

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 10, Number 3

June, 1998

Congratulations!

K1BKE Wins 1st Place 3rd Year in a Row in the 1998 New Hampshire QSO Party

Cliff Eisner, N1GJF

The results are in for the 53rd Annual New Hampshire QSO Party. Report from Richard C. Force, WB1ASL, QSO Party Chairman for the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association shows that 55 stations sent in their logs for the contest. There were 34 stations from New Hampshire and 21 non New Hampshire stations submitted logs for the contest. The Contoocook Valley Radio Club

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Programs

June 9 Spring tuneup with Mr. Box. Bring your radio and manual in for a free checkup.

July 14 Annual CVRC boat ride on the MS Mount Sunapee. **This meeting will not be at the regular location.** See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

CVRC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Hopkinton Community Center in Contoocook, NH. Members and nonmembers alike are welcomed. Talk-in is on the K1BKE 146.895 -600 kHz (100 Hz PL) 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.

Richard C. Chapin,

N1KPT SK

Cliff Eisner, N1GJF

CVRC members, many friends and relatives turned out recently to bid a sad farewell to a friend and club member. Richard (Dick) became a silent key on April 25, 1998 at the Concord Hospital at the age of 65.

Richard enjoyed his life and the time with his Family, friends, Amateur radio and camping. Richard is survived by his wife of 37 years, Anne (Wilcox) Chapin of Henniker; a son, Richard Chapin 3rd of Newbury; two daughters, Karen Anne Chapin Savage and Deborah Aucoin, both of Henniker; a sister, Nancy Chapin Kolb of Rumney; five grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Born in New York City, Chapin was a resident of Henniker since 1977. He was the son of the late Richard and Ruth (Tallcot) Chapin. He graduated from Tabor Academy in Marion, Pa., and from New England College in Henniker in 1953.

Chapin retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years. His experience as an Air Force pilot included service in Vietnam.

Chapin also worked for the State of New Hampshire from 1977 to 1985 in the employment and training counsel. He was a member of the Henniker Old Timers Club and served on the Henniker Board of Selectmen.

He also was a member of the American Legion Post No. 200 of Concord, the Contoocook Valley Radio Club and the Granite State Radio Net.

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QSO Party - Continued from page 1

has received a certificate for 1st place for large club in the QSO Party contest. K1BKE has had a lot of support from its members over the years. Three years in a row, the club has received 2nd place certificate for 1993, 1994 and 1995. Then in 1996 and 1997 the club received a 1st place plaque and 1998 received a certificate for 1st place in the QSO party. This years support of club members made the difference, as there was one other club that had more points than K1BKE. With the points donated from club members, K1BKE total score can to 237,658 points. K1BKE was on the air for 37 hours (approx. 77% coverage) out of the possible 48 hours the club could operate in the contest. My special thanks for the 13 members that help make this a success. Members operating and/or donating their points were: AF1T, N1TX, N1GJF, N1KPT (SK), K1PDY, N1FOJ, N1IIC, N1JI, WA1VKO, KY1M, K1DWI, N1OAJ, N1JHJ and K1JY. No other club had as many club members donate their points to their club. This is one of the ways that shows how the club members support their club and this make me proud to be part of The Contoocook Valley Radio Club. Congratulations to the members that won 1st place for the class or county.

Respectfully submitted
Cliff Eisner, N1GJF
CVRC QSO Party Chairman

CVRC Email Directory

We will soon be adding email addresses to the information in our membership directory. If you would like yours included, send a message to Marc Fraser, N1QGM, at fraserm@osi.sylvania.com. The complete directory will be printed in a future newsletter as well as being available as a hidden file (for privacy) on the club's web site.

