

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 9, Number 3

June, 1997

CVRC Dominates NH QSO Party

Dale Clement, AF1T

The 1997 NH QSO Party is now history. For the second year in a row, the CVRC has led new Hampshire with an award winning effort. Thanks to our noteworthy participation we totaled 314,722 points for first place in the large

club category. This score was several times that of any other club entry! A nice plaque was presented at the May NHARA meeting.

CVRC members submitted fifteen log entries, plus one for club station K1BKE. Eight individual awards went to our members—half the state total! Awards are as follows:

N1TX: 1st place, Hillsborough County

K1JY: 1st place, Sullivan County

N1FOJ: 1st place, Merrimack County, high power

N1JHN: 1st place, Merrimack County, low power

AF1T: 2nd place, New Hampshire, overall score

N1JHJ: 1st place, New Hampshire, VHF (50 MHz and up)

KY1M: 2nd place, New Hampshire, low power

W1XV: 2nd place, New Hampshire, low power

CVRC Meetings

Have you ever experienced electrical interference? If so, you don't want to miss the June tenth meeting. Ron Poloske, KA1ERN, is visiting us to give a lecture on the subject.

Join us on July eighth for the Annual CVRC cruise! The cruise will again be on the MV Mt. Sunapee, which leaves the dock at 7:15. If you're running late, there will be people monitoring '895 and 146.52 simplex. Let us know!

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.

Congratulations! It was great to have such a high turnout. Remember that the QSO Party provides needed contacts with our state and various counties to many amateurs in the U.S. and around the world. It is a valuable source of on-the-air publicity for our club.

Special thanks to Cliff, N1GJF, for all his behind-the-scenes organizational work—reproducing the rules, entry sheets, logging programs, etc. Cliff has faithfully represented our club at NHARA meetings, and has truly contributed to the success of many activities. Be sure to attend an NHARA meeting, or at least comment in writing, if you have any concerns about the way the QSO Party, or any such activity, is being conducted.

I would like to relinquish my role as club QSO Party Chairman, though I plan to operate next February. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer.

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.

Field Day June 27-29

It's time to get geared up for Field Day 1997! Setup is Friday night, and operation will be Saturday and Sunday. We need volunteers to help set up and operate. The goal this year is to dedicate one radio per band operating. If you have any equipment to loan (radios, antennas, UPS, logging computers, tuners, towers, anything to help setup a fully functional station), or want to operate, contact John Moore, N1FOJ.

New Radio Club in NH


There is a new amateur radio club just getting under way in Winnisquam. They are called The Lakes Region Amateur Radio Club and their motto is "Ham Radio should be fun and a service to our community!"

Although their first club meeting has not been held yet, they already have a repeater on the air, a post office box, and an e-mail address. They'll be scheduling a meeting soon so, if you frequent the lakes region, contact N1NLU (Jason), N2IBS (Steve) or N1ZHY (Wanda) at the following address.

Lakes Region Amateur Radio Club (LRARC)
Post Office Box # 363
Winnisquam, N.H. 03289

Repeater: 147.060 +600 (131.8 PL)
Club's Hotline #: (603)- 286-3332
Club's E-mail Address:
LRARC@CYBERPORTAL.NET

AMATEUR RADIO
EARLY COMMUNICATIONS &
TUBE TYPE BROADCAST SETS
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XPIEXX

Christopher Sieg
603\464-5625

13 Main St., P.O. Box 123
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Craney Hill Lookout Tower

Dale Clement, AF1T

The fire tower on Craney Hill in Henniker will be getting a new lease on life. There is considerable interest in restoring it for use as a lookout for special occasions. This began with defeat at the March Town Meeting of a proposal to install a cellular tower compound on the site. That would have resulted in dismantling the fire tower.

