

# the *Circle City* **Communicator**

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ARRL Affiliated Club No 2108

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## Message From The President

QST, QST, QST...

THIS MESSAGE IS DIRECTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CORONA-NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

I want to thank Mark Costa, KB6GNZ, and Lt. Sam Speigal for the tour of the Corona Police Department. The tour was exciting and it was interesting to see how the police department works behind the scenes and what part amateur radio may play in Corona's future emergency plans.

I hope everyone who attended the Barney Oldfield Special Event Station had a good time. The bands were pretty crummy, but we still managed to make quite a few contacts and the QSL card I will have them at the next club meeting.

My thanks to all those who helped out and those who operated.

Don't forget about the club net on Mondays!!!

73's  
Mark, N6MWH

## Our Next Club Meeting Will Be . . .

Set Monday, October 5th, on your calendar for 7:30 pm at St. Edwards Church. The program will feature video highlights of our Field Day operation for 1992. Additionally, we'll have some of the latest video from the

ARRL. The evening should be a lot of fun so plan to be there and bring a friend.

## Club Breakfast Becomes Intimate . . .

We had a cozy group for the Wednesday morning breakfast which follows the Monday club meeting. Present were NF6Y, KC6YZU, KC6TWR, AND KC6GTI. We met at Hunny's as usual at 8am, and talked about Packet, computers, nets, and the swap meet - oh yes, and about all those who were not there. . .

## The Races Corner -

Mark Costa, KB6GNZ, reports that we can install the radio tower on the roof of the Police Department for the RACES antennas whenever we are ready. We already have the coax from the roof to the EOC, and we have a good operating position in the EOC. We should be in a position to provide a valuable service to the city in the event of a serious emergency. Lt. Spiegel also has an updated list of RACES members and phone numbers. Progress is rampant. . .

## Coming Events for Your Calendar -

October 10, Saturday - Corona Fireman's Assn. 5/10 K run. Need about 10 operators, have about 7. Call NF6Y - 735-0284.

October 17, Saturday, 9am to noon - A Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The scenario is a santa ana wind condition and a fire on the north side

of the river and west of the freeway. This will involve three counties: Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange. We will probably need quite a few operators mobile.

November 14, Saturday - Walk for education - 10 kilometers, and expect about 5,000 kids. Need about 10 operators- have 2. Call.

Peppermint Ridge - Talk to Santa - This will be about 7 pm and perhaps the 17th of December - date to be firmed up. This has been done for the past several years and is a lot of fun. Bob Leo, KJ6B, is an inspired 'Santa' with sleigh bells and all!

## Thursday Lunch Bunch Still Going . .

These guys meet at the Grinder at the north end of the Corona Mall every Thursday at 11:30. The attendance is from four to ten and the chief topic of conversation is -- of course, Ham Radio! Join us if you can, everyone is welcome.

## Barney Oldfield Takes To Airwaves

The Barney Oldfield Special Event Station went on the air this year (fourth year in a row) without a hitch.

It all started at 8 am Saturday morning the 12th of September at the pocket park at the corner of Garretson and East Grand Blvd. The station went up with the help of KB6GNZ, K6LEF and N6MWH. The HF6V vertical antenna went up, the station (an Icom735) was connected to the generator and with a few pulls of the starter and we were on the air.

Unfortunately, band conditions were pretty bad and by 12 o'clock there were only about 25 stations in the log book. These stations were from Oregon, California, Washington, Canada and Texas.

The afternoon crew did not do much better. They made another half page of contacts for a total of 44.

The operation went on till about 4 pm that afternoon and headed home by 4:30.

QSL cards are already starting to come in. For those in the club who have worked the special event station a QSL in your name will be waiting for you at the next club meeting.

In spite of the poor band conditions, all total there were about 15 hams who participated in either operating the station or helping with set-up or take-down.

A special thank to Mark-N6MWH and to co-chairman Mark-KB6GNZ.

## NiCd Batteries and the Memory Myth

by Mike Frasier - KC6TWR

Much has been written about amateur radio HT's and portable computers regarding the so-called "memory" problem with NiCd battery packs. Everyone hears the advice to regularly allow the battery pack to discharge fully and then to fully charge the pack to avoid having the batteries "learn" to have less capacity. The following article by David Essex appeared in the April 1991 issue of Portable Office Magazine.

### "Dispelling the NiCd Memory Myth"

An axiom of laptop power management says that you should fully discharge the battery before recharging it. If that's news to you, read the battery section of nearly any laptop manual. Supposedly, periodic "deep discharges" not only condition the battery, they ward off the dreaded memory effect: the tendency of the battery to "remember" its partial discharge levels and be an underachiever forevermore.