N1KPT - Continued from page 1

Richard enjoyed doing and sharing things with his family as amateur radio and camping. He upgraded from Technician to General class license on 01/05/1993. This opened new bands for him to enjoyed and share his love for ham radio with his family and friends. He would share with his children and grandchildren the ham shack, listen to conversation and monitor his packet station. Richard was very active in passing traffic on several nets like the Granite State Radio Net and the Contoocook Valley Radio Club and very good at giving instruction on passing traffic. Packet radio communication was new to him a few years ago and he really got involved and enjoyed every moment he could.

He will be missed by all and our lives have been richer for having known Richard.

Donations can be made to Concord Hospital Pulmonary Unit, c/o Concord Hospital, 250 Pleasant St., Concord 03301.



Membership Update

The CVRC currently has 78 members on our roster. Of those only 38 have paid their dues through the end of 1998 or beyond. 40 have not yet paid their 1998 dues and, of those, 15 have not paid for 1997 as well. If you have not renewed your membership, or if you want to check the status of it, please see our treasurer, Dave Connors, N1KTP, at the next meeting or call him at 456-3787.

DAYTON OR BUST

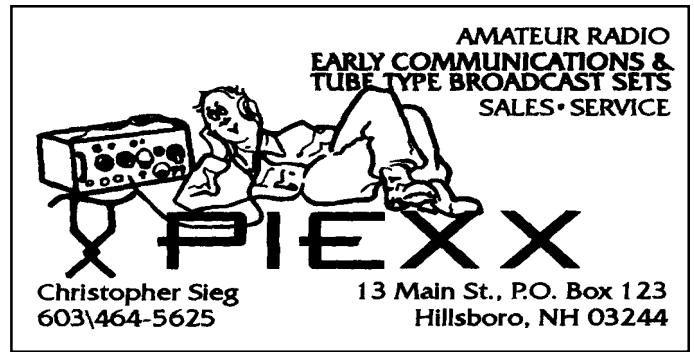
(OR IS IT GO BUSTED!)

Nancy Robinson, N1IMB

May 1997 and plans were already being made for Dayton 98. Dayton is one of the largest Hamventions in the east. Cal "WA1WOK" said I wasn't a ham until I went to Dayton. Well the first year was an uneventful one and I did, as most of you know, get initiated in Cal's own way. For some of you that don't know I will share my experience of my first year. As we were walking around Hara Arena where the Hamvention is held I had to use the bathroom. Cal insisted I take this huge walkie so I wouldn't get lost. It must have been 6" wide and a foot long. Well at least it seemed it. Every time I put it in my pocket or hooked it onto my waistband my pants fell down. Well I waited in line at the porta potty for my turn while Cal wandered off. Finally after what seemed forever it was my turn. I carefully sat my walkie in the corner so I wouldn't drop it in the toilet. As I was doing my thing a very LOUD voice came out of the walkie in the corner. "Oh Nancy what you doing?" Oh no I thought. Of course it was to far away for me to reach. Then again it echoed "I hope everything is coming out all right." By that time I was totally embarrassed as I could hear people outside laughing. As I opened the door there were 30 or more people gathered around laughing and clapping. In the back of the cheering crowd stood Cal with a grin from ear to ear.

The rest of the day was great. That evening we joined about 15 friends for dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse which I found out was a tradition. After a wonderful meal several waiters and waitresses started toward our table with a very large birthday cake lit with candles. Wow I thought it's someone's birthday and no one told me. As they came closer they began singing Happy Birthday to me. I insisted it wasn't my birthday and no one would listen. Yup another little initiation. "Well," said Cal, "now you're a ham."

We then enjoyed two more fun filled days.



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Christopher Sieg
603\464-5625

13 Main St., P.O. Box 123
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As our last day drew near we made plans for 98. We made our reservations for the next year. That year there were some 40 plus thousand people so you need to make reservations a year ahead of time. Exhausted we began the long trip home.

1998 and we were looking forward to another fun filled trip to Dayton. I anxiously packed a week ahead of time as we were to leave Monday the 11th and do some sight seeing on our way out. Cal hadn't felt to good all week and by Sunday was in a lot of pain. Monday bright and early he was in the hospital. After lots of test nothing showed up. They gave him medication and sent him home Tuesday. Wed. morning we headed for his doctors appointment still hoping to make the trip. After seeing the doctor at 10 we were on our way to Dayton.

