



# The KEY

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/k1bke>

Volume 12, Number 6

December, 2000

## Programs

**December 12** - Annual CVRC Christmas Party. See elsewhere in this issue of The KEY for more information.

**January 9** - "Radio scanners and More..." Learn about those mysterious frequencies from John Marcel, KB1FUG. We will also discuss the February NH QSO Party rules, and sign-up to operate the club station, K1BKE.

**February 13** - "Size Doesn't Count..." An introduction to surface mount manufacturing by Tom Matisko, N1SKZ. Also, "RF Safety, Part 1" by Dale Clement, AF1T. This will be a very short discussion of F.C.C. requirements for our ham radio stations.

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.

## SET 2000, The Best Yet!

**Tom Matisko, N1SKZ, EC**

On Saturday November 18th, 12 members of Merrimack County ARES took part in the 2000 Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The SET is a national test conducted by the ARRL of all ARES groups to test their strengths and weaknesses to better prepare for actual disasters. The 2000 SET simulated a snow/icing event that enveloped the state.

Members of Merrimack ARES established command at the KB1FDX station located at the American Red Cross, Concord Chapter. From that location communications was established to the Concord Fire Department, National Guard Armories in Concord and Hillsboro, simulated Red Cross shelters at the Kearsarge Middle School and Concord High School and the NH Office of Emergency Management. A liaison was also established to the NH State Fire Marshals office via one of their investigative vans. Real-time traffic was originated by Betsy Fitts, Red Cross State Lead, and sent to their chapters across the state. Communications was conducted using APRS, VHF/UHF voice and SSB. Due to the outstanding participation by all, Merrimack County ARES scored their best score in 6 years. A total of 194 points were accumulated beating the previous record of 145.

The participating stations and their area of responsibility are shown below.

K1BBQ - HF Liaison, K1CKL - Hillsboro National Guard, K1DKO - Kearsarge Middle School simulated shelter, K1PDY - VHF/APRS



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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Some of this year's SET participants at Red Cross headquarters in Concord

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Net Control, N1PHV - Concord Fire Liaison, K1RAB - UHF/APRS Net Control, KB1CKT - Concord National Guard, KB1FUH - Concord High School simulated shelter, NH Fire Marshals Office Liaison, KB1EDP - Mobile, KB1EPM - Concord National Guard, KB9DGB - Mobile

In all positive comments were made by the participants and many stations came away with a better idea of what their role would be in an actual disaster and how they can best prepare for that time. Several stations vowed to get on board



The operating position of KB1FDX at Red Cross Headquarters in Concord

with APRS and to improve their HF mobile operations, while others stated a commitment to become more involved with traffic handling.

I would like to thank all stations for their participation and am confident that our group will shine when we are called to support our customer agencies. I would also like to thank the Red Cross for the use of their facilities and the pizza served at the end of the SET. Concord Fire and the State Fire Marshals office also deserve recognition for allowing stations to be operated from their fixed and mobile facilities.

Great job everybody!

## Miscellaneous Notes from AF1T

**Dale Clement, AF1T**

### Field Day

Yes, we did well and the weather was great. The December 2000 QST lists K1BKE (+WA1VKO) in 25th place out of 344 entries in class 3A. That's within the top 7.3%. We're also shown as having 52 operators! I don't think so. The club will need volunteers to organize FD 2001.

### Radio Classes

Getting people licensed is important to ham radio and to our club. We're planning to start classes in early February at the NH technical Institute in Concord. Success depends upon volunteer teachers to take turns each week. Please sign up at the January meeting. My phone number is 428-3840.

### NH QSO Party

This is another club event that depends on volunteers to operate the club station, K1BKE, as well as operating under your own call. It's a chance to give publicity to our state and club. We've won several plaques in the past. Please sign up at the January meeting.

### Flea Market

This is scheduled for Sunday, March 25, 2001,

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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)**

Another year is winding down and what a year it's been! The non-event, Y2K that started the year provided the catalyst that fueled the growth of Merrimack County ARES during 2000. Looking back at the year, I can honestly say we are much better prepared to respond to an event today than we were on the first of January. Consistent check-ins on the net is one indicator of our growth. During 2000, the net averaged seven check-ins per week with a high reached on October 30th of seventeen. The most encouraging aspect of the net is the number of stations who make the net a regular part of their ham radio experience. We have several stations whose check-ins number in the double digits. K1CKL leads the way with 24, W1XV-19, K1BBQ-18, K1PDY-15, N1ZIH - 14 and W1ZIZ with 11. In all, 35 different stations checked into the net this year. Some of these stations are new hams who bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the net and others are long time hams whose years of experience is both welcomed and valued. To all of these 35 stations, I thank you for your support throughout the year.

