

The *KEY*

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

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

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Upcoming Programs

December 11: Plan to attend our annual CVRC Christmas Party, with family and friends. It will again be held at the Cat'n Fiddle Restaurant on Manchester Street in Concord. Socializing begins at 6:30 pm, and the meal will be served at 7:00. Afterwards, the traditional "Yankee Gift Swap" will take place. Be sure to bring a seasonal, silly, or gag pre-wrapped, anonymous gift!

reservations and pre-payment are not necessary, and you may choose meals from the menu. If there are any questions, please contact treasurer Dave, N1KTP, at 456-3787. See you there!

January 8, 2002: Several CVRC members are working on an exciting program for the January meeting. Unfortunately, it couldn't be confirmed as of press time, so details will be sent in the January post-cards. The meeting will be conducted by the new administration. They need your support.

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.

December Business Meeting

Al Marin, K1CYJ

The Officers of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club are inviting the New Officers to meet with them at the next business meeting. It will be held Tuesday December 18th, starting at 6 pm. Anyone is invited to join it. The meeting will be held in Hillsboro, at the Sampan Chinese Restaurant. A room with a capacity of 18 has been reserved. It is also Buffet night, all you can eat for a very reasonable price. Again, congratulations to the newly elected officers who will be taking over their duties in January of 2002:

President: Shawn Upton, KB1CKT

V.P.: Larry Damour, N1PHV

Secretary: Don Curtis, N1ZIH

Treasurer: Skip Doughty, N1PHZ

CVRC Meeting Attendance Statistics

Al Marin, K1CYJ

The Club has grown to 101 members this year. The attendance at the 10 meetings that the roll was taken averaged 22% compared to last year's average of 21.6% for 10 meetings. This year's highest attended meeting was the November one with 27. There were three meetings with 19 each and the July event had 12 members coming at the Elm Brook Park Picnic for the three F's, Fox Hunt, Food, and Fellowship. The Christmas Party and the Boat Ride numbers of year 2000 were not included.

Review of November Program

Dale Clement, AF1T

The CVRC was privileged to have a tour of the telephone museum at the Merrimack County Telephone Co. in Contoocook. The curator, Aleric O. "Dick" Violette, is an expert on the history of telephones and has written an extensive book on the subject. We got to see all kinds of telephone apparatus dating back to the 1870's (This pre-dates Ham radio!).

Afterwards, Dick came back to our meeting at the library and told more anecdotes about the development of the local phone system. His museum is going to move to Warner; please visit when you have a chance. Thanks to Dick for this fascinating program!

CVRC Spring Flea Market 2002

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the annual CVRC Spring Flea Market! Mark this date in your calendars: Sunday, March 17 at the Henniker Community School. Contact Jock, N1JI, or any club officer if you'd like to help out.

6-Meter DX at Last!


Dale Clement, AF1T

50 MHz operators have been pleasantly surprised during the past several weeks. We were under the impression that the 11-year solar cycle had peaked last year and that the

possibility of widespread F2 ionospheric activity at that high a frequency as remote. Don't always believe the experts! I've nearly filled an ARRL log book with 6-meter contacts since Oct. 21, 2001.

Most of the stations are European, particularly the UK, and many are running just a few watts and simple antennas. Many countries are now represented, which previously did not allow 6-meter operation (The band was allocated for television transmission, and this has mostly been discontinued). Some noteworthy contacts were with FR1GZ and FR5DN on Reunion Island Oct. 30 (This is 9064 miles, or 14,587 Km!); E30NA in Eritrea, Oct. 31; Z22JE in Zimbabwe, Nov. 7; a bunch of Alaskans on Nov. 10, 12, 13, and 14, and V73AT on Marshall Islands, Nov. 12. The greatest intensity of station appeared Nov. 16-19; I contacted hundreds of Europeans in morning, followed after noon by loads of W6's and W7's. This also coincided with the spectacular Leonids meteor shower of Nov. 18, during which 6-meters sounded more like 20-meters! Just before I wrote this (Nov. 30), KL7FZ popped out of the noise on 50.110 MHz, just long enough for a quick SSB contact. No wonder 6-meters is known as "The Magic Band!"

