

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 9, Number 6

December, 1997

The OO's Perspective: Larry Beavers, W1GTA, NH OOC

What is an OO? When I gave a talk on the OO program at the monthly meeting of the Central NH Radio Club in Meredith on the 7th of this month, about 30% of the attendees raised their hands to say that they know what an OO was. About one or two of that 30% had some contact directly with an OO in their ham career. It was an interesting statistic. It said that probably most of the hams in attending were pretty good operators. I was a little dis-

heartened when no one said that they had received a "good operator" report. Those are my favorites. Good Op reports say that I heard you on the bands using good operating procedure and a nice sounding signal. In other words it is a pat on the back for doing a good job. It usually comes as a pleasant surprise to the recipient. We send out a good number of them.

In any event for those of you who are not familiar with OO's, let me explain. The OO is an Official Observer, part of the amateur auxiliary program set by the ARRL and FCC to take over some of the frequency monitoring activities of the commission in the mid 80's. With downsizing of many government agencies, the FCC lost about 70% of its FOB staff. This resulted in reallocating of resources, concentrating monitoring and enforcement activities on commercial entities. That left amateur radio to po-

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Programs

December 9: Annual CVRC Christmas party and spaghetti feed. Rag-chew starts at 6:00 and dinner will be served between 6:30 and 7:00. See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

January 13: American Heart Association adult CPR training. participants will be trained by Alan McCartney, N1KAK, and will receive certification at the end of the evening. This session runs for three hours and begins promptly at 7:00 PM.

CVRC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Members and nonmembers alike are welcomed. Talk-in is on the K1BKE 146.895 -600 kHz repeater.

New Officers for 1998

Congratulations go out to our new CVRC officers for 1998. Larry Ledlow, N1TX - President; Don Buchanan, N5FGO - Vice-President; Paul LaClair, N1PIA - Secretary; and Dave Connors, N1KTP - Treasurer. Don will also be taking over the job of programs coordinator. A hearty "Thank you" is in order for Cal, WA1WOK, and Rob, WA1UKV, as they leave the offices of President and Vice-President. One look at the treasurer's report at the next meeting will show you how much these two were able to build up the treasury during their two year tenure. Nancy Robinson, N1IMB, is also leaving the position of programs coordinator. If you think back and remember some of the programs we've had over the last two years, you'll realize what a fantastic job Nancy has done for us.

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.

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lice itself even more. The OO program has been in existence for about 50 years now. The FCC and the amateur radio community have a pretty good relationship. Hams have been by nature courteous folks and for the most part, have operated using good operating practice and good sounding rigs. There are, however, some transmitters and operators who whether intentional or not, are not quite up to snuff. That brings me to the point of my article.

OO's are dedicated and conscientious hams who are committed to serving their fellow hams by monitoring the bands. What we listen for are the following: Overmodulation, key clicks, chirps, distortion, wide signals, harmonics, spurious radiation primarily within the amateur bands and interference from one amateur to another whether intentional or not. We respond to reports of malicious interference on all frequencies but repeater interference is pretty much relegated to the Local Interference Committees. In situations where malicious interference is happening consistently, we are sometimes called upon to document this data for the FCC to use in possible future hearings.

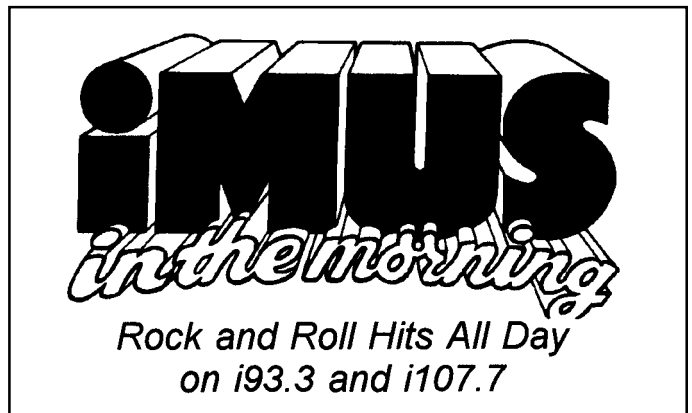
We have six OO's in the state at the present time and their monthly reports funnel through me to ARRL HQ. for posting in the national database. If you receive an advisory from one of the six of us or from another OO somewhere in the US, please remember that we are trying to help and maybe save you a pink slip from the FCC. How well do you monitor the output of your transmitter or transceiver? Probably most can't since there isn't a good way to do it unless you have a station monitor or spectrum analyzer(which is out of the question for most hams). You take for granted that what the manufacturer is true and your rig is operating properly unless someone your are working tells you it isn't. I gave an advisory to an N4 working a G0. The BRIT didn't say the 4's signal was wide as a barn maybe because he was barely able to copy at the time and couldn't tell. It was distorted and didn't sound like a heavily rf processed signal. He was about 7.5 KHz wide on USB. The operator apparently didn't know about it so I gave him a friendly advisory on it.

