately owned dam located above the town. A lot of Alton's people were at the local town meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sinclair had heard that the dam had broke. Mr. Sinclair told his wife to get into their truck and follow him in his 18 wheeler down the road to safety. As the Sinclair's rounded the corner onto route 140 he looked into his mirror to see his wife and truck being swept away by a 10 foot wall of water. Mr. Sinclair's truck then disappeared into a 20 foot sink hole. Larry Sinclair managed to climb out. A neighbor heard the commotion and came out of his house to find Larry and his truck in the raging river of water.

The neighbor ran to get a rope and managed to pull Larry to safety. After being pulled to shore Larry and the neighbor looked around and Larry's wife was nowhere in site. They took Larry to the hospital with minor bruises. Meanwhile the fire department had gotten the alarm and rushed to the fire station. By the time they had gotten there the 95 million gallons of water from the dam had hit the town with one of the worst disasters they had ever experienced.

Water had destroyed the old fire station, swept away houses and had damaged many more. Oil tanks, refrigerators, and debris had filled the road and river. Chief Russell Jones and his men could not do anything but watch, and within minutes it was over, leaving the small town devastated. Chief Jones and his men began getting people to safety.

They worked through the night looking for Linda Sinclair and helping people find places to stay. The next morning the small town came alive with Red Cross workers, Office of Emergency Management, Divers from Fish and Game and hundreds of people who just wanted to help. The news media from all over the state and surround-

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mobile-satellite services. We need to drive the point home so forcefully, with so many grassroots responses, that no one is ever tempted to try this again.

Which brings us back to that invitation for "interested parties" to send input "at any time." There's no time like the present! Here are the key addresses, including those of the mobile-satellite industry folks who seem to have started the ruckus:

*Cecily C. Holiday, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; choliday@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-0748. Warren G. Richards, Chair, IWG-2A, Department of State, CIP 2529, Washington, DC 20520; richardswg@ms6820wpoa.us-state.gov; FAX (202) 647-7407.*

*Tracey Weisler, FCC Rep., IWG-2A, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; tweisler@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-2824. Mary Kay Williams, Final Analysis, Inc., 7500 Greenway Center, Ste. 1240, Greenbelt, MD 20770; FAX (301) 474-3228. Leslie Taylor, President, LTA, 6800 Carlynn Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; ltaylor@lta.com; FAX (301) 229-3148.*

Do comment. But be civil. Don't abuse people who are simply doing their jobs. We have to get across that casting covetous eyes on amateur bands is counterproductive, and contrary to the public interest. To accomplish this we need a lot of comments, including yours. But remember that the objective is to educate and persuade, not to intimidate. We don't need to. The facts are on our side.

To monitor the FCC's ongoing WRC-97 preparations, visit its WRC-97 home page at: <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc97/>.

Write now. Right now!



