

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 8, Number 6

December, 1996

New Club Officers

Congratulations to the 1997 slate of CVRC officers: Cal Calvitto, WA1WOK, president; Rob Fair, WA1UKV, Vice President; Paul LaClair, N1PIA, Secretary; and Dave Connors, N1KTP, Treasurer.

Future Programs

Bring your appetite to the December 10th meeting for the first annual CVRC Spaghetti Feed! The homemade meal will cost \$7.00 per person and is all you can eat. Coffee and N1FOJ's famous DX Punch will be provided—everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share. A "Yankee Swap" will follow the dinner. Anyone who wants to participate in the swap should bring a wrapped, seasonal or gag gift that cost \$5.00 or less. **Rag-chew starts at 6:00 and dinner will be served between 6:30 and 7:00.**

Don't miss the November meeting! Ed Parsons, K1TR, will lead a discussion on contesting. Whether this subject is new to you, or you're 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.

1997 NH QSO Party

Dale Clement, AF1T

Set aside some time this February 1-2 to operate the New Hampshire QSO Party. This annual event provides Granite State contacts to many Hams around the world and gains publicity for NH clubs, which are sought as "bonus point" stations. Note that the contest begins at 0000 Saturday (or 7:00 PM local time Friday) and ends at 2400 UTC Sunday (or 7:00 PM local time Sunday). You may operate up to 24 hours out of this 48 hour period using your own (or a friend's) call. In addition, you may contribute towards the

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DXing Ahead

John Moore, N1FOJ

Hello to All! This is the first of what I hope will be a continuing column for the DX'ers in our club. I will be trying to provide those interested, with tips on up-coming dx-peditions, contest operations from rare countries, and other info to help boost your country count. Where possible, I will list frequencies and times to look for these operations, so you can make the most of your airtime. I'll also occasionally throw in rumors of upcoming operations, and QSL routes for contest and other operations.

Let's start off with a big one in January! Heard Island (VK0) should be on the air, sometime in the middle of the month, on all HF bands. This is one of the ten most wanted countries, so don't miss this one! This large Dxpedition will start from Reunion Is. (FR) on Jan. 3rd, with a stopover planned on Crozet (FT8W) on Jan. 8-9,

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New Radio Club in Henniker

The Henniker Community School Radio Club (KB1CAH) will be holding its first meeting this week. Jock, N1JHN, is a teacher at the school and is also trustee of the new club's callsign. He is offering the Novice/Technician classes as an after-school activity for students in grades 6-8, and hopes to have some new Hams in Henniker by the end of the school year. The CVRC has taken the role of official "parent" club and has given Jock permission to use the CVRC's Kenwood TS-530 at the school station.

A hearty "thank you" to Steve Ingham, N1HXO, who generously donated a synthesized, 2 meter mobile rig to the new club, and Chris, WA3LDI, donated his valuable time to repair a power supply. Jock will publish a complete list of needs in a future newsletter, but for now all he needs to get the HF station on the air is an antenna tuner/SWR bridge and some antenna wire (preferably insulated).


If you're near a two meter rig on Friday afternoons around 4:00, please tune in the K1BKE repeater. The HCSRC will be looking for some contacts!

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K1BKE effort by arrangement with me to share the club call. Our aggregate club score will be the sum of K1BKE's points plus those of all CVRC participants. So its important that we all contribute and submit log entries—every point counts!

There are several rules changes this year. First

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of all, the number of award categories has been expanded. Single transmitter stations may be QRP (under 10 watts), low power (under 150 watts), or high power (over 150 watts). Multi transmitter stations also have the same power classes. A new "50 MHz and Above" award should encourage everyone who doesn't use the HF bands. And the "mobile" category just might prompt someone to drive to one of those rare counties (like Belknap or Carroll) Clubs have two categories—we are considered a large club (more than 50 members). Next, the operating periods are more flexible—"off" times are 15 minutes minimum (instead of 6 hours). So, you can take short breaks, eat, etc. without forfeiting time! Finally, the scoring multipliers for DXCC countries have been eliminated, although countries count as contacts. You may score a maximum of 72 multipliers: 10 NH counties, 49 states, 12 Canadian provinces/territories, and 1 DXCC country.

