

The **KEY**

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 11, Number 1

February, 1999

Programs

Feb. 9—Hands-On Surface Mount/Tone Encoder Workshop. Have you ever wondered what it was like to work with surface-mount components? Do you need a 100 Hz tone encoder for that old 2-meter rig? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions than be sure not to miss the February CVRC meeting! Chris Seig, WA3LDI, will walk participants through the assembly of a surface-mount, 100 Hz. tone board that he designed. Anyone who wants to build a board should bring his/her own soldering equipment and if \$10.00 if you want to take it home with you at the end of the night.

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

Novice/Technician License Classes to Start in March

Larry Beavers, W1GTA, will be starting another series of amateur radio license classes on March 4. Over the course of twelve weeks students will be taught Morse code for the 5 WPM test and novice/technician class theory, rules and regulations. An on-site V.E. session will be held at the end of the twelve weeks. Classes will be held at the NH Public Radio Studio, 207 North Main St., Concord, NH.

Those interested in attending should contact Marc Fraser N1QGM via e-mail at m_fraser@conknet.com, or Larry Beavers, W1GTA, at 603-228-0485 or email at lbeavers@nhpr.org.

NH QSO Party

All CVRC members are invited to participate in the 1999 NH QSO Party on February 6-7, 1999. Once again, the CVRC will participate in the large club category as a bonus point station. All club members can help out by operating the club call from your home station for an hour or more, or by operating your own station and submitting logs contributing your points to the club. Cliff, N1GJF, will be coordinating the club effort; contact him at 428-7612 for scheduling or contest information. Pick your slot in the CVRC operating schedule. Contest rules and the 1999 version of the logging software are available on the Internet at http://www.nh.arrl.org/qso_soft.html.

CVRC 1999 Dues Are Now Due

Over 40 club members have already renewed for 1999. You may remit to the club treasurer at any regular meeting, or to the CVRC at PO Box 88, Henniker, NH 03242. Your dues keeps the club newsletter, *The Key*, coming, and the club repeater in fine business shape.

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.

From the President's notebook:

Marc Fraser, N1QGM

As we count down to the millennium, I want to share with you my thoughts about the year ahead. I first, however, want to thank you for the vote of confidence you've placed in me by electing me to the position of CVRC President. I've enjoyed being a member of this Club since I was first licensed in October of 1993.

I'll be including letters in several upcoming newsletters, so I won't make this one too long. Let me tell you a little about myself. I passed my first VE session at the July, 1993 New Hampshire Convention at the Center of New Hampshire. There I earned a No-Code Tech license. In those days you had to wait for the actual paper license to show up in the snail-mail before legally transmitting on the bands within your new privileges. Now, all you need is to see your name on the Internet and that's sufficient evidence of your new status. Well, October rolled around and I finally received my new license in the mail. Obviously I was relieved, having spent the previous three months on pins and needles! I immediately became interested in VHF/UHF operation, mainly mobile (as you may be able to tell by looking at my vehicle!). I do a little HF work, mostly 10M for the time being. I upgraded to Tech Plus in 1995 after teaching one of the Club's license classes. I was invited to stay on to learn Code, I gratefully accepted and was rewarded with my upgrade shortly thereafter. I also enjoy packet and APRS, although the time needed to devote to that is hard to find right now. I got active in Club affairs almost immediately, becoming Club Secretary and keeping that position for two years. Through these last five years I've seen the Club struggle at times to find activities that interest all of us, the members. So many of us are terrifically busy with jobs, family and just life in general that it's tough to devote any time to a hobby. Thanks to the efforts of several dedicated members, activities like

Field Day, the New Hampshire QSO Party and the Flea Market continue as traditional Club activities.

Some of my other activities include being on the Board of Directors of the Temple Band, known as "America's First Town Band". I participate on the Board as well as maintain and set up the Band's PA gear and announce their concerts. I am married, with three children. The oldest graduates from Allentown College (PA) this May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, my son is serving in the Air Force at Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts and my youngest graduates 8th grade this year. My wife is an assistant list broker with a list management service in Peterborough. I work as an Engineer with OSRAM SYLVANIA in Hillsboro.

