

# The KEY

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 12, Number 3

June, 2000

## Programs

**June 13** — Field Day Planning is on the agenda for the June 13th meeting. Computers with the WR9R Field Day Logging program will be set up and running so you can practice. A new Meeting format has been approved. Meetings start at 7PM with a brief business meeting.

**July 11** — Don't miss the annual CVRC potluck dinner cruise! The M.V. Mt. Sunapee II will embark from Sunapee Harbor (map on page 3) at 7:00 pm sharp. Please arrive by 6:30. The cost is \$15 per person, based on a minimum of 33 passengers (20 have already signed up). Money will be collected at the boat just 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 Dave, N1KTP, at 456-3787 (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 Dave or talk to any club officer at the June meeting.

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.

## Field Day 2000 Dale Clement, AF1T

Please be a part of our club's premiere operating and social event, during the weekend of June 24-25, 2000. Field Day is an annual test of our ability to set up an amateur radio station, and operate it for 24 hours under emergency power. We will attempt to communicate with as many similar groups in the U.S. and Canada as possible. Rules are in May, 2000 QST.

Some of us will be setting up antennas, tents, and campers on Friday afternoon (June 23). We will dismantle after 2:00 pm, Sunday. There will be a separate station/ antenna for each band. So far, we have Band Chairmen for 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters. Would someone like to be in charge of an 80 or 40 meter setup? We've invited the members of the Amoskeg Radio Club to help out.

Please sign up at the next club meeting to operate — even if it's only for an hour or two. We will particularly need loggers (the June club meeting will explain computer logging), and nighttime operators (the "graveyard shift"). Are there any CW ops out there?

this year there is the potential to earn over 1000 bonus points. At least one satellite contact will bring 100 points — who would like to do this? Also, a new rule allows 100 for demonstrating "a non-traditional mode of amateur radio communications" (e.g., APRS, ATV, SSTV). Could someone give such a demo, even if only briefly?

Don't forget the food! This is a high priority with our group. N1KTP and N1PHV are in charge. Saturday and Sunday meals will be sold by tickets. Please sign up in advance!

Needless to say, there are many ways you

*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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can participate, even if you don't want to operate a radio. Organizing, paperwork, and greeting visitors are part of a successful effort. An oft-overlooked role is that of a good photographer. Perhaps we could be pictured in QST!

If you can't make the June meeting, please call Jason, N1IIC, at 229-4598 or Dale, AF1T, at 428-3840. Hope to see you during Field Day!

## **Hamming on Mt. Kearsarge Louise French K1LAS**

If you wanted to go hill topping in the early nineteen sixties you not only had to have the desire to, but you also had to have lots of ambition. It was a lot of fun which made it all worth while. Our friend Vic K1OXO knew the person at the tower on Mt. Kearsarge and he said if we wanted to come up, we could hook up to the power by the tower. This sounded like a great idea. We should do this!

One Saturday our friend Sid K1CKL, his xyl and their two children, Vic K1OXO, Frenchy K1DFQ, our two children and myself decided to make the trip. We felt we were well prepared and the trip up to the first parking lot went well. The view from the parking lot was great. We could have made lots of mobile contacts from there but that wasn't good enough for us. We were going to the top and not just for the day. We were going to spend the night. I never knew how heavy a Gonset

Communicator was until I had one in each hand and antenna lead in around my neck. Frenchy had the rest of the gear on his back. This included a four person tent, cooking equipment, food and extra clothes. The children were so small they were just about able to get up the hill themselves. We started up the trail and after several stops to get our breath we were in sight of the tower. The last part of the trail was sheer ledge. At the base of the tower was a small grassy spot. This is where we would set up the tents. By the time we were all set up and had something to eat it was beginning to get dark. Now the wind started to blow and we were wondering if our tents would stay in place. We set the Gonssets up on the tent floor and sat down beside them. We figured that would keep us in place. We immediately started making contacts and they were endless. We had a visit from the person who was the watchman on the tower. He was in his cabin and had gotten a report of some interference on one of the police frequencies. He asked us to shut down so he could check to see if it was us. We were waiting anxiously and when he returned he said go ahead it wasn't you. Whew! We were working two meters and six meters and having a great time. Ken K1BGI gave us a call, he said "How are you doing up there, do you need anything?" Without any hesitation I said yes we'd like some food. We had managed to eat more than we expected. All that fresh air and hamming had taken a toll on our food supply. So Ken being the accommodating person he was said ok I'll bring something up to you. His xyl, who always was willing to lend a hand made sandwiches and other goodies and packed them up for Ken to deliver. It wasn't too long before we saw a light from a flash light and in comes Ken with the food. We never did figure out how he managed to make it up and back down that trail. It was after midnight before we finally decided to get some sleep. The next morning was pleasant up where we were but everyone down below said it was all fogged in. By noon there were people coming up to visit the tower. Most just passed by and just shook their heads. I guess they figured they would keep their distance. To them we probably looked pretty strange with our antennas and voices coming out



