

The KEY

The Newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club

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

Volume 15, Number 2

May, 2003

New Hampshire QSO Party 2003 - Results *Al Marin, K1CYJ*

At the club meeting held January 14, the members overwhelmingly endorsed the club's involvement again this year in the NH QSO party. The ARRL of NH sponsors the QSO party and our section manager, Al Shuman, N1FIK, came to promote the QSO party and to discuss other timely amateur radio issues.

This year, the NH party was held February 1-4 along with other QSO contests such as the Vermont QSO party, Minnesota QSO party, Delaware QSO party, Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO party, and several others.

Last year (2002) the club garnered a total of 238,675 points, thanks to the heavy hitters such as AF1T, W1VE, N1FOJ, and WA1VKO. The club did in fact come in first among the NH Radio Clubs, but not much publicity was disseminated. This year, AF1T and WA1VKO worked scores of 72,800 and 16,380 respectively. Al, NS1O, and Al, K1CYJ also helped out in working a combined score of 1675 and Tom, N1SKZ, chipped in using the club call sign. The total claimed score for K1BKE is 90,910.

Dale, AF1T, had this to say about this year's activity, "I didn't think activity level was very high, and quite a few stations who gave out contacts were actually involved with the 10-X Con-



The KEY is published quarterly. The deadline for articles and submissions is the fourth Tuesday (coinciding with the usual business meeting schedule) of the preceding month.

Programs

May 13: Coax as a Feedline and Antenna Forum. Rick Littlefield from Cushcraft is tentatively scheduled to speak at our meeting.

June 10: Final Field Day Meeting. Come and hear all about how we will be doing Field Day this year.

CVRC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Hopkinton Town Library in Contoocook, NH. Members and non-members alike are welcomed. Talk-in is on the K1BKE 146.895 -600 kHz (100 Hz PL) repeater.

test or the Saturday evening 20/40/80 - meter Sprints. Propagation was especially poor on Sunday - 10 & 15 meters were dead."

Thanks to those few who were able to spend some time contesting for the club and hopefully, there will be enough activity reported to ARRL from around the country and the world to sanction another NH QSO party next year. Don't forget the second annual New England QSO Party to be held during the same weekend as the Hosstraders in May. I believe that the time for operating will not conflict with the Hopkinton Fair Ground event.



Capitol Area ARES Bill Shurbert, KB1FAE

April incident: CAARES was called into service by the Red Cross in Concord to assist with communication at their shelter. A structural fire required the opening of the Red Cross shelter at the Concord Community Center to receive the displaced families.. CAARES members; K1BBQ, K1CYJ, N1ZIH, N1HO, KB1JST and myself,(KB1FAE) worked the event with members K1CFI, KB1EJY and N1SKZ available for backup.

June CVRC meeting: The following CAARES members will be receiving awards during the June CVRC meeting. K1BBQ, K1CKL, K1CYJ, K1OPQ, K1PDY, K1RAB, KB1CSI, KB1EJY, KB1FAE, N1RSU, N1SKZ, N1ZIH, W1ZIZ, WA1VVX, K1CFI. If your call sign is listed please try to attend the meeting in order to receive your award. Congratulations!

Hosstraders: Thanks to Al, K1CYJ and Jerry, K1BBQ for all their assistance in coordinating the Hoss traders talk-in this year. Once again not a HAM was lost getting to the event due to the quick-witted overly exact directions from our members.

June CAARES face-to-face meeting: On June 30th, CAARES will be holding a face-to-face meeting at the Concord Red Cross. The topic of discussion will be "Go-Kits." Members of NH-ARES RED Team will be on hand to give demonstrations of their "Go-Kits." This promises to be informative and entertaining...Everyone from

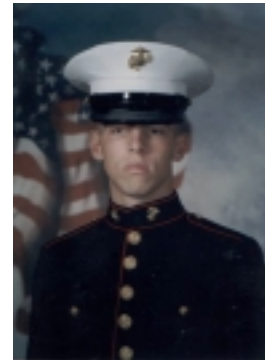
Larry Damour,Jr. KB1DIV of Weare is currently serving in Iraq with the 1st Marine division,4th battalion . He arrived in Kuwait in late February and then went to Iraq. His unit is currently south of Baghdad. Larry just celebrated his 21st birthday March 19th.

I'm sure I speak for the entire membership when I offer my best wishes and prayers for his safe return to Larry's parents.

Anyone wishing further information on his unit's progress can go to <http://www.timesdispatch.com>.

They have an embedded reporter with them.