As most of you know we run APRS. I drove and Cal operated the APRS station mobile. As we reached the top of Hog Back Mountain in Vermont Cal was chatting rapidly with Myrle, K1HJC in Candia. It was great. During our trip we found that we could see a lot of stations but couldn't chat with them. Cal continued to transmit, and occasionally talking to someone. After 14 hours of continuous driving we were 20 minutes from Dayton and stopped at a rest area for the night.

The next day bright and early we arrived at our Motel. Well what we thought was our motel. Lo and behold, they had lost our reservations and Cal didn't have the confirmation with us. After about an hour we found a motel down the street. Not the Ritz, but it would do as everything was sold out.

We unpacked the car and headed for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum. Each year it's a tradition to visit the museum for the day

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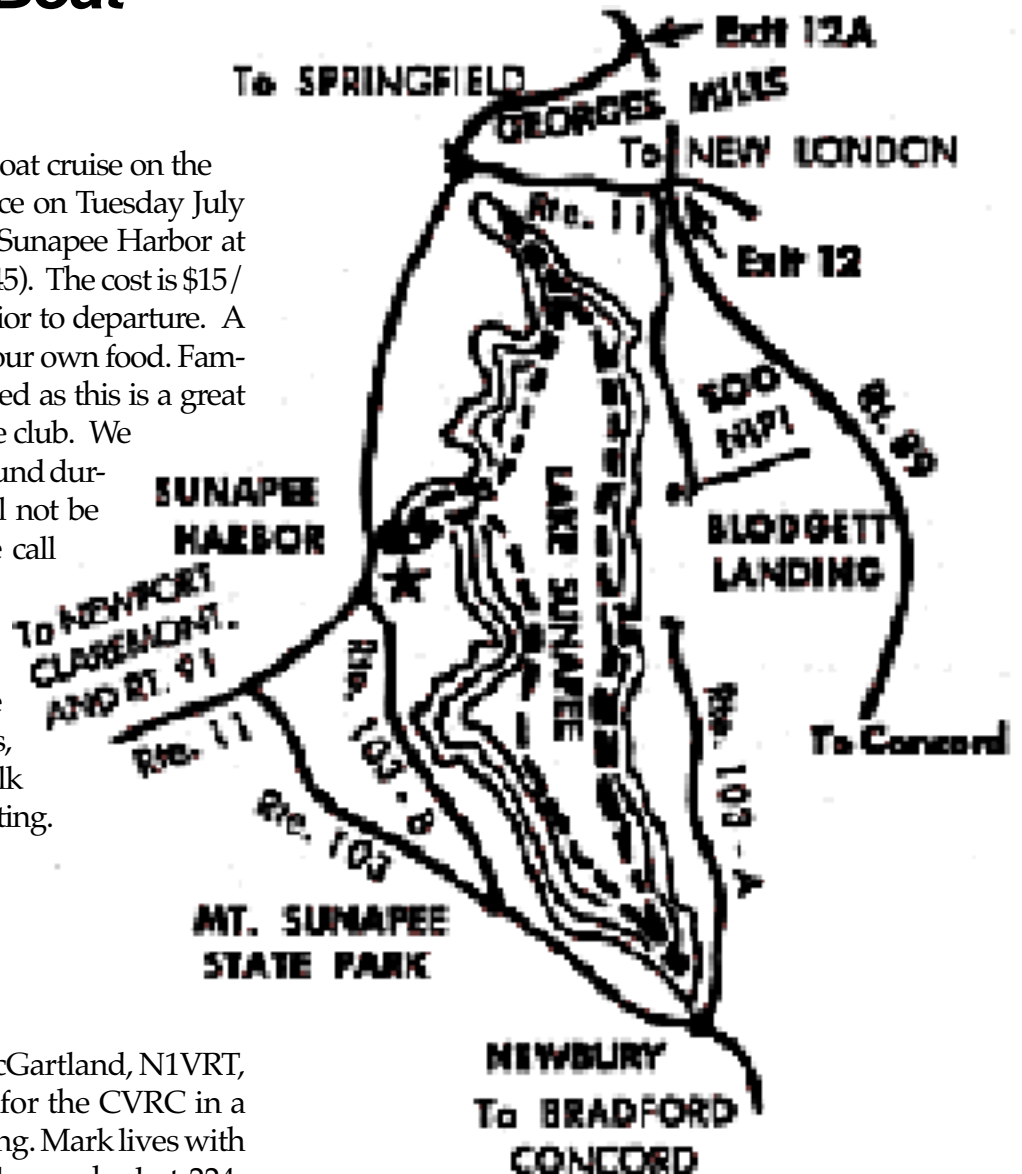