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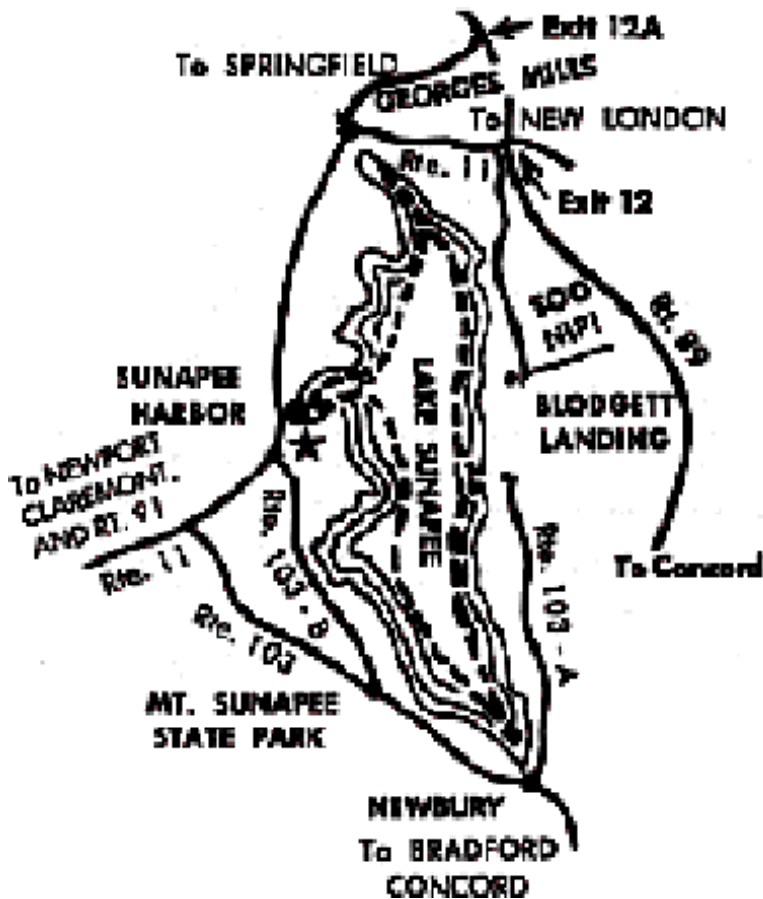
Christopher Sieg  
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of our tents. The children were having fun sliding down the ledge and managed to wear holes in the seats of their pants. Our youngest who always could find his way into trouble hid from us and wouldn't answer our calls. We were all pretty nervous for a few minutes until he came popping out. He thought it was a big joke but we failed to see the humor in it. By then it was time to pack up and head down the hill. The trip down was much easier, but we were still glad to see the cars come into sight. We talked to each other on the mobile rigs as we drove down the hill. It had been a great weekend but we all were tired. Frenchy remarked that it was nice to be able to see where he was going. He had been operating mobile from the parking lot one night and the fog came in and the only way he got down the mountain was to put one wheel in the ditch. If anyone is familiar with that road you will know that there are a lot of big drop offs along the side of the road. That's one ride he wouldn't want to take again.



This map shows how to get to Sunapee Harbor for the annual CVRC cruise on July 11. For more information see page 1.

## 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.*

FOR SALE: ICOM IC-4GAT (440 HT) with wall charger, BP-70, BP-4 (converted to DC Power Adaptor) 6 watt output at 13 volts. In original box. \$75 plus \$5 for shipping in US. IC-4GAT service manual \$10 with purchase of HT.

FOR SALE: ICOM-751a with internal power supply, UX-14 CI-V serial computer interface and 250HZ CW filter. Only modification is that the memory/battery board has been replaced by a unit from Willco Electronics that places all critical radio parameters in permanent ROM memory and the user programmable stuff in battery backed RAM. Also increases memories from 32 to 32 banks of 32 (i.e. 1024) but requires wiring modification to access the additional memories. This wiring modification has not been done. This replacement board overcomes the dreaded DEAD RADIO problem when the battery runs out which requires factory reprogramming. The radio comes with original microphone and most of the nuts and bolts that were never used. Problem: VCO3 which affects 15 and 17 meters tends to get out of adjustment resulting in raspy audio both on transmit and receive. It's an easy adjustment to make requiring only a voltmeter, but apparently doesn't hold for long. The factory recommendation is to replace the original plastic trimmer caps with new and better units. There are four VCOs and four trimmers. The circuit is surrounded by a shield soldered to the board. I have the parts but not the will or time to attempt the repair. ICOM's charge for the repair is estimated to be about \$200. I've found two possible places in the greater Concord NH area that estimate the cost to be more like \$100. If I have to get the repairs made, I will be looking for \$700. If you want to try it, I'll let the 751a go for \$550 with the replacement parts and service manual. The 751a is a very nice rig. I've use it on CW, SSB and the HF digital modes (SSB or FSK) with a Kantronics KAM. The necessary cable between KAM and accessory socket is included.