Some rules may not please everybody—any suggestions can be sent to the NHARA with your entry, or you may voice them at the NHARA meeting. In any event, let's do the *best* job we can, as a united club. Remember how our efforts paid off last year—we set an all-time record, and outscored our seacoast rivals by more than three-to-one!

Rules, logs, summary sheets, and check sheets will be available at the December and January meetings, or by mail, from Dale, AF1T, or Cliff, N1GJF. Be sure to sign up with AF1T (tel. 428-3840) for a time slot to operate K1BKE.

The NH Frequency Report

Alan McCartney, N1KAK

This is next in the series of articles regarding what can be heard with your scanner or Amateur Radio VHF/UHF transceiver. This time I will discuss the law enforcement frequencies that are commonly heard in the Greater Concord and Merrimack County area.

I'll start with the New Hampshire State Police (NHSP). The NHSP operates a statewide VHF low band communications system utilizing 11 frequencies, and a high band VHF system shared with other state, county and local law enforcement agencies. In the greater Concord area, which is known as Troop D (Troop D barracks are located in Bow), the most commonly heard frequencies include the following:

44.940 MHz - Channel 1 - Troop D and Headquarters

44.820 MHz - Channel 2 - Car to Car Primary

45.180 MHz - Channel 7 - Aircraft Traffic

44.980 MHz - Channel 9 - Troop D (No activity heard yet.)

44.860 MHz - Channel 10 - Car to Car Secondary (No activity heard yet.)

Other frequencies heard also include 45.02 MHz - Channel 8 - Troop B - Milford Barracks, which is predominately Hillsborough County.

VHF high band communications will be heard on the following frequencies:

156.090 MHz - State to Town Channel 1 (Southern)

155.475 MHz - (Commonly known as State-wide Channel 2).

Other state agencies that utilize these 2 frequencies include Troopers that have high band radio capabilities and the following state agencies: Highway Enforcement (800 units), Fire Marshall (900 - 915), Marine Patrol, Emergency Management (SE#), Aeronautics (SA#), Police Standards and Training (ST#), NH Highway Safety Agency (Unit 988), State Liquor Commis-

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Secretary's Report

Tom Matisko, N1SKZ

The leaves are down, officers have been elected and the new millennium is getting closer as we speak. It is also time to renew your membership in the CVRC. It is because of your support for the club that the treasury has seen a significant increase in growth within the past year. Let's keep the club on the right track and get your dues into the club treasury early. The dues schedule is:

Individual membership: \$20

Family membership, first adult member: \$20

Family membership, second adult member: \$10

Family membership, all other adult members: \$10

Senior members (over 65): \$10

Student 18 and under: FREE

New hams: First year free, starting with date your first license was issued.

Dues may be given to the treasurer, N1KTP, at any club meeting or mailed to the club at, PO Box 88, Henniker, NH 03242.

Before we leave the topic of the treasury, let's not forget about the items that can be purchased through the CVRC. Did you just receive a new call when gate 2 opened? If you did, you will be in need of a new CVRC call sign pin. These can be purchased through N1GJF for the paltry sum of only \$5.75. We also have CVRC club patches for sale for only \$4.00. You can also submit your

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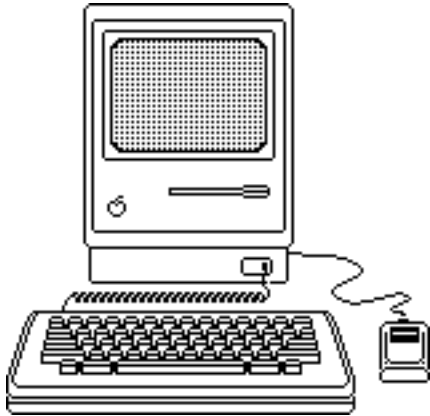
CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Cushcraft ARX2 2 meter Ringo Ranger 5.5 dB gain..\$40.00, 100' of RG-213 coax (new)..\$60.00 Phone N1PHY at 225-5143 after 5:00PM.