That's hogwash, says a Florida battery maker. Gates Energy Products asserts that memory in nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries is a myth. Not only that, it doubts that a deep-discharge regimen solves any of the problems that actually do shorten NiCd life. And Gates Energy has the results of extensive tests to prove it.

The company ran batteries from two manufacturers through 500 discharge/recharge cycles. Batteries were either fully discharged, drawn down to 75 percent capacity, or left slightly overcharged. In the end, the engineers found no significant differences in the capacities of the test group.

"A lot of things happen that people may think is memory," says Red Scholefield, manager of technical marketing for Gates Energy. In reality, he says, memory hasn't been detected since the early 1960s when NASA discovered it in NiCd satellite batteries. Today, it can only occur under optimal time and temperature conditions.

But a lot of equally credible people seem to believe otherwise, including most laptop vendors and companies that sell power management products. Foremost among the latter group is Traveling Software Inc., whose Battery Watch contains a utility that performs automatic deep discharging. Spokesman Marci Maule insists "that something is occurring that prevents the NiCd battery from reaching full charge."

Gates Energy doesn't deny that NiCd batteries

deteriorate over time - the rule of thumb is that they run down to half their capacity after 500 full discharges or seven years, whichever comes first. NiCd's can fail for a variety of reasons, according to engineer Jon Eager. One of the most common problems - overcharging followed by frequent shallow discharging - can lead to a condition called voltage depression, which is apparently caused by crystallization of battery chemicals. The resulting low voltage can cause the computer's (or HT's) power system to prematurely shut off, which it is programmed to do upon detecting large voltage fluctuations. There is no reliable cure, Eager says, other than good design.

Are deep discharges still worth doing, albeit for different reasons? Probably not. "Most people are overly concerned about it," says Tom Sherrard, product manager at Toshiba, whose manuals recommend periodic deep discharges. "If they want, they can do it occasionally and make sure to turn around three times and throw salt over their shoulder."

I found this Article very interesting and I think that you will also. It will not, I am sure, end the debate about NiCd batteries and the "memory" issue, but at least now we have some facts to deal with.....*Mike Frasier*

## We Want Your Opinion

Its nearing that time of year when we start thinking about our year end awards, more specifically, the Ham of The Year and the Grand Order of the Ground Loop awards. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these two prestigious awards, please let Mark-N6MWH know as soon as possible.

## Phone RFI Update

You can't get the RF out of a telephone? Some phones are beyond cost-effective cures - ferrites, bypass capacitors, etc. Also, FCC Bulletin FO-10 says, "...only authorized service technicians may internally modify telephone instruments."

And remember, if you modify a neighbor's telephone, you may be liable if it quits operating later - even if the cause is a nearby lightning strike.

The FCC has published a flyer titled *Some Facts ... About Telephone Interference*, that offers helpful hints on finding and solving telephone RFI problems.

If the telephone is the problem, the

easiest fix is to replace it with a RFI-proof phone such as those supplied by TCE Laboratories (RR9, Box 243D, New Braunfels, TX 78133 - 1-800/545-5884).

The company offers a wide variety of phones, line filters, and related products, all money-back guaranteed to solve RFI problems.

This article is not meant to promote TCE - just mentioning their products as a solution to difficult telephone RFI problems.

from the April '92 'OK Corral,' of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club

## A Full Gallon

When I first got into VHF FM in the early 70's, I could only afford a Motorola 80D - which had been "pre-owned" by about every other ham in town. This hefty critter had a vibrator-powered receiver, and a dynamotor for the transmitter.

Vibrators, being sort of sealed, are tame enough, but a dynamotor's brushes put on a nice arc-show - visible through slots.

This story came with the radio. About three owners back, a fellow had done the installation right, drilling 4 mounting holes through the floor of his car's trunk - except that he drilled one a little too deep, through the top of the gas tank! One day after topping off, when he keyed up the rig he heard a loud WHUMP! - followed by a clatter as the trunk lid came back down.

Sorta makes you appreciate an IC2SAT doesn't it?

from the Sept. '91 Austin ARC 'AARCOVER

## Joe Gets High

Joe, who liked to drink wine  
Put radials down in a mine.  
When Kilo-Watt loaded  
From gas, mine exploded,  
And Joe got high on a pine.  
- AF6S (1991)

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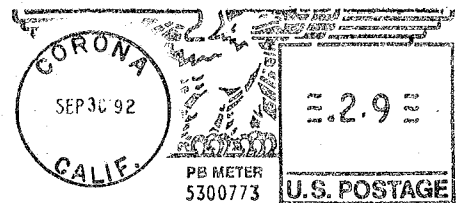
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