

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 12, Number 2

April, 2000

CVRC Programs **Dale Clement, AF1T** **Program Chairman**

Please contribute to our search for interesting programs. Fill out the survey form elsewhere in this issue of *The KEY*, or get one (or more) at club meetings. Be as specific as possible — a name and phone number of someone you know, or have heard of, will enable us to track down a program. Lots of people have fascinating topics to share with hams; these don't have to be strictly radio related.

Your ideas are valuable to the success of our club. Programs and activities are needed that will enhance our membership. Thanks for your input!

CVRC Exam Session **Dexter Howe, KY1M**

The examination session at CVRC's Hamfest/Flea Market on March 26th was the largest session held in recent times. A total of 30 candidates took 41 tests. Congratulations go to Sandra, KB1DXD, Spafford, KB1EFH, and Phil, N1PHZ, who all upgraded to Tech Plus. There were at least 18 others who will be eligible for upgrades, the majority of them to extra, when the new rules go into effect on April 15.

Special thanks goes to participating VEs Ed, W1TTU, Ron, K1PDY, Larry, W1GTA, Bob, AA1DY, and particularly Lindsay, K1JY, who did an outstanding job of logging candidates in and checking the paperwork to make sure it was correct. In addition, Jim, W1PID and Ed, W1TTU are to be commended for helping test a disabled ham, who wanted to upgrade to extra before April 15,

on two different weekends. Ed, a real asset to the VE program, has given freely of his time to test fellow hams three weekends in a row.

Programs

April 11 - The April meeting will feature a program on APRS by CVRC club members.

May 9 - Learn more about what is probably one of the largest field day efforts in the United States! Jim Heedles, WW1Y, will speak about the Nashua Amateur Radio Club's (N1FD) annual efforts.

Due to business activity in the club, the meeting format has been changed. Beginning in April the business portion of the meeting will come first from 7:00 - 7:25. There will then be a five minute break and the program will commence promptly at 7:30. Another break will take place following the program (No longer than five minutes if it's after 8:30) after which the business meeting will resume. For more information on the change see the CVRC website (<http://www.qsl.net/k1bke>) or speak to Jason Greene, N1IIC.

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.

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.

Y2K New Hampshire QSO Party

Cliff Eisner, N1GJF

The past NH QSO Party in February of this year is over and waiting to hear about the results. The results should be known in approx. the first week in May.

The contest started Friday Feb. 4th at 19:00 (7:00 PM) local time through Sunday Feb. 6th ending at 19:00 (7:00 PM) local time. The first half of the contest started off slow but picked up and many had an enjoyable contest.

Thanks to CVRC members: AF1T, N1GJF, N1FOJ, K1CYJ, N1SKZ and K1PDY for operating the club call (K1BKE). K1BKE was on the air for 16 hours of the 48 hours the club could operate. Again K1BKE was a bonus station during the contest and making many contact in 8 of the 10 New Hampshire counties, 38 states, 5 Canadian Provinces with many DX stations worked. Total number of multipliers was 52 out of the max 72 allowed, giving K1BKE a score of 18,356 QSO points.

Many thanks to all the Amateur community for making contacts with K1BKE and the club members that operated their own call and donated their points to K1BKE for the contest. With the K1BKE score and the donation of approx. 155,324 points from club members, CVRC could have earned approx. 173,680 points.

We will have to wait a little longer to hear if The Contoocook Valley Radio Club was able to win the 1st place award again, to make 5 years in a row.

Many thanks again to everybody for your help and support in the contest. Most of all, I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves as I did.

Ham Radio Tip of the Day

Tim Firkowski, KB9DGB


Determining True North

If you are installing a beam, you need to determine the direction of true North at your location. A compass will show you the direction of magnetic North, but not the geographical North. If you place a rod in the ground, its shadow will point toward true North at exactly noon. Just mark the shadow, and use this line to align your beam and rotator to North.

All you have to do now is find out when true noon occurs on a particular day at your location. To do this, go to the U.S. Naval Observatory site at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html Enter your QTH information and click Get Data. The time you need is labeled 'Sun Transit'. This is the time at which the sun reaches its maximum point in the sky at your QTH.

Call-Sign Hats **Dale Clement, AF1T**

I still have several of the hats that were made courtesy of Murph, WA1VKO. Will the following please pick them up at the club meeting: K1FLI, K1RAB, KB1DXV, KB1EDP, KK1RR, N1QXI.



