

# The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Volume 12, Number 5

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## Programs

**October 10** — "CIA Communications" Learn about different types and methods of communications used by the Central Intelligence Agency. Dark glasses and suit are not required to attend!

**November 14** - "Up and Coming New Equipment" A representative from Ham Radio Outlet is stopping by with some of the latest goodies for your shack. Don't miss this meeting if you've got some money "burning a hole in your pocket!"

**December 12** - Get ready for the annual CVRC Christmas party! Dinner and a yankee gift swap will be the featured events again this year. More information will follow at the club meetings and in the next issue of *The KEY*.

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.

## CW Practice Net on 2 Meters

The CW practice net on the Derry repeater started on January 5, 2000, and has been taking place once a week since. In an "email interview" the net control Ernie Robillon, K1DI, said that he started running the net at the request of one of the officials from the Interstate Repeater Society.

Ernie started out by sending the letters of the alphabet and then went on to include the numbers and punctuations that are needed to pass the test. He now writes a couple of sample QSO's each week and sends them over the net. Stations who check in are also given the chance to send some CW to the net control station — It's important to have practice sending code as well as receiving it.

The average number of check-ins has been around five, but Ernie suspects there are more people listening than checking-in. He says that he expects the number of check-ins to increase now that the summer is over and people will be spending more time at home.

You don't need any special equipment to participate in the net. A straight key or keyer with a sidetone and 2-meter FM transceiver are all that's required. You simply hold the microphone near the speaker on your key and press the push-to-talk button when you're sending code.

The net meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 pm on the Derry repeater (146.850 MHz -600). Why not brush the dust off that key and join them this week?



*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.

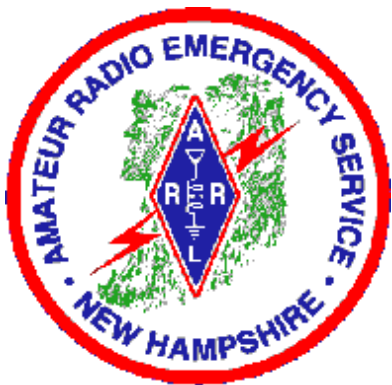
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# **Merrimack County ARES Corner**

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



Well, here we are with the weather cooling down and the summer behind us. My how the summer flies by in New Hampshire! Over the last two months there has been significant progress with increasing the presence of Amateur Radio in the Capital area. In September, Merrimack ARES helped to coordinate a class given to the Red Cross by NHOEM and October will bring even more activity.

On September 13th, Cal, WA1WOK, from the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management (NHOEM) presented a class to members of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT). The course was designed to instruct non-communicators how to use 2-way radios effectively. The basics were covered, such as, simplex versus repeater operations, PTT, Squelch, nets and proper radio etiquette and practices.

The course was also attended by Jock, N1JI, who has asked Cal to present the course to staff

members at the Henniker Community School. The staff, who utilizes radios during drills to evacuate the school, would benefit from this type of course since many of them have no prior communications experience. The course was given high marks by attendees and feedback from Betsy Fitts, Director of Emergency Services at the Red Cross, was very positive. Both the Red Cross and ARES would like to thank Cal for presenting the course and bringing three entities, NHOEM, ARC and ARES, closer together.

Also at the Red Cross, the carpenter has begun to build the shelves and drawers that will be installed on an existing table in training room 2. Once the table has been transformed into a station desk, we can install the Kenwood TMV7A, KPC3+ and PC in their location to build the KB1FDX station. As part of the installation of the Amateur station, we will also move their low band VHF radio from its current location to a position adjacent to the Amateur station. The antenna is the second component of the station that has yet to be installed. It is hoped the antenna will be installed, with the help of N1PHV, later this month. Hopefully in the next installment of this article, I can report the station is on the air and ready to help the Red Cross.