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sion Investigators (SL#), Forest & Lands (SD#), State Prison (SC#), Water Pollution Control (SW#)

Other non-state agencies that have access to these 2 VHF high band frequencies include; Maine Central RR Police (Unit 997), Boston & Maine RR Police (Unit 999), US Deputy Marshalls, Any local or county law enforcement agency.

Local police officers and police dispatchers regularly use 156.090 MHz to communicate with State Police Headquarters and many local police departments utilize 155.475 as a car to car frequency.

Officially, 155.475 MHz, has been designated by the FCC, as a nationwide common frequency for use by all Law Enforcement agencies across the county. In many parts of the US, the law enforcement arms of the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corp of Army Engineers, US Park Service / US Park Police, US Coast Guard and DEA can be heard communicating with each other and non-federal law enforcement agencies on this frequency. 155.475 MHz is worthwhile to always monitor.

Regarding local police and county sheriff communications I'll run quickly through the area

dispatch and operational frequencies that I am familiar with. KEEP IN MIND THAT 156.090 MHZ AND 155.475 MHZ IS AVAILABLE TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AS WELL.

155.625 MHz - Concord PD primary frequency

155.820 MHz - Concord PD secondary, (formerly called CH 5, unknown as to current channel number used.)

155.685 MHz - Merrimack County Sheriff's Office Dispatch

155.700 MHz - Also assigned to Merrimack Co, however I have only heard this used as the police base station at the Hopkinton State Fair.

155.760 MHz - Bow PD Dispatch

155.565 MHz - Hooksett PD Dispatch

155.010 MHz - New London Dispatch

154.785 MHz - Franklin Dispatch

155.760 MHz - Hillsborough Dispatch

For those of you who are closely looking at the frequencies, you will have noticed that Bow and Hillsborough dispatch share the same frequency. This is correct. The way co-channel interference is addressed here is by the use of different PL's. Bow uses 136.5 Hz and Hillsborough uses 146.2 Hz.

Many of the individual communities in the state also have a local police operational frequency licensed to them. Others PD's use their town's municipal frequency (a municipal frequency is one that is licensed to a town to be used for any town function). The majority of these frequencies are used for highway department / road agent activities, although fire department activities (example New London / Newbury) and secondary police operations (also new London /

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Newbury) also occur here. If any one wishes a list of the "other" frequencies currently licensed for the community in which they live, see me at a CVRC meeting and I'll be glad to look them up for you. If I get enough requests for lists of these frequencies, I'll devote one of my future columns addressing these.

NH Marine Patrol has a conventional repeater located on Belknap Mt, that can be heard in this area. Although it's use is primarily for Lake Winnepesaukee and the surrounding Lakes Region, the Marine Patrol officer on Lake Sunapee has this capability as well. The frequency is 854.4875 mHz.

In some areas of southern NH one can hear the Highway Enforcement Officers on a new repeater. The frequency is 151.400 mHz. This repeater has a couple of different uses. It is both an analog voice and digital repeater. Highway Enforcement is analog voice as is Troop A (Epping) of the NHSP which also uses this repeater. Other communications are digital. Casual listening to this

repeater without also programming a PL of 156.7 Hz will result with you hearing extra digital noise. With the PL tone programmed, all analog voice communications are in the clear.

The last law enforcement frequencies to note are those of the NH Fish & Game Commission (NHF&G). These are as follows:

151.340 mHz - Repeater (Mostly Conservation Officers)

151.325 mHz - Repeater (Usually not law enforcement)

159.465 mHz - Car to Car

NHF&G is the primary agency responsible for search and rescue, as well as the enforcement of hunting, fishing and wildlife protection laws in the State of New Hampshire. All searches, will involve the NHF&G and these frequencies will become active as well as the local FD and FD frequencies in the immediate area.

That's all this month. Keep listening and let me know what you hear.