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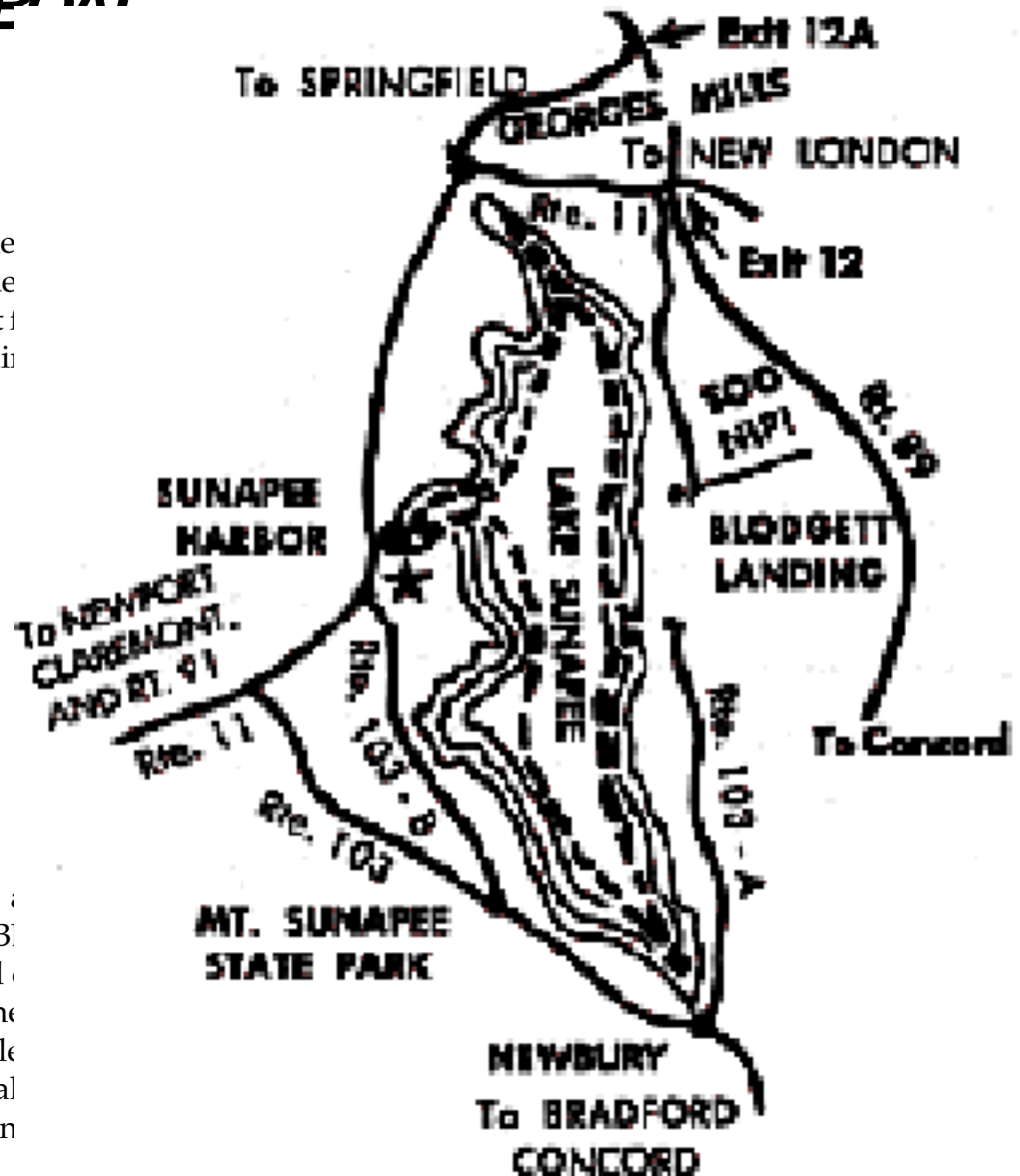
128 B HALL STREET  
CONCORD, NH 03301-3451  
(603) 224-6547



# **CVRC ANNUAL BOAT CRUISE**

**Tom Matisko, N1SKZ**

The annual potluck dinner on the M.V. Mt. Sunapee II will take place on July 9th. The boat will depart from the harbor at 7:15 PM and the captain will be at dockside approximately 30 minutes before departure. The cost is \$20/person which will be collected prior to departure. Family members and friends are invited as this is a great way to have them get to know the club. We will be passing a sign-up sheet around during the June meeting. If you will not be able to make the meeting, please give me a card or drop me a packet message at Bradford as we need to provide a headcount to the captain a week before the cruise. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 464-4095 or talk to any club officer at the June meeting.



# Merrimack County ARES

## Comer

Ron Herman, K1PDY

EC, Merrimack County

Net: 8:00 Thursday, Local Time  
Freq: 146.895 (CVRC Repeater)  
Alt: 147.57 Simplex

Last issue I suggested that there would be a simulated emergency test based on the fact that we usually have one this time of year. Well it didn't happen so if you thought you missed it, you didn't.

Upcoming events include the Volunteer Organizations Aiding in Disaster (VOAD) meeting on June 12th at 6:00 at NHOEM in Concord. Dinner (home cooked) is provided if you call for reservations. Contact me if interested. This is mostly for ECs, AECs and DECes. N3CLZ, SEC-NH is an "official" member of the group and one of its officers.

We all know about field day and its purpose to practice for emergency field operations. But don't forget about the numerous public service events that come up now that we are out of winter (hopefully). There are several races and walks that take place from Spring until Autumn which provide excellent first hand on-the-job training that could prove useful should we be called upon to aid in an emergency situation. The events can be fun as well as educational. How else can you get a ringside seat at a Mt. Washington, auto or

bike race. What better way to spend a sunny weekend afternoon than relaxing with a cool one in the shade of an oak while you watch the bicycle nuts pedal their pants off!

