

The KEY

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 8, Number 5

October, 1996

Hosstraders!

The semi-annual Hosstraders Ham Radio flea market is this weekend, October 4th and 5th in Rochester. Admission is \$5.00 at the gate after 3:00 PM Friday and all day Saturday. The official CVRC frequency at the hamfest is 146.895 *simplex*. Use it to find or keep track of other CVRC members!

Future Programs

The October 8th meeting will feature Larry Ledlow, NA5E, in a program on HFing. Larry has honed his skills all over the world and has just recently returned to New Hampshire. This will be a program you don't want to miss!

If contesting is your cup of tea, then don't miss the November meeting. Ed Parsons, K1TR, will lead a discussion on the subject. Whether you're new to contesting, or an old hand at it, you're sure to pick up a few valuable pointers.

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.

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.

Notice of Proposed CVRC Constitution and By-Laws Changes

In accordance with Article VI, Amendments, Sec. 1, of the Constitution of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club, members are hereby notified of the intent to amend the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Club. These changes will be voted on by the general membership in attendance at the regularly scheduled Club meeting of November 12, 1996, and requires a two-thirds majority in order to pass.

The proposed changes were the result of discussions at several CVRC business meetings. The changes are designed to accomplish two things: to give a name to the group of members who attend business meetings and to better define the scope of business that may be conducted; and in the event of the dissolution of the Club, to see that the assets go to an amateur radio organiza-

Continued on page 2

CVRC Elections

As the political spotlight falls on Bill Clinton and Bob Dole this month don't forget we have an important election closer to home. This is the time of year that we elect a new slate of officers for the CVRC. Nominations will begin at the October meeting and will remain open until November when we hold the election. If you want to see some changes, or if you want to see the club continue on its current course, be sure to come to the November meeting to cast your ballot.

tion within the State of New Hampshire.

CONSTITUTION
THE CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY RADIO CLUB

Change number 1 - add the following new Section:

ARTICLE II
OFFICERS

SEC. 5: A Steering Committee shall consist of the elected officers and any interested Club member in good standing.

Change number 2 - add the following new Section:

ARTICLE III
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SEC. 5: The Steering Committee shall conduct routine business of the club.

Change number 3 - replace three sentences regarding business meetings with the text in the third paragraph to follow. Paragraphs one and two are original and unchanged and included herein for clarity:

1990 By-Laws of the CVRC
Sec. 3 - Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held monthly at such time and place as the President shall order.

Special meetings may be called by the President upon written request of 1/5th of the club membership. Notices shall be sent to all the members informing them of the special meetings and the business to be transacted. Such notices shall



be so sent that they are postmarked seven days in advance of the meeting date. Only such business as is designated in the said notice shall be transacted at such special meetings.

Between regular meetings there may be a meeting of the Steering Committee. At these meetings, club business will be discussed, organized and acted upon as to cause the business portion of regular meetings to be held to a minimum. It shall be the responsibility of the Steering Committee present to act prudently and in the best overall interest of the club. A minimum of 10% of the Club membership in good standing shall be present at meetings whereat a vote is taken to obligate the Club to a financial expenditure. With the exception of emergency repairs to the repeater and regular scheduled expenses, expenditures over \$200.00 must be brought to a vote at a regular club meeting.

Change number 4 - replace existing Sec. 5 - Dissolution, with the following:

Sec. 5 - Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, hardware assets of the club will be donated to an individual or organization who pledges to maintain the equipment in place to serve the Amateur Radio Community and to support the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The assets of the treasury will be donated to the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association, or if the NHARA is not active, to an active New Hampshire amateur radio club.

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Christopher Sieg
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The DX'er

Vincent Salerno, Jr. N1RAN

He tuned up his station
to work some DX
and was ready, as ready could be.

With knowing fingers
so nimble and quick
a master when using his key.

When deep in the night
and all others sleeping
a fading signal came through.