Additional coordination between the Amateur community and a public service entity is growing with the installation of a dual band antenna at the new Concord Fire dispatch center, which is currently under construction. This installation, and the test station at the Broadway fire station, are the results of hard work by Larry, N1PHV. Many of you know that Larry is a firefighter with the CFD, he is also an advocate of involving the Amateur emergency communications in the CFD. Larry was instrumental in inviting ARES to participate in Y2K night where we set up voice, packet and APRS communications at the fire / police headquarters. The antenna, which is located 90' up the communications tower and fed with hard-line, is hopefully only the first component of an Amateur station to be installed. Great work Larry and thanks for involving the Ham Community and bringing us closer to the CFD.

The Merrimack ARES net is alive and well and living on the .895 repeater! Check-ins remain consistent with new stations popping up at least once a month. The most significant news regarding the

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net is the awarding of the first ever Merrimack County award. Sid, K1CKL, is the first to be awarded the Net Participation Award with the 15th check-in occurring on the 25th of September. Thanks for your dedication to ARES Sid! Four other stations are well within reach of this award, and by the time this article is published, N1ZIH will have probably reached the required number of check-ins for the Net Control award. Thanks everyone for the great job and everyone can join the activity by checking in Monday nights at 20:00 on the .895 repeater.

Last, but certainly not least, the Merrimack County web site continues to grow. The MCARES calendar now includes public service events that are coordinated by the Amoskeag Radio Club (ARC). Thanks to Harvey, N1ZIZ for providing this information and giving our members the opportunity to take part in these great training events that also help us serve the community. Currently there are four events listed that ARES and club members can participate in. Thanks Harvey for feeding us this information. Also on the Web, visit our ARES links pages. Currently there are links to over 70 sites around the US and hopes are the list will continue to grow.

Well I think that I used up enough white space for this issue. Help us support the Concord Red Cross, Concord Fire Department and others that will depend on our skills when disaster strikes by checking into the net.

73 and see you on the net.

Tom, N1SKZ

## ***Bartering for Knowledge***

### ***Steve Jones, N1JHJ***

At first glance you may not see an obvious connection between this article and amateur radio but don't always judge things at first glance. You see I am real clear about a few basic things about knowledge. Sure, some "got it and some don't" but I mean more than that. Even those of us who have amassed

quite a bit in our long years, come to realize that we can't possibly know it all. So I feel I need to seek and find sources for that which I happen to go without. This, of course, is particularly true in such highly complex areas as electronics. For me it is so huge an area that you have to recognize specialties. So when people need what I've got they come to me (which incidentally doesn't happen very often).

Ideally in amateur radio or in electronics as a whole, an astute aficionado should have many contacts with whom they can barter. People, either by chance, by training, or by the boss saying "go learn this or else" do tend to become more expert in some areas rather than in others. Even in amateur radio, within our own Contoocook Valley Radio Club there are those who seem to specialize in such areas as HF DX, UHF, VHF FM, lightening, antennas, integrating computers into communications (packet, logging, etc.), contesting, 6 meters, 10 meters and so on. So if one wants to know what's happening one can be Mohammed and go to the mountain. Usually those folks are glad, even proud to share their expertise with you. Sure if it's once in a while they'll talk to you, but what if you're a slow learner (like myself) and you need repetition? What if you get an answer to one specific question and most always it magically seems to lead down the path to another one, and another and so on? What if someone saying "just go read the manual" doesn't always work for you. Well that's where bartering comes in. You can't expect someone to give, give, give without some balance being struck by some means.

So I scrape for anything I can come up with. What is one to do? Well if you're lucky, there will be, sooner or later something you can do in trade. Maybe its something as simple as mailing a QSL card or even sharpening a lawn mower blade. It doesn't really matter. The point is that to be fair, you have to come up with something. So I barter. Well it sure works for me! I think there may even be an art to it. Fairness and balance are the keys. One of the tricks with a good friendship, among other things, is to never take advantage of the other person. So if you want to gain much in the way of expertise, say in antennas, operation in the microwave bands, contesting, HF, circuit construction, proper operating ethics, etc. try bartering.