Don Curtis N1ZIH



CVRC/CAARES is welcome and encouraged to attend..

Kidney walk: June 1st CAARES will be providing communications for the Kidney Walk along the Sewall Falls trail in Concord, NH. We will need 4-6 radio operators for this event. NCS for this event will be KB1FAE. Please email kb1fae@arrl.net to sign up for this event.

Please take a few minutes and check out CAARES Web page. http://www.qsl.net/merrimack-ares/MERRIM~1/ARES_Home_Pagx.html. Tom, N1SKZ has spent many hours reworking the format and has made many improvements.

Missed the meeting? Want to know what was discussed in your absence? The club is trying to maintain a good collection of the meeting minutes online. Goto www.qsl.net/k1bke/minutes.html and see what you missed. We try to get the minutes online within two weeks of the last meeting.

Field Day 2003

Jerry Blanchard, K1BBQ

CVRC Field Day 2003 will be held June 28-29. The rules this year are essentially the same as 2002 for the category that we run (4A) except the 100 bonus points for the GOTA station. This year it is only necessary for the GOTA station to make 100 contacts (400 in 2002) to get the 100 bonus points. I'm pleased to announce that John/KB1CSI has volunteered to be co-chairman - thanks John. We have started forming the CVRC FD 2003 committee and are making plans for the event. We have confirmation from most of the 2002 band captains that they will participate again this year. The band captains need assistants to help log and relieve them operating from time to time. We also need CW operators, CW points are worth twice as much as voice contacts. The GOTA station will again have Lee/AA1YN as the mentor. Rob/N1FSK will potentially have members from the Manchester club and some Boy Scouts there to operate the GOTA station. Inactive hams are encouraged to come and operate the GOTA station. Also non-hams may operate the station under the direct supervision of Lee. So please if you have a family member or friends who are not hams but would like to operate the GOTA station entourage them to come. We are pleased to say that Dave/N1KTP will again be mess Sargent. Dave's food is one of the high lights of the CVRC FD. We need assistants for Dave, please let us know if you would be willing to help Dave. We will also have the balloon again this year to launch the 80 meter vertical. Al/NS1O had great success with it last year. At the May 13th club meeting we will give a brief update on the CVRC FD 2003 plans. And between then and the June 10th meeting we will hold FD committee meetings to finalize the plans. We will give the club the final plan on June 10th. Field Day is one of the major CVRC events during the year. We hope that many of the members that we don't get to see during the year will come and participate and enjoy visiting with your club members.

A Word from the President

Shawn Upton, KB1CKT

I would like to first thank you for all coming out to the Hamfest in April; I hope you all had fun there. And I would like to thank CAARES for doing the talk-in for the event. The event was well attended.

As was announced on the weekly CAARES Monday night net (146.895-/100Hz), on May 5th, the leadership of CAARES and CVRC are planning some changes about how CAARES and CVRC interact with each other. In case you did not hear the net, here is a summary of what I talked about.

The two groups are composed mostly of the same members, from the same pool of amateurs. In the past, however, we have tended to go our different ways, ignoring this fact.

However, we feel that this is not to our advantage. So, we have decided to bring the two groups closer together, recognizing that we are intertwined, and start working together to better utilize our resources and to meet our own needs and the needs of those around us. To that end, CAARES will act as the public service arm of the CVRC, and the CVRC will continue to maintain the K1BKE repeater and publish the Key, which will be used by both groups as a forum for publication and communication.

We are not, however, making one big group, nor requiring membership in both groups, nor signing members of one group up in the other group. Nor are we planning on merging our meetings together; we plan to have the same meeting schedules. CVRC will continue to run the CVRC Field Day (err, well, Jerry K1BBQ *really* runs that show, but, we, ah, we *let* him run it....) and the CVRC hamfest.

We hope that these changes will appear to be seamless to the members of the two groups, in that we are not making major changes in what we are trying to do, what we are doing, and what

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we plan to do. Keep an eye on the websights, as we will be merging our activities calendar together, and share one calendar of events. Also, the first Monday night CAARES net will be now used as a time for the CVRC leadership to talk to members about what is coming up on the CVRC calendar, and other club business.

On other topics: I hope Field Day is not visited by the rain we had last year. Actually, I will not be attending the CVRC Field Day this year, as I have a family reunion to attend. However, do keep an ear out, as I am hoping to still participate, either under the call KB1CKT or AB1CG (in case you didn't know, AB1CG is my wife Kristi, who also is club secretary). And I would like to thank Jerry K1BBQ for the prior two years of work that he has put into the CVRC Field Day; no pressure this year Jerry! Anyone wanting to volunteer drop K1BBQ a line at k1bbq@arrl.net. Or just stop by--I know that everyone in the club would be happy to have you participate.