So he played with his filters
and turned up the juice
God knows he knew what to do.

Please hear me OM,
you're my very last chance.
She's going down in a blow.

I've lost my mate
off the coast of New England.
How long I hold her, I just don't know.

Through QSB and QRN
he copied like only he can.

Knowing every letter
and every last dit
were needed to save this man.

Dit da dit, dit da dit
he made the key sing
I've got it! Don't give up the ghost.

I'll get on the land line
and call up the Coast Guard
and soon you'll be safe and we'll toast.

She's wallowing badly
and starting to flounder
I fear it might be too late.

Tell my wife that I love her
all my love to the children
she's sinking fast, I can't wait.

And TNX you my friend
for trying your best
seems I'm destined to be lost at sea.

The signal was cracking
as he gave his call sign
last heard was 73.

The NH Frequency Report

Alan McCartney, N1KAK

This will be a new semi-regular column. The main purpose will be to provide common frequencies that we can listen to with either our scanners or VHF/UHF transceivers that have wide band receiving capabilities. Although the majority of the frequencies that will be provided over the course of the articles will be limited to those above 30 MHz, occasionally, I will list others of interest.

I'll start with an introduction of myself. I am N1KAK (Tech+) and am active on 10 meters (SSB), 2 meters (FM), 222 MHz (FM), 440 MHz (FM) and just getting started on 6 meters (AM & FM). I am a member of ARES/RACES, and a Reservist in the NHOEM Communications Center, I am also a volunteer firefighter, Paramedic, and affiliated with the Town of Bradford Emergency Management (Radio ID of 82R11) so I am familiar with the usage of many of the frequencies I will be discussing, and if you are listening, I might be heard. I have been listening to radios of all types for over 30 years, starting with single channel, tunable "tank" radios for VHF, and a Lafayette kit for mediumwave and shortwave. I have never considered myself a hardcore listener, however, I will leave that to you to decide. My primary area of interest is monitoring the public safety VHF/UHF

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

frequencies.

In this first article I will discuss the various fire department frequencies that you will hear on a regular basis in the greater Concord area. In later articles I will provide other frequencies, so watch and pay attention.

The primary organization for the majority of fire departments and fire department affiliated ambulances/rescue squads is Capital Area Fire Mutual Aid Compact (which will be referred to as the Compact), which contracts with the City of Concord FD (referred to as CFD) to provide the dispatch services. The following frequencies are those that are commonly heard:

- Channel 1 - 154.355 mHz
- Channel 2 - 154.235 mHz
- Channel 3 - 154.220 mHz
- Channel 4 - 154.280 mHz (Statewide Common)

A UHF frequency is used for daily operations within the Fire Alarm Division & Fire Prevention Division and for communications with the Battalion Chief (Shift Supervisor) and the Chief Coordinator of the Compact.

This frequency is 453.475 mHz.

Between the CFD and the Compact there are a number of different transmitter sites that are controlled by the Dispatcher on duty. The majority are hardwired via leased phone lines, however, there is a well heard UHF link with Mt. Kearsarge. The down-link frequencies can be heard over a wide area and can "repeat" other conversations that you otherwise might miss if you are not using a highly directional exteriorly mounted scanner antenna. These frequency are carried out to 4 units right of the decimal point, so if your scanner only accepts 3 digits to the right of the decimal point, don't worry, your scanner/receiver will usually receive this frequency just as well anyway.