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Merrimack County

ARES Corner

Tom, N1SKZ, Emergency Coordinator



Net: 20:00 Local Time, Mondays
Frequency: 146.895 - (CVRC Repeater)
Alternate: 147.570 Simplex

E-mail: N1SKZ@ARRL.NET
Phone: 464-4095 (evenings)

With the summer season on the horizon, it is time to keep an eye to the sky for severe weather. As we all know, summer in New Hampshire can bring heavy rains, flash flooding, lightning, hail and tornadoes. Yes tornadoes happen in New Hampshire. In fact, there have been a total of 20 in Hillsborough County since 1956. When severe weather hits, it means two things to Hams; first keep your families and yourself safe, second be prepared to report severe weather observations via your local ARES or Skywarn net.

Here is some information to keep you safe that was gathered from preparedness guides published by the National Weather Service with help from NOAA, FEMA and the American Red Cross.

In a thunderstorm:

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be hit by lightning. Go to a safe shelter immediately.

- Shelter can be found in a sturdy building or car, not in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible cars.
- Get out of boats and away from water at the first sound of thunder.
- Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Use phones only in an emergency.
- Use your HT if you need to check into a net.

In a flash flood:

- Avoid areas of sudden flooding.
- Do not cross a flowing stream if the water level is above your ankles.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. Floodwaters can undercut a roadbed and make road damage impossible to spot.

In a tornado:

- Move to a cellar or other underground shelter if possible.
- If no underground cellar is available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of cars.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.

If you are able, the following weather conditions should be reported to your Skywarn/ ARES net:

- Hail, regardless of size. When reporting hail, please do not report marble size, marbles come in different sizes.
- Winds of 40MPH or greater.
- Rainfall that exceeds 1 inch/hour or a storm total of greater than 2 inches.
- Flooding
- Tornadoes or funnel clouds, (be wary of look-a-likes, watch for rotation).
- Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating.

During Skywarn activation, nets will be held on both the 146.895 and 147.225 repeaters. Please remember that the most important consideration in severe weather is safety. Please make sure that reporting the weather does not make you a weather statistic.

See you all on the net. 73, Tom

CVRC Flea Market 2000

The annual Contoocook Valley Radio Club hamfest held on March 26 was a success on several fronts. Dexter Howe, KY1M, reports that the V.E. Session was the largest session held in recent times with a total of 30 candidates taking 41 tests. CVRC treasurer Dave Connors, N1KPT, says the financial breakdown is as follows: tables & admission: \$590.00; 50/50 raffle: \$22.00; food table: \$44.00; club table & Ten-Tec sales (four Ten-Tec kits sold): \$105.00. The expenses for flyers, postage, etc. was \$184.00, leaving a net profit to the club of \$578.00. Many thanks to all of the club members who spent all, or part, of the day helping out.



The Club Would Like your Opinion

We believe our Radio Club, like many other organizations, is only as strong as its members. We seem to have several types of individuals making up our Club, and all of us support the Club in different ways - some members belong mainly to support the repeater and the autopatch capability, many of us enjoy going to meetings to hear interesting programs and socialize in person once a month. There is also a somewhat smaller group that actively takes part in the organization of the Club, facilitating its meetings, events and the general day-to-day operation of the group. In order to help schedule meetings that will be of interest to the Club members, the Steering Committee would like you to fill out the survey below to get ideas about the interests in the Club and what types of presentations you, the CVRC members, would like to see in the near future.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to fill in the information below to help your Club better serve your needs and interests. Thanks and 73,

CVRC Steering Committee

What types of activities do you enjoy in Ham Radio? Circle those activities you enjoy most.

HF/DX - VHF/UHF - Contesting - QRP - ARES/RACES - Satellite - Packet - CW
Field Day - Public Service - Other (list below)

If you checked "Other" above, please list the things you like to do here:

Do you have a special area of interest that you'd be willing to discuss with us at a meeting? If so, please tell us about it here:

Do you know anyone, whether a licensed Amateur or not, who has an interesting job, outside interest or hobby they might bring to a meeting?

Yes ___ No ___

If you checked "Yes" above, may we contact this person, or would you prefer to contact them yourself?

___Yes, you may contact them. Here is the name and phone number:

___No, I'd prefer to contact them myself. (Please advise us if you get a positive reply to your request)

(Optional) What is your call sign? _____ License class? _____

In closing, let us thank you for your time and answers. We hope this will lead to many interesting programs for upcoming CVRC meetings. We sincerely want the programs to reflect the interests of the group as a whole. The CVRC Officers and Steering Committee - N1IIC, N1GJF, N1KTP, AF1T, K1JY, N1JI