Annual CVRC Boat Cruise

The annual potluck dinner boat cruise on the M.V. Mt. Sunapee II will take place on Tuesday July 14th. The boat will depart from Sunapee Harbor at 7:00 pm sharp (Please arrive by 6:45). The cost is \$15/person which will be collected prior to departure. A cash bar will be available, bring your own food. 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 call Nancy, N1IMB, at 225-0539 or email her at n1imb@qsl.net (We need to provide a head count to the captain a week before the cruise). If you have any questions, please feel free to call Nancy or talk to any club officer at the June meeting.

N1VRT New Secretary

Congratulations to Mark McGartland, N1VRT, who was named new secretary for the CVRC in a special election at the April Meeting. Mark lives with his family in Concord and can be reached at 224-5425. His email address is mckmpr2000@aol.com.



Hamvention - Continued from page 3

before the Hamvention begins. You could visit it a million times and find something different. The museum is filled with neat old planes, some of which Cal worked on, one of the original space capsules and, of course, a lot of the retired Air Force One planes that the presidents used. It's a fantastic place to visit and you can't go to Dayton without a trip out to the Museum which is about 15 min. from the Hamvention.

The next morning we were up and on our way to the first full day at the Hamvention. People were pouring into the parking lot in droves. They had to park people 3 miles away and bus them in because there were so many. They have hundreds of vendors and flea market spaces both inside and out. There are people from all walks of life and countries that attend the Hamvention. You see old friends that you have made from the years before and make new friends that you will see in the years to come.

The weather was perfect and in the mid to high 90's the whole time we were there. We roamed up and down the isles and checked out all the bargains. There are so many sellers the outside alone is an all day project. The heat of the day drove us inside to a maze of rooms filled with both buyers and vendors. As you wander around to see what each has to offer there are free hats, maps and information to be had. Our favorite place was the APRS booth where we got to talk to "Bob" Bruninga, WB4APR. Cal spend much of the time learning as much as possible from Bob during the weekend.

As usual, evenings were spent with old friends having dinner and attending forums. There are forums all weekend on all types of subjects such as APRS, slow and fast scan TV, six meters, antenna technology and much much more.

As Sunday arrives people also arrive at the arena for a final round of the flea market tables for those last minute bargains and inside to the vendors to make the last minuet purchase. It is nearly two o'clock and people fill the arena stands for the big drawing. Vendors from all over donate prizes for the big drawing at the close of the Hamvention. This year over \$27,000 in prizes

were donated, not including the hourly prizes.

Four o'clock and the big prize is drawn, a Kenwood TS-870S HF transceiver with voice synthesizer and digital recorder, low pass filter HS-5 headphones, MC-80 mike and the works valued at over \$12,000.