Last but not least, as OO Coordinator for NH I am always looking for good seasoned hams who

would like to take on the responsibility of being an OO. We look for folks with no axe to grind and who are not looking for a power trip but have a sincere desire to help their fellow hams. We are a helping group. If you would like to give it a try please let me know. You will have to be trained and pass an examination on the rules as well as decision making in the job. It's not as easy as it may sound but it's worth the work. Minimum requirements are that you must have been licensed for at least four years as a technician class. Higher classes are of course welcomed. All of the present OO's are extra class. I feel that you should be licensed for operation in the band you are monitoring. So, hope to hear from you if you are interested.

Dues are Due!

It's time again to renew your club dues. All dues are officially due on January 1, but Dave, N1KTP, will be happy to take your payment anytime before then. The dues schedule is as follows: Students to age 18: free; Seniors (over 65): \$10.00; Ages 18-65: \$20.00; Family memberships: first adult is full price, each other adult in the same household pays half price.



How many Hams does it take to repair a table for an auction?

Two to bring the table, one to bring the drill, two to make repairs, and five to talk on the radio about what size screws to use.

Mark McGartland, N1VRI

CVRC Christmas Party

It's time again for the annual CVRC Christmas Party and Spaghetti Feed on December 13. The social time begins at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served between 6:30 and 7:00. This year's festivities will be almost identical as last year with a spaghetti dinner (prepared by Cal, WA1WOK, and Lindsay, K1JY) followed by a Yankee Swap. The dinner will cost \$7.00 apiece, two for \$12.00, or an entire family can eat for \$15.00. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert-type item to share—DX punch (and DXCC punch for the adults) will be provided by John, N1FOJ.

Don't forget to try one (or both) of the two raffles we'll be having. You could win a \$25 gift-certificate to the Grist Mill restaurant in Bow (two will be raffled off), or just win a whole lot of cash in the 50/50 raffle.

After dinner the traditional CVRC Yankee Swap will take place, featuring Lindsay as Master of Ceremonies. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped seasonal or gag gift in the \$5.00 range to swap. Remember, this is a family event—that 50 lb. transformer you've been looking to get rid of will not be appreciated by a non-ham spouse! Whether you receive the gift you want or not, you can be sure you and your family will have a great evening!

The
State
Street


Rhythm & Blues
Band

Appearing January 3
and March 7 at the
Rynborn Restaurant
and Blues Club,
Antrim, NH.
Call 588-6162 for
more information.

NH QSO Party

It's time to start thinking about the 1998 NH QSO Party. It will take place this year on the second weekend in February. Since the NHARA wasn't able to meet to discuss any rule changes, the rules will be exactly the same as last year. Bonus point stations are WB1CAG, K1BKE, KB1BRO, W1WQM, W1UWS and KC1XG. Be sure to attend the January or February meeting of the CVRC to receive complete rules and summary sheets.

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CVRC Flea Market

The annual CVRC Flea Market is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 1997. Some major changes are in store this year, the biggest one being location. We have requested permission to use the cafeteria and one large classroom at the Henniker Community School. This location would allow us to have an indoor flea market with convenient parking, electricity, rest-rooms, tables, etc. The current plan is to use the large classroom for a VE session, hopefully drawing more attendees to the event. This would be a great time for you, or a friend, to pursue that upgrade you've been thinking about.

The (tentative) schedule is as follows: Doors open to sellers at 7:00 AM; Doors open to public from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM; VE Session from 12:00 to 3:00 PM; Everyone out and doors locked at 4:00 PM. See you there!

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.

ICOM IC2000H 50 memories, 1 call channel, Receive 118-174 MC (118-136 AM aircraft) 5/10/50 Watts, Less than one years use as a BACKUP transceiver. HM-95 Mic, Manuals and Original box. NON-SMOKER. \$240.00 obo 603-428-7737 between 1600-2000 EST Please. 73.