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Capital Area 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

Happy Holidays to one and all! A lot has happened since the last installment of this article, especially since I missed the deadline on the last issue of The Key! To start off with, the weekly net is strong, alive and well with over a dozen of check-ins occurring on a regular basis. It has been really exciting to see the growth of the Capital Area ARES group, in both the quantity of members and the quality of service they provide our client agencies. It certainly has been an exciting year.

Most recently 15 members of CAARES participated in the 2001 SET, which was held simultaneously with a joint drill between the Concord Fire Department (CFD) and the Concord Chapter of the American Red Cross. During this event, the CFD simulated a terrorist event at the Everett Arena. Which re-

sulted in a simulated evacuation of nearby residents. The simulated victims of the event (high school students from Concord and Hillsboro) were evacuated to a Red Cross shelter set up at the Concord High School. Upon arriving at the shelter, the "victims" were admitted into the shelter and provided with lunch, a process the Red Cross calls "Mass Care". Once the all clear was sounded by the CFD, the "victims" were allowed to leave the shelter and return to their homes.

During the drill, members of CAARES provided communications support at the Concord Fire Department, the "disaster scene", Red Cross shelter, Red Cross HQ and on the evacuation van. CAARES members also conducted radio checks between the Red Cross HQ in Concord and many other potential shelter sites within the jurisdiction of the Concord Red Cross. These checks provided CAARES with a baseline as to what assets might be required at these shelters should they ever be activated. Beside the 15 CAARES operators that were activated for the drill, the club stations for the Concord Red Cross (KB1FDX) and the Concord Fire Department (K1CFD) were both on the air. In all it was an exciting interoperability drill that provided all groups with information on where improvements can be made and where our strengths lie.

While the above drill was being conducted, CAARES also participated in the 2001 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) with other ARES districts around the Granite State and members of the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS). During the SET, local ARES districts tested their preparedness with their local client agencies and fed status information to state ARES leadership via a MARS HF backbone. Since MARS operators are able to utilize frequencies outside of the Ham bands, NHARES was able to avoid the congestion on 75 meters that plagued us during the 2000 SET.

What a day! I want to thank all CAARES members who participated in these drills on November 17th. They were K1BBQ, K1CFI,

K1CKL, K1FDD, K1PDY, K1RAB, KB1CKT, KB1EDP, KB1FUE, N1IIC, N1PHV, N1PHZ, N1RSU and WA1VVX.

Now on a more personal note. Over the last several years, I have had the privilege of leading what I feel is the finest group of ARES volunteers in New Hampshire. That group, of course, is the Capital Area ARES. As most who are reading this article already know, as of the 31st of December, I will be stepping down as Emergency Coordinator and taking up a new position as an Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for NHARES. While I will still be a regular check-in on the CAARES net, my leadership role will end and a new leader for the group will step in. That leader, as of January 1st, will be Rob Farley, K1CFI. It is, of course, with mixed feelings that I step down. I will miss the role of being EC, but I am excited to have Rob step in to lead the group through new and exciting challenges and successes.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me throughout the years to lead CAARES. For the job of being EC would have been impossible had it not been for your support, commitment and advice. So, while I will soon be saying my final 73 as EC, I look forward to my new role in NHARES, my continued support of CAARES and my very best to K1CFI as the new Emergency Coordinator of the Capital Area Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

73 and the happiest of holidays,
Tom, N1SKZ



NH QSO Party for 2002???

Al Marin, K1CYJ

It seems that the NH QSO normally held in February is seriously in jeopardy of not being held in the year 2002. What follows are some excerpts of e-mail correspondence that might help to shed light on the QSO party and what the future holds.