A second aspect that can be used to judge the growth of Merrimack County ARES (MCARES) during 2000 is the relationships we continue to cultivate with agencies which we will serve during a disaster. The agency with the greatest amount of visibility during the year has been the American Red Cross, Concord Chapter. The chapter, which served as the MCARES command post during Y2K and the SET, has invested in our group by purchasing a

dual band rig, TNC, antenna and APRS software to support the Red Cross and other agencies when we respond to disasters and drills. They have also allotted space for the station and have invited us to make use of their facilities for training and meetings. Our thanks to Mary Ann Leon and Betsy Fitts for their hospitality and support.

The relationship between the Concord Fire Department and ARES continues to grow through the efforts of Larry Damour, N1PHV. Through Larry's perseverance, a dual band antenna was installed on the tower at their new communications center and will soon be on the APRS screen. Larry has also put the Broadway station on the APRS map and continues to work on new and innovative ways to include ARES in the CFD's response plan. A fairly new addition to our growing list of liaisons is the New Hampshire Fire Marshals Office. Rob Farley, KB1FUH, has recently joined the team and has volunteered to act as our liaison to that group. Last, but not least, is a strengthening of our relationship with the NH Office of Emergency Management. Cal, WA1WOK, from NHOEM has presented communications classes to both the Red Cross and Henniker Community School to assist them with better utilizing their communications resources. Cal together with Lindsay, K1JY, brought a new digipeater on-line for the Concord area to assist local hams, ARES, Red Cross, Concord Fire, NHOEM and other agencies access the K1JY-2 node. To all those listed, and the many others, Merrimack ARES thanks you.

The above are just some of the highlights for MCARES during 2000. No one can be sure what 2001 will bring, but one thing is for certain, 2000 has built the foundation for which we can grow and be further viewed as a viable and respected source of communicators. For growth to continue, we need the continued support of the hams who made Merrimack County AREAS succeed in 2000 and the additional support of new and not-so-new hams. 2000 provided us with agencies who will be our customers during a disaster, we now need to ensure that we can provide them with adequate resources when they ask for our help. It's never too late to start with ARES and there is no time to begin like the next net.

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To close, I would like to once again thank all the agencies and stations who made 2000 such a memorable year for MCARES. I would also like to thank the readers of this column and wish all a safe holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

73 and thanks.

Tom, N1SKZ

## **CVRC Christmas Party**

Plan to attend the annual CVRC Christmas Party Tuesday, December 12, at the Cat 'n Fiddle Restaurant (118 Manchester St., Concord; tel. 228-8911).

- 6:30-7:00 pm social time
- Meal after 7:00 pm
- No reservations — you may order from the menu
- Yankee gift swap — Bring a wrapped but unlabeled gift; this may humorous, family oriented, or amateur radio related.

We also have two gift certificates from Ham Radio Outlet to auction off. Each allows a single-item purchase at 5% above cost before November 14, 2001. Auction proceeds will go to our treasury. Thanks, HRO!

Come, have a good time, and bring your family!

## **Items for Sale**

Several estate items will be available at a considerable discount to club members. Proceeds will benefit our treasury. A few items to follow, with more announced in the next newsletter, or during meetings. "First come, first served." Contact Dale Clement, AF1T, at 428-3840.

**Ten-Tec** Scout, model 555 portable HF Transceiver with band modules for 14, 21, and 24 MHz. Manual and model 937 11 Amp. power supply (This is in current production). \$350

**Heathkit** SA-2060 2000 watt antenna tuner

with watt meter and SWR meter. \$80

**Hallicrafters** Model HA-1 electronic keyer. \$25

**B&W** Model 600 dip meter with No. 600A coil set (1.75 M.C. through 260 M.C.). This is an antique. \$25

Vibroplex No. 216264 "Vibro Keyer" with grey wrinkle-finish base. \$40

The Veterans Home in Tilton has let us know that Bob Sanborn, W1BDC, needs the following items: Dress pants size 38 x 30, dress shirts size large sleeve size XL, undershorts size XL (38), and crew socks size 9-11. Bob would like HO Scale trains or anything else to do with trains. He has no living family left, just his wife's daughter and the friends he has made through ham radio.

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at the Henniker Community School. It's our biggest fund-raiser. Again, we need volunteers. Advertising is important. Sign-up at the January meeting.

### **6-Meter DX**

Now that the sunspot cycle has peaked, there are occasional openings at 50 MHz. Single hop F2 propagation distance tends to be in the 2000-3000 mile range. Here are some of the areas I've worked, mostly SSB, some CW:

Nov. 4: 8R1 (Guyana), several HC and HK.

Nov 6: More HC, HK, TI.

Nov 7: EH3 (Spain), EH8 (Canary Is.), F, TI, HP, several YV, J87 (St. Vincent), P43 (Aruba), YS, XE, LU, a bunch of W6's, and KH6 (Yes, Hawaii on 6 meters).

Nov. 8: HC8 (Galapagos), KH5 (Palmyra Reef), W6's.

Nov. 20: Several stations in CA and AZ.

These openings are often selective and of short duration. They probably happen most frequently when you're not around! Some of the signals can be very strong (over S-9), and DX stations may run as little as 10 watts. I expect these conditions will become less frequent as the solar cycle diminishes.