Ron Herman, K1PDY  
e-mail: rherman@gsinet.net  
Telno: 603-230-7109 (work)



## **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: 664-4095 (evenings)**  
**[www.qsl.net/merrimack-ares](http://www.qsl.net/merrimack-ares)**

It's been fun and interesting since the last installment of this column. First and foremost, Merrimack County ARES was invited to participate in a major drill that took place in May. TOPOFF 2000, a weapon of mass destruction drill, was held in Portsmouth beginning on May 19th and ending, for our purposes, on May 21st. The purpose of the drill was to gauge the effectiveness of the response by Federal, State and Local agencies to a terrorist attack. Merrimack County ARES was supporting the Red Cross during the event and established voice and APRS VHF links between fixed and mobile units. While a full call-out of ARES members was not asked for, the event did serve to showcase how Amateur Radio could be used during this type of response. The highlight of our participation was the installation of an APRS tracker on a Red Cross feeding van (ERV). The APRS tracker consisted of a Kenwood TH-D7A HT with built in TNC and APRS. The

HT was connected to a GPS and together they feed back real-time telemetry to the Red Cross Seacoast base. Our ability to visually pinpoint a mobile unit's location in relationship to streets impressed the assembled Red Cross staff and volunteers with comments being made as to how this type technology can be used during an actual event. The tracker station was courtesy of N1JUX, EC Eastern Rockingham County. The Red Cross was also impressed with how equipment and manpower can be mustered with little notice and the relative ease at which a station can be relocated.

I would like to thank all ARES volunteers for either being on-site, or on call during this event. The stations were K1BBQ, K1CKL, K1CYJ, K1RAB, KB1CSI, KB1DXV, KB1EDP, K1PDY, K1TXP, N1IIC, N1JHJ, N1JUX, N1ZIH W1PID and WA2IZM. My apologies if I missed anyone. Merrimack County ARES could not have succeeded without the support of the above listed stations.

Before I leave the subject of the Red Cross, I am happy to announce the Red Cross Concord Chapter is now an official ham station. The call sign KB1FDX was issued on 5/12 and is designated as a club station. By the end of June the shelves will be built to house the equipment and in July the antenna will be mounted on the roof. While there have been some delays, before long there will be a new APRS icon on the map of Merrimack County.

I am also pleased to announce that Merrimack County ARES now has a presence on the World Wide Web. This site will be the official home of our group and will serve as the focal point for the dissemination of information and news about Merrimack County ARES. Besides information on ARES, the site has links to a plethora of interesting sites on space, New Hampshire, US Government, weather, and of course, Ham radio. Please check it out at [www.qsl.net/merrimack-ares](http://www.qsl.net/merrimack-ares).

For those of you who may have already found us on the web, you saw the exciting announcement regarding ARES wallpaper for your

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shack. You may now obtain certificates in the following categories:

- \* Merrimack County ARES, Net Check-Ins Award
- \* Merrimack County ARES, NTS Message Handling Award
- \* Merrimack County ARES, Net Control Station Award

The qualifications for each of these awards is as follows:

**Merrimack County ARES, Net Check-Ins Award** To qualify for the Net Check-Ins Award, a station will need to check into 15 regularly scheduled sessions of the Merrimack County ARES Net between June 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. To count toward the award, check-ins cannot be of the "in-out" variety, i.e. stations must participate in the complete net.

**Merrimack County ARES, NTS Message Handling Award** To qualify for the NTS Message Handling Award, a station will need to submit 6 NTS formatted messages to the Emergency Coordinator, or acting net control station, between June 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. NTS messages can be sent via any customary means using any Amateur mode of communications or via telephone. A one time only 2-point bonus will be granted to those stations that submit a message via Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) or via voice during a regularly scheduled session of the Merrimack County ARES Net.

**Merrimack County ARES, Net Control Station Award** To qualify for the Net Control Station Award, an operator will need to participate as the net control station during 5 regularly scheduled sessions of the Merrimack County ARES Net between June 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. To qualify for the award, the station acting as the Net Control Station must submit a report to the EC no later than 3 days after the net. The report must include the following information:

- \* Net control's call.
- \* The calls of all stations joining the net.
- \* The calls of those handling traffic.
- \* A brief comment as to any training done.

A certificate will be issued to each station that qualifies for any of the above awards. As a special incentive, a Hall-of-Fame is being built to recognize those stations that receive a minimum of two of the three awards. Those stations that obtain two awards will be indoctrinated into the Silver Hall, while those who earn all three will be placed in the Great Hall. The location of the Merrimack County Hall of Fame is, of course, on our web site. More details are available on our site or you may contact me by phone if you do not have access to the web.

73 and see you on the net.

Tom, N1SKZ

## Reward Offered

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of Hop-a-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving DC motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned Ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic.

*A bit of humor written by Mr. Mark Bushnell, Director of Engineering at CCA Electronics, the transmitter people.*