NH's Section Manager, Al Shuman, N1FIK, wrote this QST report in October:

"There is serious discussion at the NE Div. level of a New England wide QSO Party with common rules and operating times. It is not the intent that the NE-QSO party replaces the existing State QSO parties, but it has been reported that participation of the State QSO parties is down significantly in the past few years."

On November 1, I received an e-mail from Robert Hess, W1NH, who was responding to an inquiry that I directed to neqp@kc1yr.com:

"Hi Al,

At this point, we are still trying to agree on a date but it is looking like the first or second weekend in May.

We have notified the authors of the various contest programs that we intend to do a NEQP and CT will have something available, hopefully for the first contest. We still need to finalize the rules. We are looking for a club in each state to co-sponsor this contest with the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. We hope to have real prizes for the winners. Prizes

relating in some way to New England...like Vermont Maple Syrup. The Framingham Amateur Radio Association will be the Massachusetts sponsor. ARA has sponsored the MAQP but will shut down the contest when the NEQP gets going.

We have established a web address but I guess you somehow found it! (Through K1BKE's web site.) Tom, K1KI and I have been independently working on establishing a NEQP without each other

knowing. We have now joined forces. That's about it for now."

Al Shuman also addressed the following e-mail to our club officers requiring a response before November 12:

"I need your direction. The NH ARRL Section Staff met on 11/3/01 and one of the topics of discussion was that of the status of the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association (NHARA) and the NH-QSO Party. I'm sure you will remember that the NHARA is a council of NH clubs and that affiliation with League is not a requirement to be a member club of the NHARA.

It was the opinion of the NH-ARRL staff that there does not currently seem to be enough interest in rejuvenating the NHARA at this time. The NH-ARRL staff DOES NOT advocate the elimination of the NHARA but rather to let the NHARA stay dormant until such time as there is an interest among its member clubs to renew its activities.

The question was then raised of the future NH QSO Party. In recent years the NH QSO Party has had low participation.

Recently there has been discussion on the establishment of a New England QSO Party Groups in CT. have taken the lead in investigating the possibilities of a NE wide QSO Party. Many of the NE states that currently run state QSO parties have indicated their preference to continue their individual Parties in 2002 waiting to see how NE QSO pans out.

It was the feeling of the NH-ARRL staff, that the NH-QSO Party has merit and should be preserved. The NH QSO Party has been in existence for nearly 60 years.

Based upon the above, the NH-ARRL voted on the following.

1. Poll the NHARA Officers asking them if they would consider passing the operational responsibility of the NHQSO Party to another group possibly the NH-ARRL.

2. Poll the NH Clubs asking if any club would care to take on the operational responsibility and preserve the NHQSO Party.

3. Should none of the NHARA member clubs

choose to accept the responsibility for the NHQSO Party, then the NH-ARRL would offer to accept the operational responsibility for the NHQSO Party

On Monday 1/5, the officers of the NHARA were polled and they indicated that they believed it be appropriate that the NH-QSO Party be transferred to another organization to run.

I am now asking the NHARA member clubs to weigh in and indicate their desire. If no NHARA club indicates a willingness to take on the responsibility and if there is no creditable objection, then the NH-ARRL will take ownership of the NH QSO Party until the NHARA is in the position to accept it back.

If the NH-ARRL accepts the operational responsibility for the NHQSO Party, it would come with the caveat that the NH-ARRL would be empowered to make whatever rule changes that it felt necessary to make the QSO Party viable. This would include the deletion of bonus point station multipliers. This would allow for the use of standard contest software to be used by the participants."

President Jason Greene, N1IIC, responded to Al Shuman after our regular club meeting on the 13th, with the results of the straw vote taken at the meeting. The results that were reported are:

a. Do you still support a NH QSO party to be held in Feb.?

Answer: YES

b. Do you support a New England QSO party ONLY?

Answer: NO

c. Do you support both?

Answer: YES

d. Would you support a Maine, VT, and NH QSO party?

Answer: YES

As of this date, there is nothing more to be reported.

Al Marin, K1CYJ

December 1, 2001