Merrimack County ARES Corner Ron Herman, K1PDY, EC

Net: 8:00 Monday, Local Time

Freq: 146.895 (CVRC Repeater)

Alt: 147.57 Simplex

The big news item this time, if you haven't heard, is the Merrimack County ARES/RACES net has moved to Monday nights at 8:00 PM local time. So far it appears that everyone that is usually in the net has gotten the word. If you don't usually check in but finally decided to and couldn't find us, now you know where to look. The change was necessary because a long standing commitment of mine was moved from Wednesday night to Thursday. Since there was no one jumping at the opportunity to be an EC, the net was moved.

I will continue to try to offer some form of training during the nets. I try to keep it as low key as possible. I do expect those checking into the net to be willing participants in the hope that all will learn a little something that will help us to be a bit more "professional" should we be called upon to assist in an emergency situation or even a non emergency public event. Traffic handling ability is the main focus, but other topics will be touched upon.

Certification procedures have begun at NHOEM for RACES/ARES operators. The first group to undergo training was limited to EC's, and other ARES leaders around the state. Future training sessions will be by invitation only. Those invited most likely will be those showing a genuine interest in the ARES program. This is evidenced by meeting a few simple requirements that take little of the participants time. These are:

1. Send one ARRL formatted message per quarter, via any mode, to their respective EC.



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Rambling Reporter

Brad Hutton, KT1H

Hopefully this will be a regular column but a great deal depends upon input from club members. I will need tid-bits of information, no matter how trivial they may seem, such as call sign changes, upgrades, new awards, how you stand in QSLs for DXCC, or even a newly purchased rig, etc. These are all important pieces of information to the "Rambling Reporter." My packet station can be reached through CENTNH (145.570) 24 hours a day so please don't be shy!

WA1ALM now holds the nice initial call sign of W1JS; NR1N is now K1JY; N1TOD has his uncle's call, W1PID (a nice touch Jim). Most of you know that KA1AUA has obtained his original call sign, WA1UKV; WA1VVX gave up his KB1QY call to get back his original call. Paul (our new secretary) has not changed his call (N1PIA) but he has upgraded to Advanced Class. Congrats to all!!

Although I received a very disappointing 23 returns from over 100 mailed with the newsletter a few months ago, you may be interested to know that the most popular HF rig is Kenwood (7), followed by ICOM (6), Yaesu (5), Ten-Tec (4), and Drake (1). The most popular brand of HT is ICOM with 11 with Kenwood, Yaesu and Alinco coming in a distant second with 2 each. Towers are owned by 14 of us and are used for HF, VHF and UHF. Dale (AF1T) has 3 towers! Of the 17 people who have mobile rigs, 11 indicated ICOM was the unit of choice. Frank (NU1A) was first licensed in 1932. Can anyone top this feat?

In closing I would again ask for your contributions to this column. It will be only as informative as YOU make it. Tnx Brad KT1H

Constitution Amended

On November 12, 1996, the club voted to amend the constitution. The changes will be printed and will be available at the next meeting.

Special Meeting:

There will be a special meeting of the CVRC on January 7th at the WA1WOK/N1IMB residence. The purpose of this meeting is the formal passing of information from the outgoing officers to the 1997 slate of officers. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM, but Chili will be served before the formalities begin. Please call Nancy, N1IMB if you plan to attend.

QSL Corner

John Moore, N1FOJ

Greetings to all . First, A reminder to all club members that the CVRC has free outgoing QSL service to club members that are also ARRL members. If you work DX and are told to send the card via "BURO", it's simple to do. Just bring your outgoing card(s) to the next meeting , along with a copy of your QST mailing label, give them to me and I will take care of the rest. You will save the cost of shipping (\$3 per lb.) and the postage. The only drawback to this system is that it can be slow. You may have to wait awhile to get cards back from the DX.