The Craney Hill tower is being listed on the National Historic and will appear in National Woodlands magazine. Several general news articles have recently appeared re-

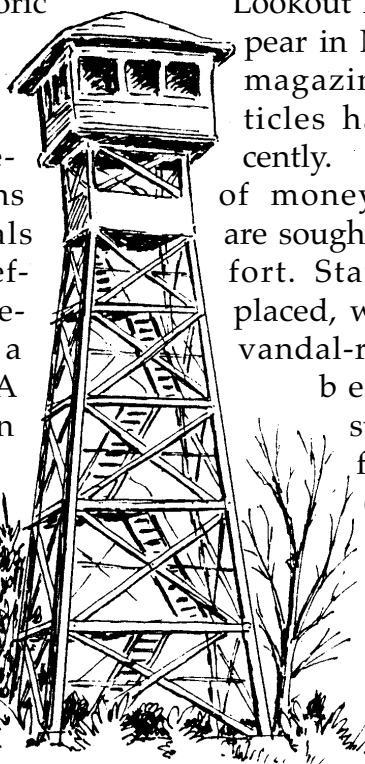
Donations and materials for restoration need to be re-

installed, and a fence erected. A Ham & Bean scheduled 7, 1997,

at the Pat's Ski Lodge. This feature will feature speakers from the Forest Fire

Lookout Association, a slide show, dedication ceremony, and door prizes. Donations may be sent to the Craney Hill Lookout Tower Association, P. O. Box 77, Henniker, NH 03272-0077. For further information, please contact me at 428-3840.

Our radio club should consider the potential value of Craney Hill for ham radio operation, particularly as a backup site for Field Day or repeater use. I have access to the fire tower, which is about one-third mile from my house. It is about fifty feet tall, and has a base elevation of 1402 feet above sea level.



Lookout Register, appear in National magazine. Several articles have ap-

cently. of money, time, are sought for the fort. Stairs will be placed, windows will be vandal-resistant

benefit

supper is for June 6:00 PM,

Peak Lodge.

will speak-

from the Forest

Look-

Dates to Remember

June 7 - Henniker Fire Tower ham & bean supper

June 10 - CVRC regular meeting

June 14 - Pancake breakfast/foxhunt

June 24 - CVRC business meeting/cookout

June 27-29 - Field Day

July 8 - Cruise on the MV Mt. Sunapee

July 22 - CVRC business meeting

August 9 - Old Home Days, Henniker

Novice/Technician Classes

Larry Beavers, W1GTA

We have just completed a session of Novice/Tech classes with very good results. Classes were held at the studios of NH Public Radio at 207 North Main Street, in Concord from March 12th through May 14th. The exam was held May 21st with six VE's present. The class began with 9 present the following week we had 11 and the third week brought 13. We finally wound up with 8 die-hard finishers together with three walk-ins to make a total of 11 testing.

After the exams and the dust cleared, we have four new technicians and one person passing element 2 (she decided not to take the code test). Bob Bouchard, N1YRP, passed his 5wpm code test the 9th week of the session so he is a tech+.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to the instructors, Dale AF1T (he taught two classes himself), Tom N1SKZ, John N1FOJ, Chris WA3LDI, Jim AA1FR, Dan N1OAJ and Ken KIMID. I taught three of the ten sessions myself and I also taught the code each week (I should have tried harder I guess, most of the students didn't stay for the code practice!). Actually, most of the folks were interested in the no-code tech license from the onset

and that's fine. I think that we gave them a good basic understanding of theory which will bode well with them as they get on the air. A good theoretical base of knowledge is very important in my opinion.

Again thanks to all those who supported the classes.

Pancake Breakfast and Foxhunt

Lindsay Collins, K1JY

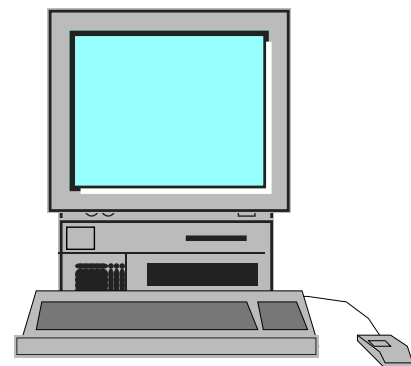
All you can eat blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon & sausage? You bet! Followed by a Fox Hunt? Right! What better way to spend a Saturday morning!

It's all at the American Legion Hall in Warner, NH, on June fourteenth. Breakfast is from 7 to 10 AM; the fox hunt begins at 10. Come for breakfast; come for the fox hunt; or better yet, come for both.

This is sponsored by and for the benefit of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club. Talk-in on 146.895 -600, and 147.570 simplex.