I want to make myself available to anyone who wants or needs to get in touch with me about Club matters. Please contact me anytime at the phone number you see on the back of this newsletter, by snail-mail at the Club's address - PO Box 88, Henniker 03242 or via e-mail at n1qgm@arrl.net. I look forward to serving the needs of the CVRC as we all look into the future. Thanks again and 73,

Marc

Spring Flea Market Planned

Sunday, March 28th, 1999, has been confirmed for the CVRC Spring Flea Market at the Henniker Community School Cafeteria (same location as this past year). Save the date NOW! Doors will open for sellers at 7 am, and for shoppers at 8 am. A V.E. session will also take place with registration at 9:00 and testing starting at 9:30. No preregistration is necessary, but you can call Dexter Howe, KY1M, at 938-2955 for more information. Club members are asked to arrive by 6:30 am for set-up. For table reservations, contact Jock, N1JI. Tables will be provided. All are reminded that the Henniker Community School is a smoke free campus.

www.qsl.net/k1bke

*is the World Wide Web home of the
Contoocook Valley Radio Club.*

On it you will find a lot of good stuff including:

- Latest Club News
- Upcoming meeting notices
- Upcoming Club events
- Map of the new CVRC meeting location
- Club constitution and bylaws
- Club dues structure
- Club Officers and Committee chairpersons
- History of the CVRC
- Repeater and Packet Node information
- Links to:
 - NH QSO Party rules and logging software
 - ARRL-NH
 - ARRL
 - Other NH Clubs
 - NESMC
 - WinOrbit
 - VE Lists

Surf on by sometime.

Dates to Remember

Monday evenings: Merrimack County
ARES Net, 8:00 pm

February 6-7: NH QSO Party

February 9: CVRC Meeting

February 20-21: ARRL CW DX Contest

March 4: Novice/Technician license
classes begin

March 6-7: ARRL SSB DX Contest

March 9: Deadline for getting your NH
QSO Party logs to N1GJF

March 28: CVRC Flea Market



CVRC Shirts Available Dale Clement, AF1T

Here is your last chance to order t-shirts or golf shirts with our club's logo. These are being provided at cost through the courtesy of Mike Murphy, WA1VKO. We need a commitment for at least a dozen shirts for another order. You may sign up at the next few meetings, or call me at 428-3840. The t-shirts have "CVRC Field Day" in large letters surrounding the K1BKE code-key logo. The golf shirts have buttons and collar, with the K1BKE code-key logo on the front upper-left, but without "CVRC Field Day." Available colors for t-shirts are light ash gray, red, dark forest green, and navy blue. The gray shirts have black lettering; all others have white lettering. Golf shirts come in forest green or navy blue, with white logo. Specify size (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Prices are \$5.00 each for gray t-shirts, \$6.00 each for red, green, or blue t-shirts, or \$15.00 each for golf shirts.

An order of shirts was brought to the January meeting, for those who reserved them. The following people should please pick up theirs at the next club meeting, or contact me for arrangements: KB1CSI, N1ZIH, N1IIC, N1SKZ, W1TTU, WA1WOK, N5FGO, and K1NQR. Also, two large and two medium red t-shirts are unspoken for — they will be at the meeting.

Merrimack County ARES Corner

Tom Matisko, N1SKZ, EC

Net: 20:00 Local Time, Mondays
Frequency: 146.894 (CVRC Repeater)
Alternate: 147.570 Simplex
E-mail: tmatisko@conknet.com

In the last installment of the Merrimack County ARES Corner, I spoke of involvement and relevance. Specifically, the involvement of the local Ham community in ARES activities and the relevance of ARES in today's world where instant and reliable communications are a given. In this installment, I will share with you two agencies who view the Ham community, and specifically, Merrimack County ARES, as relevant.

Approximately three months ago, Mark, N1VRT, invited me to attend a meeting of the Disaster Action Team (DAT) at the American Red Cross (ARC) in Concord. Mark, a member of the team, indicated there was a recognized need to strengthen the current communications infrastructure at the ARC and felt ARES could be a potential solution. During the two meetings I have attended, one fact is obvious, the Red Cross views Hams as communicators. As such, they welcome our involvement and have invited us to participate in their organization. Does this mean Merrimack County ARES members will have to become full-fledged members of Red Cross? Not at all. What it does mean is we have an opportunity to support the Statement of Understanding between the League and the Red Cross that was signed in 1994. The statement reads "This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer ARES and NTS personnel, of the ARRL, will coordinate Amateur Radio emergency communications networks, equipment, and personnel with the Red Cross for disaster relief communications." It seems to me that since ARES has agreed to help the ARC with communications,


and the Concord chapter of the ARC has asked for our help, then, the rest is up to us, Merrimack County ARES.