These are

- 460.6375 mHz (Dedicated Channel 1 down-link)
- 460.5875 mHz (dispatcher controlled between Channels 2 - 4, but usually left on Channel 2)

Other down-links from other hills in the area have been used in the past. I cannot vouch for whether these 2 following frequencies are still in use, so listen anyway:


453.7375 mHz (new)

453.1875 mHz (old)

Other fire department frequencies in the greater Concord area are as follows:

- 158.780 - Hooksett FD Channel 1
- 154.370 - Hooksett FD Channel 2
- 460.625 - Manchester FD Channel 1 (Repeater) & Channel 2 (Simplex)
- 460.600 - Manchester FD Channel 3 (Repeater) & Channel 4 (Simplex)
- 158.880 - Goffstown FD
- 154.160 - Weare, Sutton & New Boston FD's (Also Kearsarge Mutual Aid)
- 154.310 - Washington & Deering FD's
- 154.995 - New London, Newbury & Wilmot FD's
- 154.445 - Sunapee FD
- 33.900 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 1
- 33.960 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 2
- 33.840 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 3
- 33.760 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 4
- 33.540 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 5
- 33.480 - Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association - Channel 6
- 154.430 - Southwestern NH Mutual Aid - Channel 1
- 154.385 - Southwestern NH Mutual Aid - Channel 2

Continued on page 5



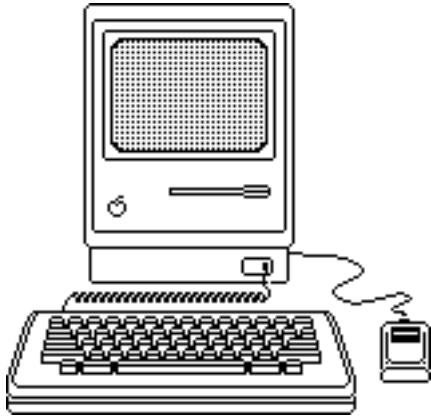
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Continued from page 4

153.830 - Southwestern NH Mutual Aid - Channel 3

154.280 - Southwestern NH Mutual Aid - Channel 4 (Statewide Common)

154.190 - This frequency is licensed to many communities for dispatching of predominately volunteer fire departments in eastern Hillsborough County, Strafford County & Rockingham County. It also serves as a common fireground frequency for others in this part of the state that also have a separate dispatch/operations frequency (the predominately career or combination career/call fire department). This is a busy frequency, and one will heard a lot. It is commonly known as the "Seacoast Frequency".

Hillsborough FD shares Channels 1 & 2 with Concord FD, although dispatches itself. Washington and Deering can also be heard on Capital Area Channel 2 as well.

The frequency 154.160 mHz is licensed to all members of the Kearsarge Mutual Aid Association, which itself does not have a formal or centralized dispatch center. Many of the towns on

the west side of Merrimack County are members (Concord FD is not), and can also be found on this frequency when conducting training or responding to a mutual aid call in a neighboring community, outside of the Compact.

The frequency 154.280 mHz is licensable by any fire department in the state and is known as the statewide fire department common frequency. Any fire department in the State of New Hampshire could be found here as well, although it is unlikely that those operating anywhere other than the 15X.XXX mHz frequencies would be here.

Many of the communities that border on the edge of the Compact can be heard on the frequencies of adjacent communities and can communicate with non-Compact communities in the event of a mutual aid fire. I'll use Bradford FD as an example. Bradford FD is dispatched by the Compact, and has their 4 frequencies. It is also a member of Kearsarge Mutual Aid Association (154.160 mHz), and it borders on Sutton (154.160 mHz), Washington (154.310 mHz), and Newbury (154.995 mHz). Written agreements between fire department on frequency sharing such as this is common throughout the State of New Hampshire.

If there is any specific fire department frequency you wish to monitor that I haven't provided, or if you wish to determine who is operating on a frequency that you have discovered, let me know and I'll try to answer your question. Overtime I will attempt to cover all the various public safety frequencies in the state.

That's all for this time. Next time, police frequencies, then emergency medical services, then.....?

VE Session

Date: Oct. 19, 1996

Time: Doors open at 8:30 AM, Close at 9:00 AM

Location: Hopkinton Community Center, Contoocook

Contact: Dexter, KY1M, 603-938-2955 or d_howe@tec.nh.us

Preregistration is *not* required.