After the final drawing people begin filing out to the buses and cars to begin the long, tiring trip home. Some fly and some like us drive. Everyone is exhausted but fun was had by all. Some went to buy and dicker and some went nearly broke but to have a good time and see old friends. Dayton is a fun place to go and everyone should venture the trip at least once. For those of you who would like to see what some of us experience Cal and I will be showing a tape soon on our trip. Plans are already made for our 99 trip. Come along, have some fun. Who knows... it may be your birthday, too!

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 A-3S 20/15/10 meter tri-band beam with 40 meter add-on extension. \$150.00. Cushcraft 214B 14-element 2 meter beam with stainless hardware. \$60.00

Contact Dale Clement, AF1T, tel. 428-3840

Complete HF Station for Sale:
Heathkit SB-104 w/operating manual, matching power supply/speaker, MC-50 microphone and PTT stand, Heathkit electronic keyer, MFJ-949E 300-watt tuner, Van Gorden "Shorty" wire dipole antenna, 4:1 balun. New 10M crystal. Covers 80-10M, with WWV receive on 15.000 MHz (no WARC bands). All in very good to excellent condition. Includes an extra, partially-built (about 95%) SB-104 chassis including all option boards and case for parts or to finish as a receiver. \$575.00 N1QGM - Marc Fraser (588-6635 or leave a packet message through CENTNH to N1QGM-1, anytime, 24-hour service)

902 MHz E.M.E. Tests Successful

Dale Clement, AF1T

A small group of Amateurs decided to reactivate the 902 MHz (33 cm.) band for E.M.E. (Earth-Moon-Earth) communications during the weekend of May 2. The last such effort took place the weekend of May 27, 1990, when I worked three stations — WB0TEM (IA), W0RAP (IA), and K5JL (OK). My K5JL contact stood as a world record for the 33 cm. band for eight years (See May, 1998, QST, Pg. 87). Needless to say, I wanted to be part of the renewed activity.

Using a 12 ft. dish and homebrew transverter (Set up with help from N1PHV, N1IIC, N1JHJ, N1ZID, and N1ZIE), I heard signals on May 2. However, eleven days of rain put a damper on things. But a lull in the rain on Thursday night, May 7, allowed me to set up and work W5LUA (TX) with my 200 watt amplifier. Al and I personally exchanged QSL cards at Dayton! Later, on May 2 during the Moon's perigee (when it's closest to earth) I worked K2DH (NY) and NU7Z (WA). Next day, I worked WA8WZG (OH) with great difficulty since the Moon was close to the Sun's position, resulting in a noisy background.

My NU7Z contact represents the new world's record for the 33 cm. band, at about 2,500 statute miles. More details will be forthcoming.

A Foxhunting Lesson

Nancy Robinson, N1IMB

It was a warm evening and Cal had come to pick me up at work then we were on our way into town to pick up a couple of things. He had gotten a call earlier that day saying that someone had left their mike on and it was transmitting all day.

The more he talked the more convinced he was we should go look for it. He had had a bad allergy attack but decided to go anyway. He got on the

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APRS Gets New Frequency

Jim Cluett, W1PID

APRS has moved to a new frequency. It's now on 144.39.

The move follows months of wrangling between AMSAT, APRS, TAPR and the ARRL. The old frequency, 145.79, was too close to the 145.80 frequency used by the SAREX and MIREX shuttle experiments.

In fact, the APRS traffic on 145.79 caused so much interference that the shuttle crews routinely turned their ham radios off when passing over the U.S. That's not surprising when you consider the Doppler shift down from 145.80.

The APRS group argued that one, common, frequency is essential for APRS exclusive use across North America. The system is designed to track mobile and maritime stations, and uniformity is very desirable. The Satellite groups wanted APRS away from the SAREX frequency. APRS users resisted any move because hundreds of them have crystal controlled radios which will be expensive to refit.

An accord was reached recently after AMSAT agreed to give the APRS users exclusive use of its OSCAR sub band frequency on 144.39. In addition AMSAT agreed to cooperate with APRS experiments on future satellite projects. Those experiments have already begun from MIR.

