

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR
VOLUME VII, ISSUE IV
ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB NO. 2108

----- APRIL 1991 -----

Building the thinking of the radio amateurs of Norco and Corona.
Photo free to provide inspiration for the theater of the mind.
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CLUB OFFICERS

President.....Fred Roberts, W6TKV, 687-8145 Secretary.....Dick Shepler, AF6F, 371-5256
Vice President..Luis Diaz, KP4DX, 736-0789 Treasurer.....Rich Blackburn, N6TAX, 785-5658

CURRENT COMMITTEES

Novice Classes..Bob Leo, KJ6B, 734-1205 ARRL Awards Mgr..Fred Roberts, W6TKV, 687-8145
 Dick Moll, N6XUC, 371-055 Asst. EC.....Barry Todd, K6ZCE, 735-1761
 Luis Diaz, KP4DX, 736-0789 Youth Chair.....Luis Diaz, KP4DX, 736-0789
T-Hunt Chair....John Quinn, N6SBU, 737-2979 Elmer Coord.....Bob Leo, KJ6B, 734-1205

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -de W6TKV

It's getting to be that time of year when the days are getting longer, when spring flowers begin to pop up and when antennas begin to sprout from backyards everywhere.

Recently, I heard two fellows chatting about 2M antennas on a local repeater, and one was talking about certain verticals having better gain than others. Of course, everyone knows that vertical antennas are omnidirectional antennas which means they radiate equally in all directions, and the "gain" comes from an antenna design which lowers the angle of radiation thus resulting in more signal in line-of-sight transmissions than from a 1/4 wave vertical. Their discussion, however, led me to wonder if these hams really believe that verticals can actually have gain like a beam does.

With the advent of Novice Classes, published Q&A pools for all of the license classes, the onslaught of appliance operators (yes, I'm one too), it is clear that much of the technical know-how in ham radio has fallen by the wayside. And, given the times, that's even understandable, however sad it may be.

... see next column, MESSAGE

APRIL MEETING
CLIPPERTON DX-PEDITION
a slide show from NCDXF

MESSAGE (continued)

But, back to spring flowers and antennas sprouting. CNARC is having a Field Day Antenna Party on Saturday, April 6th (Lincoln Park, 10:00AM). We will be raising the resonant frequency on our 75M dipole and building a new 40M delta loop. This is a good time for CNARC members to learn something about tuning these simple antennas.

Perhaps, it will inspire you to plant an antenna in your backyard, and perhaps, inspire someone to study something about antennas.

73- Fred

LOTTERY WINNER!!!

One of our club members just won the lottery, and has plans to will bring a brand-new TS-440S to the April meeting as a door prize. This raffle prize won't cost the club a nickel and everyone attending the meeting gets 3 free chances. Some lucky CNARCer will go home with a brand-new rig.

If you ever plan to put a meeting on your calendar, this one is it!!! Be there!!! Win a TS-440S!!! And, thank you Mr. X for your generosity!!!

CNARC MONDAY NIGHT NET

Tune in weekly for the latest CNARC news, the latest public service news, and the latest swap items ... Mondays, 8:00PM, 146.535MHz.

T-HUNT RESULTS

The March T-Hunt turned out to be an exciting chase for the chasers and the chasee, who was Dave, N6UCV. Two teams, W6TKV (and AF6F) and NF6Y (and KC6NZU), left the starting gate in mad pursuit of the rabbit.

According to the N6UCV, he saw W6TKV (and AF6F) on two occasions but successfully eluded being found while mobile. Finally, he was tracked down by W6TKV (and AF6F). A surprise arrival was Bob, N6ZHZ, who arrived in his fatigues ... seems he was on his lunch break from his Air Force Reserve Unit ... and just couldn't resist the temptation. NF6Y (and KC6NZU) arrived at about the same time.

N6ZHZ went back to guarding the country and the T-Hunters went to a local Carl's Jr. for lunch. N6UCV noted it's much more fun being a mobile hidden T than a stationery one.

The next T-Hunt, although planned as an on-foot T-Hunt, will be a mobile T-Hunt since we don't have a good location nor rules for an on-foot T-Hunt. We agreed the mobile T-Hunt

will have a couple of added/amended rules to add to the fun and improve the chances for the hunters to find the mobile while he is in motion.

a) The hidden T will periodically give "the score", that is, how many times he has seen hunting teams but without identifying them. The report will be something as simple as, "The score is 3 for me."

b) The hidden T will announce when he stops for a mandatory 5-minute stop and when he starts. That is, he will identify when he is stationery and when on the move.

c) The hidden T will provide a description of his vehicle at the beginning of the hunt.

All CNARC members are welcome to ride along for this "wild and wooly" T-Hunt. The next one is Saturday, April 20th at 10:00AM. The starting point is our meeting place.