*Visit the CVRC on the
World Wide Web!*

<http://www.quatron.com.cvrc>

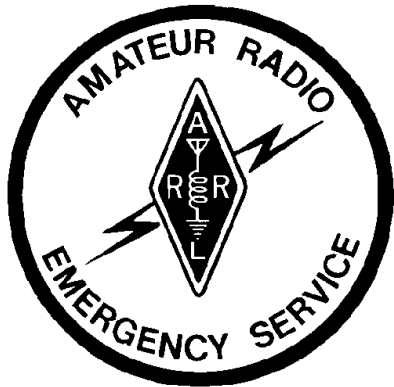


Sponsored by Quatron Systems: <http://www.quatron.com>

Merrimack County ARES Corner Ron Herman, K1PDY, EC

Net: 8:00 Monday, Local Time
Freq: 146.895 (CVRC Repeater)
Alt: 147.57 Simplex
PBBS: 145.57 (K1PDY-1)

Well the hoped for participation in the NH Policeman's Association get together in May didn't work out due in part to a lack of people willing and able to take a day off from work to help and in part due to lack of a good story to present. How would you answer the question "ARES, what can you do for my town". It hasn't helped much either that the NH ARES organization is somewhat fragmented now with many looking for a way out. Hopefully we can be better prepared next year and make a showing. In the meantime I will keep in touch with



the Chief in Weare who is the incoming president of the Policeman's Association and get ARES/RACES worked into the town's emergency plan. I hope that if the chance arises to demonstrate our usefulness, that I will be able to get help from the Merrimack County membership.

Remember that participation in the numerous public events that will be coming up in the next few months is a great place to get experience in using and sharpening your communications skills.

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

C.V.R.C. Pancake Breakfast and Foxhunt

June 14, 1997
Breakfast: 7:00 - 10:00 AM
Foxhunt: 10:00 AM

American Legion Hall — Warner, NH

Price: \$6.00 Adults, \$4.00 Children under 12
All you can eat!

Coffee, Orange Juice, Bacon, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Plain or Blueberry Pancakes, Real Maple Syrup

A \$25.00 gift certificate will be awarded to the first person/team to find the fox!

talk-in: 146.895 (-600) repeater, 145.57 simplex

Steering Committee Cookout

In addition to the business meeting on June 24, there will be a cookout for the Steering Committee (All you need to do to be on the steering committee is come to a meeting!). The event will take place at the WA1WOK/N1IMB QTH and starts at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP (225-0539) to let them know how many to expect. BYOM (Bring Your Own Meat for grilling).



Rock and Roll Hits All Day
on i93.3 and i107.7

Rambling Reporter

Brad Hutton, W1XV

The plethora of junk and paucity of clean used gear seems now to be the soup du jour at Hosstraders. It is quite evident how this wonderful event has evolved over the past twenty years. The sylvan atmosphere of Deerfield was grandiose compared with the sinking feeling that one senses at the Rochester quagmire. It is now very challenging to attend Hosstraders and spot a pristine HF station for a Novice or as a back-up rig. This was not the case a decade ago when nice, clean used equipment abounded! However, not all is lost. The gathering of the clan for a good time cannot be

surpassed. K1JY, N1GJF, W1PID, and WA1UKV drove various housing units to the fairgrounds for a Friday evening filled with mirth and merriment. The trip was not without mishap and K1JY could not get underway from Concord due to a pneumatic problem with a tire. Linds threatened to down an 807 or two while waiting at the tire store but we know that he wouldn't drink and drive!! W1PID had a long wire antenna strung up before K1JY even arrived. We could almost copy Jim's code on WA1UKV's TV....talk about TVI! It was good to see many familiar faces in the throng of attendees. Conspicuous by his absence was W1JS who hasn't missed this extravaganza in over twenty years. And, yes, everyone agrees that we'd do it again despite the rain!!

Our editor is now N1JI. Nice touch with the initial call sign, Jock!!

Congratulations are in order to the CVRC as a whole for its superlative performance in the NH QSO Party. Our club walked away with 9 of the 20 awards issued: K1JY first in Sullivan, N1TX first in Hillsborough, N1FOJ first Merrimack high power, N1JHN first Merrimack low power, N1JHJ first NH VHF, AF1T second NH high power, KY1M second NH low power, W1XV second NH QRP, and K1BKE first NH large club. Great going to ALL that participated

to enable CVRC to grab the trophy again!!