NOW, for those of you that don't like to wait (and who does?) and would like to send your card direct, the CVRC has moved into the computer age. We can now access, via the World Wide Web, addresses for almost any amateur callsign in the world. We have access to the "QRZ-HAMCALL" cd-rom, the "BUCKMASTER" cd-rom, call look-up servers in Italy, Germany, Belgium, many foreign special callbooks, etc.. Of course, the club still subscribes to the "DX BULLETIN" and the "DX MAGAZINE" (that includes the "GO LIST" of QSL Mgrs.) for club use. We can even help with QSL routes and mgrs. for those hard to find Contest Calls. Who hasn't worked a "New One" during a contest, and then discovered that they didn't know where to send the card? If you ever have, here's your chance to find out the easy way! All it takes is a call to me (after 6:00 PM please) at 746-4817 and I'll be happy to do my best to help you out. Until the next time, 73, John

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and arrive at Heard on Jan. 13. Operation is planned on all HF bands, Rtty, and Satellite, until Jan. 27th, when they will leave the island. There is also the possibility that they will stop on Kerguelen (FT8X) about Jan. 30. This could be your chance to get 2 or 3 New ones for your log. Pay particular attention to 20, 40, and 80 meters here in NH (Don't think 80 is impossible—I've had the good luck to work Reunion on 75 phone using a G5RV at 40 feet and low power) but don't forget to check out the others. 15 and 10 can open at any time.

Other countries to look for; Chagos-VQ9WM on 14.227 at about 1715Z daily; Burkina Faso-XT2DP on 15 at about 1800Z; Afghanistan-YA1ZA on 7.006 at about 2150Z.

Some CQ WW SSB QSL Routes off the Internet: 3V8BB-YT1AD, 3C1DX-EA6BH, 3DA0DX-WJ2O, CY0XX-WA4DAN, J3A-WA8LOW, HC8N-AA5BT, M6T-G3XTT.

Thats all for now, Good Luck, and keep DXing Ahead!

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2. Check into at least one ARES net per month.
3. Participate in at least one ARES general emergency training session per quarter.

Since training during one of our nets satisfies the third requirement above, checking into a net a couple of times a month will easily satisfy the last two items. Number one is where most are falling down, even those that check in regularly. I make some allowance for those I know to be doing heavy traffic handling on other nets, but the bulk of those on whom I maintain a record (yes I keep score), don't satisfy the traffic handling requirement. Note that the message can be anything and be sent any mode, even packet where you don't need to fear having all your boo boos spotlighted before a net.

Hope to see you on the net and receive some traffic from you all. 73

CVRC, Defending a Title

Vincent Salerno, N1RAN

In 1996 the Contoocook Valley Radio Club took first place in the NH QSO Party. The category won was multi operator, multi transmitter, large club. Well, fellow club members, its almost time to do it again! Last year, thanks to hams like Dale Clement, AF1T, and John Moore, N1FOJ, we were able to do it. It was hams like N1KPZ, Dennis Little, and Rob Fair, WA1UKV, who teamed up and scored nicely, and guys like Bob Hadley, K1DWI (who got DXCC with a G5RV dipole), who gave us a shot in the arm. But most important was you members who did what you could to chip away at that first place block.

Members, lets prove that this wasn't a fluke—let's do it again. Now some of you might say "I'm not into contesting," (to be honest with you, I'm not crazy about it) but the QSO Party is different, you can make it fun. Its a time when you and your rig are one. Enjoy yourself, there's nothing wrong with a low-key approach. Take some time to talk with the hams that answer your call. You'll find that you'll learn a lot of new ideas from others before the contest ends. If you're a bit rusty on the code (Summer does that to me) you'll find your skills improve.

I was very surprised at the amount of club members we have and the percentage of those who participated. Let's make this a record year, and each and every one of us contribute what we can. CVRC members, let's defend our title but, most of all, let's have fun!

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ARRL membership to the treasurer for activation or renewal. For every new ARRL member, the club receive \$5.00 from the League and renewals net us \$1.00.

One final note. It has been an honor to serve as your treasurer for the past year. I would like to take this time to thank all of the club members who have shared their insights with me and made the position enjoyable. 73, Tom