CNARC CW NET

... Wednesdays, 8:00PM, 28290KHz ... you know CW. That's the series of dits and dahs that keeps you from a higher class license. Soo-o:

dah-dit-dah-dit dit-dit-dit-dit dit dah-dit-dah-dit dah-dit-dah = dit-dit dah-dit ... OK?

CNARC - APRIL 1991

GD SWAPMEET

While at the second Saturday swapmeet, keep in touch with fellow CNARC club members with your HT tuned to 146.535MHz. It's a great way to find what you want to buy, and help another CNARC member locate something he needs.

ELMER #1 WANTED!!!

CNARCer John Myers, KC6AES, just bought an Atlas 210X and has installed a 31-foot aft stay antenna on his sailboat. Being a relatively new ham, John needs help getting everything installed and tuned up. An Elmer with an SWR bridge is needed.

ELMER #2 WANTED

CNARCer Bob Davidson, KA6LIO, has purchased a TNC but is having some trouble getting the cables wired correctly. A packeteering Elmer who has been through this exercise is needed.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY DEFINITION

ELMER: Someone who has an amateur radio license (sometimes called an old-timer), and 1) helps a newcomer obtain his Novice License, 2) helps a new ham get his station together, or 3) helps another ham in a technical area of his expertise.

CNARC BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is on Monday, April 8th at 7:00PM at Carls Jr. on Magnolia Avenue just off the 15 freeway. All club members are welcome to attend.

THE ULTIMATE CC&R SOLUTION

N6TSF faced with a new Board on his Homeowner's Association was faced with his Butternut Vertical "now" violating the CC&R's. Faced with the prospect of removing it (wash your mouth out with soap for even reading the words), Ernie came up with a unique solution. He cut the antenna in half, installed a hinge, and simply raises it when he wants to get on the air. Well done!!!

IF YOU DIDN'T RENEW WITH CNARC

... YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE THIS ISSUE

PACKET RACKET

Last month, we talked about timesharing the frequency and retry. This month's discussion is on PBBS (Packet Bulletin Board Systems).

There are hundreds of packet bulletin boards across the country, and in general, it's the place to drop messages to other hams, make announcements (eg. club meetings, hamfests, etc.), and publish bulletins (messages to the broader ham community).

Assuming you are W6ME (Bill) and you want to send a message to N6HIM via the bulletin board K6PBB, you connect with the bulletin board (one customer at a time, please) using the command CONNECT or C K6PBB. The bulletin board responds with an abbreviated menu (something like: L for List, H for Help).

If you have used K6PBB before, you will have already entered your name and possibly other information (eg. address, phone number, etc.). If so, when you connect, you will be greeted with, "Hi, Bill. Welcome to the Whiz-Bang BBS. You last connected on 1/31."

To send a message to N6HIM (assuming he's a member of the same BBS), you just enter S N6HIM (that's S for Send). The BBS responds with "Title for Message", and you enter it, eg. "GD Swap Meet". The BBS then says, "Enter the text and then CTL-Z".

So, you type:

CHARLIE- DO YOU PLAN TO GO THE SWAP MEET NEXT SATURDAY. IF SO, CAN YOU PICK ME UP. MY XYL HAS PLANS WHICH DON'T INCLUDE ME ... LUCKILY . 73- BILL CTL-Z

Then you get the menu back again. Entering L (for List) will list all of the messages entered since your last connect, and guess what? Your message to N6HIM is listed first. Yes, the most current message is listed first and the oldest last.

If N6HIM was not a local user, but you know he uses San Francisco BBS, K6SFO, your entry into K6HIM would be the same except your send command would be:

S N6HIM @ K6SFO

... you had no idea what BBS he used ... or worse yet ... he wasn't a ham, what then?
... continued next column

OFFICIAL CNARC CALENDAR

Monday, 4/1, 7:30PM Club Meeting
Wednesday, 4/3, 8:00AM .. Hunny's Bkfst
Thursday, 4/4, 12:30PM .. Lunch Bunch
Saturday, 4/6, 10:00AM .. Pre-Field Day
Antenna Party
Monday, 4/8, 7:00PM Board Meeting
Thursday, 4/11, 12:30PM . Lunch Bunch
Saturday, 4/13 Lion's Bike Ride
Thursday, 4/18, 12:30PM . Lunch Bunch
Saturday, 4/20, 10:00AM . Mobile T-Hunt
Thursday, 4/25, 12:30PM . Lunch Bunch
Thursday, 5/2, 12:30PM .. Lunch Bunch
Saturday, 5/4 Cinco de Mayo Parade
Monday, 5/6, 7:30PM Club Meeting
Saturday, 5/11 Parks & Recreation
5K/10K Bike Ride

Well, the send message would be:

S N6HIM @ 91003 where 91003 is his ZIP code.

or ... S NTSCA @ 91003 where NTSCA says via the "National Traffic System - California" plus the ZIP code (the message in NTS form).