Thanks and 73
Shawn Upton, KB1CKT
President, CVRC

Update on Using the MAR-6SM Monolithic Amplifier

Dale Clement, AF1T

The February 2003 issue of the Key Discussed how to use some MMIC amplifiers which I gave out at the November Club meeting. Lo and behold, an article in the December 2002/January 2003 North Texas Microwave Society newsletter Feed Point says that these unlabeled parts are not really MAR-6's! So, I ran a few tests and agree with WA5VJB--they're not! In fact, they're better for most of our purposes, and can deliver considerably more output power. The catch is that they must be operated at more current than the 16mA recommended for the MAR-6SM in my ar-

ticle. WA5VJB tested the devices safely at up to 50mA, where he got up to +16dBm saturated output with +21.3dB gain at 50MHz, and +13dBm saturated output with +13.8dB gain at 1GHz. Optimum noise figure of 2.0dB at 50MHz and 2.3dB at 1GHz occurred in the 20 to 30mA range. I measured over +15dBm saturated output with +20dB gain at 144MHz. The series bias-resistor used to deliver ~40mA with a +12V supply is 220 ohms, 1/2W. The MMIC device output terminal voltage is +3.5V (same as the MAR-6SM), so the needed series resistance is easily calculated by

$$R = (\text{Power_Supply_Voltage} - 3.5V) / 0.04A$$

Note that I did not add a series RF choke with this resistor; adding one may increase the 144MHz gain a dB or so, with the risk of instability at unwanted frequencies. I hope you enjoy these amazing little amplifiers. Let me know if you need any.

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Greetings from Alaska!

Larry Ledlow, KL7/N1TX

Wordfind for Hams

N1HD (via Packet)

The following is from an email I received from Larry last month. He would enjoy hearing from any current or former CVRC members. You can send him email at larry@ledlow.org — Jock, N1JI

I've been struggling trying to get local ARES organized for the past 18 months, but there's a big problem with apathy and distaste for anything formal. I'm going to shift my focus to Red Cross again, as I think I can be more useful. Connie got her ticket a couple of years ago. She is now KL1BE and quite the operator on VHF. We spent quite a bit of time in February and March helping out with several dog mushing races, including the Yukon Quest and the Iditerod. Iditerod started in Fairbanks for the first time in its history due to lack of snow down south. We manned the first checkpoint in a village called Nenana, about 50 miles SW of Fairbanks.

I have also enjoyed contesting with Rich KL7RA. Rich runs a real multi-multi superstation. He's retired now and will be leaving the area for better propagation down on the Kenai Peninsula. My commute for contests will be quite a bit longer, but I'm committed. :-)

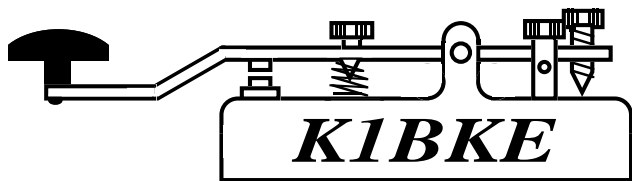
Last year he hosted world champs from the Bavarian Contest Club for WPX CW. See photo. Me on the left, and Rich on the far right.

73 Larry KL7/N1TX



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CVRC CLUB CALL: K1BKE

CVRC operates:

K1BKE/Rptr 146.295/146.895

K1BKE:CENTNH 145.57 Packet Node

CVRC OFFICERS

Shawn Upton, KB1CKT	President	927-6012
Al Bardswell, NS1O	Vice-President	
John Moore, KB1CSI	Treasurer	
Kristi Upton, KB1EPM	Secretary	927-6012
Jack Sheehy, W1JS	Trustee of club call	529-5635
	K1BKE Repeater trustee	
Lindsay Collins, K1JY	Packet node trustee	495-3983

ACTIVITIES & COMMITTEES

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Programs	Al Bardswell, NS1O	
V.E. Sessions	Dexter Howe, KY1M	938-2955
License Classes	Bob Hadley, K1DWI	783-9294
Field Day	Jerry Blanchard, K1BBQ	
ARES	Bill Shurbert, KB1FAE	
Outgoing QSLs	John Moore, N1FOJ	746-4817
Public Service	Bill Shurbert, KB1FAE	746-6412
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Membership	John Moore, KB1CSI	

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