Now, if we as a club, could only put forth



ALAN K. SHUMAN

American Radio Relay League
Section Manager
New Hampshire

PO Box 145
Goffstown, NH 03045
603.487.3333

N1FIK

Internet: ASHUMAN@MV.MV.COM

such an effort for the auction, the treasury would be in fine shape. N1GJF has dropped off a sizable amount of auction goodies. More are expected soon.

Yours truly finally reeled in DXCC CW after dubbing around for too many years. I made a serious attempt to gather the final 15 cards before winter passed on to summer....there was no spring this year! After a few hundred QSOs and some green stamps were sent abroad, the cards began arriving. It is interesting to note that my DXCC CW award is #7856 and that my DXCC SSB award is #10906 issued 18 years ago. I would like to compile a list of members who have worked DXCC and WAS. Please let me know at a meeting or via packet....would like date and number of the award.

I'll appeal once again to members to drop me a line via packet to let me know what's happening. This is strictly a gossip column but I'm running low on subject material. W1XV-1 is on 24 hours a day!!

This month's parting thought: please folks, on phone, when something is humorous, just laugh.....don't say "HI HI" which is laughter in CW.

73 Brad W1XV SK

Field Day Meals

Prepared in the N1PHV Field Kitchen!

Saturday Lunch: \$2.00

Saturday Supper: \$5.00

Sunday Breakfast: \$2.00

Sunday Lunch: \$3.00

See Cliff, N1GJF, for tickets

Another Report From The Frustrated Heathkitter

**Ron (I'm STILL not changing
MY call) Herman, K1PDY**

Well building a Tentec 2 meter transceiver wasn't enough. Yours truly next put together the automatic antenna tuner from LDG Electronics. The model is the AT-11 and comes assembled or kit and with an optional case (made by Tentec!). Kit with case sells for about \$190. It automatically tunes any coax fed antenna (8:1 VSWR max) in just a few seconds worst case. It works from 1.8 to 30 MHz and handles 100 watts but needs at least 3 watts to function.

Kit building time was about seven hours. The hardest part was the need to file down a couple component leads because of a design error that left the mounting holes too small. The holes could not be drilled out because they were plated through and there was too little etch around them. The L-network uses a series of fixed capacitors and inductors. The inductors, while easy to wind presented a bit of a mounting problem due to the stiffness of the wire and the mounting hole placement. Large gobs of hot

melt glue solved the problem.

The first time power was applied and the transmitter keyed, it sounded like 60 hertz AC had gotten into it. It was soon learned that that is the normal sound of the relays. After that it was found that the unit performed pretty much as advertised. One problem on the low end of 80 meters was noted. Once the tuning is complete, the VSWR starts to creep up, indicating a component is heating up. LDG offered to supply a different set of capacitors to correct this problem.

The AT-11 is not a smart tuner like the units from SGC but uses a brute force method of tuning. The various capacitors and inductors are switched in and out by microprocessor controlled relays. Since any combination of each can be switched in, it is possible to fine tune almost as

well as with

continuously variable components. However the algorithm basically tries all combinations until it finds a VSWR that is less than 1.5. That can happen quickly (a second or less) or require cycling through many combinations. Since it is happening very rapidly and with relays that have contact ratings of several amps, there is quite a bit of racket. But once the action stops it is rewarding to see the VSWR read 1.5 or less and not having to go through a manual trial and error process than can take much longer. If you want to do better, it is possible to manually fine tune it with the push buttons on the front panel. Some combinations don't seem to result in a 1.5 VSWR. The AT-11 in that case just gives up. The G5RV was tuned to all but one or two bands in the 1.8 to 30 MHz range.

If you have Internet access, you can learn more about the AT-11 by looking at <http://www.radix.net/~ldg>. You can also refer to January 1996 QST page 35 which describes the unit as a do it yourself project.