The second agency that has asked for our assistance is the National Weather Service (NWS) through Jason, N1IIC, and his involvement with Skywarn. Twice during January, Jason asked me to initiate a net to provide weather condition information to the NWS. Once for the ice storm that hit during the first week of the month, then to report on the conditions of streams and rivers due to the potential for flooding during the third week. Fortunately, Mother Nature cooperated and there was a minimal impact in our watch area. This involvement provided us with another opportunity to fulfill an obligation. This time it is through a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Weather Service and the ARRL. In the memorandum, our duties are outlined to be "...to enhance the nationwide posture of early weather warning and readiness for any conceivable weather emergency." And how do we accomplish this goal? Again, through communications.

It is apparent to me, we need to be better trained to provide these agencies with the assistance they ask for and need. My job as EC is to provide this training. I will fulfill this obligation, I just ask your patience. How can you help? Check into the net! It is through you that I will get ideas and inspiration.

I would like to thank both Mark and Jason for involving ARES. You have given us a purpose, in business terms, a customer. Thank you.

Hope to see you all on the net. 73



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ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Notes

Dale Clement, AF1T

The January VHF contest is one that I look forward to participating in every year. It's a low-key kind of event in which I connect with old friends who also enjoy the experimental side of radio. These folks like to try out the gear and antenna they have been working on. There is a real incentive to expand your capabilities ever upward in frequency. You may contact the same station on more than for additional points, and each completed exchange is worth one point on 50 or 144 MHz., two points on 222 or 432 MHz., four points on 902 or 1296 MHz., and eight points on 2304, 3456, 5760, 10368 MHz. (10 GHz), or higher bands. Contact difficulty generally increases with frequency, due to greater obstruction by terrain and foliage, sharper antenna aiming, higher feed-line loss, and lower available transmit power (e.g., one watt is fairly high power at 10 GHz.). Complete rules are in December QST.

Alas — conditions on Saturday, January 23, were dismal. Heavy ice-loading detuned the Yagi antennas so severely that they worked better backwards! All those director elements behaved like reflectors. I couldn't get out of new England — everyone seemed 40 dB. weaker than usual. This is one peril of living at a high elevation. The next day was warmer, and rain washed away the ice, so gradually things improved.

The one band that fared well throughout was 10-GHz. Ice had little effect on the two-foot dish. Sunday's rain actually helped — several stations were worked via rain scatter. Best DX was K1UHF in FN31, with one watt at each end. This band is certainly worthwhile.

Final results were: 319 QSO's, 617 QSO points, 87 grids, and Total Score = 53,679, down from last year. I can sum up this contest as a valuable learning experience.

You Might be a Ham Radio Operator

If your spouse calls you to dinner on the local repeater. If Dilbert is your hero.

If the only jokes you hear are Packet Humor Bulletins. If you look forward to Christmas to put the kids toys together.

If you have used coat hangers for something other than hanging coats.

If you window shop at Radio Shack.

If you spend one hour discussing the content of your latest packet message that could have been passed in 5 minutes over the telephone.

If you don't HAVE a cover for your personal computer. If you own an "Official Star Trek" anything.

If you have ever taken the back off your TV just to see what is inside.

If you have never backed-up your hard drive.

If you have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance.

If the thought that CD could refer to finance or music never enters your mind.

If you own a set of itty-bitty screwdrivers, but don't remember where they are.

If you have more toys than your kids do.

If you have functioning computer-controlled radio station and logging system, but every toaster you own burns bread into charcoal.

If, when the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work, you rush up to the front to fix it.

If you can remember hundreds of call signs, but not your kids' names.

If your mother-in-law has been visiting you for three weeks and you just realized she was there.

If you can copy code at 20 words per minute, but can't read your own handwriting.

If you have more friends on the air than in real life.

If you spend more on your shack than on your car.

If you ever tried to repair a \$5.00 radio.

If your favorite national holiday is Field Day.

Copied from an issue of SKP WAVE, a newsletter for hams in Escapees RV Club. Contributed by Mark McGartland, N1VRT.