As a newcomer to the BBS, enter Help and copy everything to your disk or printer so you can review all of the commands at your leisure. And, when you first do a List, you will find ARRL bulletins, propagation bulletins, equipment for sale, diatribes on the middle east and the FCC, etc. You can read anything you want by entering the unique message number, eg. entering R 1234 gives you Message #1234. If you want really explore the BBS, plan a late night or early morning session some weekday to avoid the crowd.

When you connect, the BBS may say, "Bill, you have mail." Just do a List and a Read. Bulletin boards have become the major application of packet, so try one and see how you like it.

Any packet questions? Drop a note to the CNARC P.O. Box, and that will be the topic of the month.

CCC EDITOR NOT WANTED

Since no one has offered, volunteered or raised his hand, we will try a new tack. You can't be Editor unless you beg. Yes, beg.

OPERATION WELCOME HOME

CNARC provided communications for Operation Welcome Home sponsored by the Corona Chamber of Commerce. The event was conceived while the war in the middle east raged, but it turned out to be almost perfectly timed due to the outstanding performance of the U.S. armed forces.

The event featured a circle of townspeople holding hands around the perimeter of Grand Avenue. While this sounds like an easy thing to do, most folks showed up at 10:00AM and had to then spread out around Grand Avenue. Postponed twice, the actual handholding took place at 10:30AM or so.

The CNARC team consisted of KP4DX and KB6GNZ at the center of festivities; W6TKV as NCS at the Police Station; WA6BHR, KB6DOL, N7GOV, KC6NZU, N6RNO, N6TAX and K6ZCE on the perimeter of Grand Avenue; and AF6F, WA6FGY and NF6Y as Rovers.

It turned out that all HT's (even on low power) were S9+20 at the Police Station which turned out to be a good NCS location. KB6GNZ was Q3/S9+20 throughout the event ... got to do something about that speaker/mike, Mark.

All in all, the event went smoothly ... and a special thank you to all who participated.

IN THE MAGAZINES THIS MONTH de N6TAX

Some of the interesting articles from the ham radio press are:

***** February '73' ***** The New No-Code License, Build a 10 Gig Receiver, lots of UHF projects

***** March '73' ***** This is the yearly Satellite issue and features: Hams in Space, Packet with Microsats

***** February CQ ***** Key articles are: DX-PEDITION to Malpelo Island, How to Make Meter Shunts, Build a New Operating Position

***** March CQ ***** Articles of interest include: 1990 CQ World Wide CQ and WPX SSB Contest Results, Amateur Radio and the NEC, Getting Ready to Operate After 10 Meters Dies

... continued Page 5, ARTICLES

FROM THE LAST MEETING -de AF6F

W6TKV gave a summary report of the last month's survey. The results indicate that most people are happy with the location and want programs on DX-ing and antennas.

On 3/16, there will be a club effort to support Operation Welcome Home for the troops from Desert Storm. A human circle will be completed around Grand Avenue. A pre-event briefing was held.

The T-Hunt will ^{be} postponed from 10:00AM to 11:00AM on 3/16 due to Operation Welcome Home.

We received a nice letter and pictures of the station from Jeff Steinman, KROY, the recipient of the 1990 DX contest plaque for the W/VE Phone Single Operator - Assisted Class. The pictures made all the DXers green with envy.

The program this month on the DX Packet Cluster was presented by W6TKV. Fred explained how to obtain the latest DX news including what stations are being heard, QSL info, and propagation forecasts from WWV. He covered the basics of how the DX Packet Cluster is organized. According to Fred, the DX Packet Cluster is almost as good as a linear and a giant antenna farm for working DX.

There were two raffle winners; W6FUW won a 1-year ARRL membership and N6TAX won a big red brake light.

PROVERBS WITHOUT THE VOWELS

Can you provide the missing vowels in these well-known proverbs:

STTCHNTMSVSNN

BRDNTHHNSWRHTHTWNTHBSH

LKBFYRLP

THE DAY BEFORE THE LINEAR BLEW UP

One day as I sat musing, a voice came to me and said, "Cheer up, things could be worse." So I cheered up, and sure enough things did get worse. Anonymous

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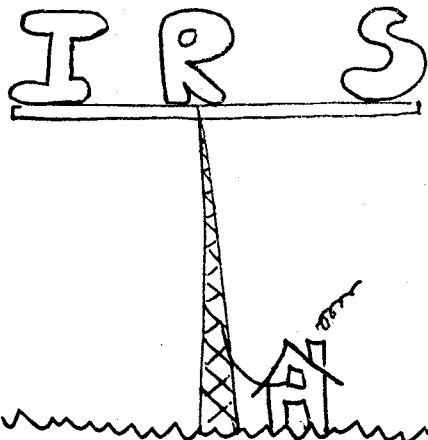
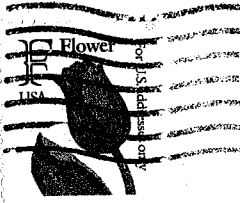
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