Kearsarge Repeaters Repaired

Jim Cluett, W1PID

Two ham repeaters on Mt. Kearsarge are back on the air after being down for several months during the winter. Lindsay Collins, (K1JY) climbed the mountain and fixed the voice repeater on 447.675 and the K1JY-2 APRS

digipeater on 145.79.

During the warm weather, it's not too hard to drive up from Rollins State Park in Warner and then hike the last section from the parking lot. But the road is closed until late May, and Lindsay was anxious to get the stations running again. So he decided to climb the mountain from Winslow State Park near Andover.

Lindsay, Rob (WA1UKV) and I met Saturday morning, April 5, at the park prepared for several feet of snow and a slippery mile and a half climb.

We left at 9:30 with backpacks full of tools, test

Continued on page 7

ARLD024 DX News

Continued from page 6

This week's bulletin was made possible with info provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The 599Rpt, The Daily DX, Ralf, DH3IAJ, Jani, OH2BU, Laci, HA0HW, 425DXnews and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

TAIWAN, BV. Gus, SM3EVR/BV2 is QRV until October. No specific bands or modes were mentioned. QSL to home call.

ANGOLA, D2. Fernando, EA4BB, will be QRV as D2BB until the end of 1998. He is tentatively using SSB only with 100 watts. CW operations will soon follow. QSL to EA4BB.

IRAN, EP. Ali, EP2AG, is QRV and can be found on 20 meters between 2100 and 2200z. QSL via EP2MHB, PO Box 16765 154, Tehran, Iran.

MALYJ VYSOTSKIJ ISLAND, R1MV. A group of 12 operators from Finland and Russia will be here from June 5 to 16, using the callsigns OH5AB/MVI and R1MVI. Look for CW, SSB and RTTY activity on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands. There may also be some local 2 meter and 70 cm activity. No satellite operations are expected. QSL both calls via Orvo Arkko, OH5NE, Muukko, FIN-53400 Lappeenranta, Finland.

POLAND, SP. Look for Special Event Station SN9JP to be QRV from June 1 to 15 in celebration of a visit to Poland by Pope John Paul II. Activity is expected on 80 to 10 meters. Some 2 meter satellite activity is also planned. QSL via SP9PKZ.

DODECANESE, SV5. Laci, HA0HW, with HA4GDO, HA6NL, HA6PS and HA6ZV, will be QRV as SV5/homecalls/p from June 3 to 17. CW, SSB and RTTY activity is expected on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands. There may also be some 2 meter and satellite activity. Look for them on RS-10, 12 and 15, with downlink frequencies of 29421/29441 khz and 29321/39341 khz. QSL to home calls.

CAMBODIA, XU. Hiroo, JA2EZD, is QRV as XU2A and can be found on 20 meters between 1800 and 1900z most days.

equipment, a new amplifier module, and plenty of sandwiches. Lindsay carried a new dual-band Diamond antenna over his shoulder.

The park was still closed and the road to the base of the trail At Winslow was covered with two feet of snow. Hiking to the foot of the mountain took 20 minutes. Then the real climb started. The trail was snow covered, but it wasn't hard to kick a good foothold into the snow. We hiked the mile and a half in over an hour.

Lindsay made a few tests and confirmed that the final was blown. He set to work with his soldering iron while Rob and I took the new antenna up on the shed to install. Can't beat the view up there! We took down the old Hustler and put up the Diamond. After wrapping the connections carefully with tape and sealant, we ate our sandwiches. At about the same time Lindsay finished putting in the new final.

By the afternoon the snow had softened considerably and we slid most of the way down the mountain. Going down took about half as long as going up.

It's great to have the two repeaters running again. Thanks Lindsay.

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.

Realistic DX-150A Shortwave Receiver w/photocopy of manual - \$40, Radio Shack DSP unit - wired to use with DX-150 - \$40, Both together for \$75.

Radio Shack HTX-404 UHF H/T - w/1 year remaining on Tandy Service Plan, all standard accessories, box and manual - \$150, Radio Shack HTA-20 35W, 2M "brick" - original box and manual - \$80. Trades will be considered, especially for VHF/UHF vertical antenna for home use. Let me know what you have.

Contact N1QGM on 2M 146.895 repeater, packet at N1QGM @ WA1WOK, e-mail m_fraser@conknet.com, or phone 588-6635