And don't forget to check into the Thursday night ARES/RACES training net. 73

## Dues Reminder

Tom Matisko, N1SKZ

My how time flies! Here we are quickly approaching the half way point in 1996.

It seems like at every club meeting there is another new member joining the CVRC. Currently we have 71 paid members for 1996. If you have not renewed your club membership, time's-a-wasting. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership, check the mailing label on this issue of The Key. Just above your name you will see the date when your membership expires. The membership rate schedule is:

Individual Member: \$20  
Family membership, first adult member: \$20  
Second adult member: \$10  
All other adult members: \$10  
Senior members: \$10  
Student 18 and under: Free  
New hams; 1st year after licensed: Free

Dues may be mailed to the club at PO Box 88, Henniker, NH 03242 or can be given to me during a club meeting.

## 6 Meter Excitement

Dale Clement, AF1T

The 6 meter E-skip season has started off with a bang. I caught several openings in May, notably on the 21st, 22nd (lots of 9's and 0's in MN), 23rd, 28th (Europeans), 29th (short skip to ON, WNY, and WPA), and 30th. The 29th also brought double-hop Es contacts with VE6's (ALB), MT, WA, NV, and AZ—probably 40 state and over 100 grids (for a VUCC award) could have been worked on this day! On May 30 I worked EH8BPX

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**ALAN K. SHUMAN**

American Radio Relay League  
Section Manager  
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ing states were flocking in with their trucks and cameras to get a glimpse of one of the worst disasters ever.

Friday evening a crew came with an excavator to pull out the 18-wheeler that Larry Sinclair had been driving. Others that were a little luckier went back to their homes and tried to clean up the mess that had been left. Several relatives and friends searched until dark for the body of Linda Sinclair.

At 5:30 AM on Saturday morning Cal, WA1WOK, and I watched helplessly as the 50-plus family members marched silently up the road with shovels, rakes, and grapples to start the long hard task of cleaning the river of the debris to find Linda's body.

Many homes were damaged by the water and ice and the cleanup began. It was amazing to see in just a few hours the transition of what had been a gaping hole in the road to a passable road of dirt. Trucks lined up dumping dirt and packing it down to make the road passable.

Onlookers watched on as the cleanup was underway. People flocked from all over to see the devastation. Chief Jones and his crew, along with many others, spent many sleepless hours working to get their town as back to normal as possible. Each day family, friends, and others continued to look for Linda.

On Monday the road that had been washed away was once again paved and passable. A lot of the people that had been hit by the devastation had gotten their homes back into as normal shape as possible. One family's home had been condemned due to the water while others had water and ice damage.

Late Monday afternoon the body of Linda Sinclair was found by the divers from Fish and Game. The family and friends could now rest.

Chief Russell Jones and the town of Alton should be commended for their strength and the way that they managed to all pull together in a time of such disaster. Chief Jones has been with the fire department for over 20 years and said he had never in his life experienced anything so devastating.

With the help of Emergency Management,

Red Cross, town workers, Fish and Game, and family and friends, Alton is as back to normal as possible.

After helping at the Alton disaster and seeing how the town pulled together in the time of need I can honestly say it is a town I would be proud to be a resident of.

A lesson learned from this is to live each and every day to the fullest. Disaster could hit anywhere, anytime. Let's hope that it will never happen to any of us.

### *Reminder:*

*Please complete the survey included with this issue of The KEY and return it to Brad Hutton, KTH at a club meeting, via US mail (3 Pepin Drive, Bow, NH), via WA1WOK BBS, or to his packet station, which is on the air 24 hours a day. Please make your answers as specific as possible... the results will be only as accurate as info received!*

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in Canary Islands (grid IL18) and CN8HB in Morocco (grid IN63), who was running 10W into a dipole. On May 31 VP9MZ in Bermuda (grid FM72) was working a pileup with 2 watts from a handheld radio! So hurry up and get on 6 meters—the E-skip season is short, peaking in

## **The KEY Schedule**

The KEY is published every other month at the beginning of the even numbered months. The deadline for articles and submissions is the fourth Tuesday (coinciding with the usual business meeting schedule) of the preceding month.