To enable the new frequency here in central New Hampshire, CVRC member, Lindsay Collins (K1JY), climbed Mt. Kearsarge. Lindsay owns the K1JY-2 wide digipeater on the mountain. After users in Southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts set a date for the switch, Lindsay hiked up the mountain (in the drizzling rain) to reprogram the frequency. This digipeater serves most of the state.

Thanks Lindsay for your hard work!

radio to several people trying to get a fix. The closest we could find was that it was in Manchester.

He turned on the radio to the frequency and listened. As we were driving he explained how we were going to find the "FOX". We stopped at the store and purchased a map of the Manchester area. Now we were ready to find the "FOX".

"OK," says Cal "lets see if you can find the FOX". Well I didn't know what to do. He pulled into a parking lot and got out of the car. Humm I thought now what is he up to. He took the antenna off his HT and held it against his chest. I carefully watched as he slowly turned around 360 degrees. At certain points the signal was louder than others.

He got back into the car and we opened the map. He explained we were going to drive south until we couldn't hear the signal any more. Then we would drive back till we could hear it. Next we would drive east and west each time doing the same thing. Wow I thought this is great. As we drove around I would check the map and the signals to see which was was strongest. The closer we got the more he would unscrew his antenna on the HT and tell me to listen to the signal. He could finally take the antenna off and the signal was very strong which meant the "FOX" was very close. Slowly we began driving in blocks, narrowing the signals down. Finally we were with in a two block radius of the signal. I was so excited I would get to the door and after several hours meet the person who had become the "FOX". The excitement was building and I could hardly wait. Suddenly Cal said listen.

We sat quietly. Oh no! Footsteps. Then click. There was dead silence. The signal was gone. I was devastated. All this time, all this way and within a couple of blocks.

Maybe we didn't find the "FOX", but Cal did teach me you don't need expensive equipment to do "FOX HUNTING". All you need is a good ear and an HT. So remember next time your "FOX HUNTING" look and listen.



Another Field Day!

Jason Greene, N1IC

I don't have to tell anyone what is happening on the last full weekend of June, do I? I didn't think so. The C.V.R.C. Steering Committee ironed out all the Field Day details with Larry W1GTA at the wheel.

The station captains are as follows: 80+40:Cliff, N1GJF; 20:John,N1FOJ; 15 :Dale, AF1T; 10 Novice: N1ZID + N1ZIE; VHF: Mark N1VRT; Satellites: Dale, AF1T; HF Digital: Lindsay, K1JY; and myself for A.P.R.S./packet. And finally, computer coordination by Lindsay, K1JY. If you might be able to spare an extension cord or a computer, (even an archaic 8088 will do) please let him know. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, please get in touch with the appropriate station captain. My apologies for not having ZID's + ZIE's names. All stations will use K1BKE except for the Novice station.

The food is being handled by Nancy, N1IMB and there are four meals planned for the event from lunch Saturday to lunch Sunday. Saturday Lunch will be Spaghetti and meatballs, and dinner will have chicken and veggies to eat. Sunday's breakfast is eggs, bacon, and the other typical goodies with leftovers for lunch. Hey it's all the same at the bottom, right?? Actually, lunch is undecided at press time. If you have an extra grill that is available for cooking, contact N1IMB at 225-0539.

Directions from Concord are North on 89 to exit 5 and travel to Henniker and turn right on to the road about 1/2 mile before the Rt. 114 exit, and then take your immediate left. From Rt. 202 there will be clearly marked signs to guide you in. For more info, you can check the C.V.R.C. web site at <http://www.qsl.net/k1bke> and follow the links. The F.D. rules are at <http://www.arrl.org> and page 108 of the May issue of SST. Don't forget our sister club to the north W1CNH, The Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club. They can be found at <http://www.cyberportal.net/cnharc>. They will be operate from Castle Springs in Moultonboro again this year. so be sure to listen for them, too. I hope that we all can be a great team and kick some more butt this year!