



The Circle City Communicator



May 1993

Volume IX

Issue No. 5

President's Soapbox

I hope everyone had a happy Easter.

We are considering changing our meeting place to the Senior Citizens Center. It is located at the corner of Belle and Tenth St. in Corona. A trial meeting will be held at that location for the June 7th General Meeting at 7:30 pm. We will take a vote at that meeting to determine if the membership wishes to continue meeting there or return to St. John's.

We are planning a special Christmas party at the Center. Larry Van Nimwegan, KB6GQE, has offered to supply his disc jockey services; also being considered is a pot luck dinner. If we go for it, we will need a planning and coordinating committee for the food, etc. Any volunteers?

The Constitution is in the works and I hope we can have copies available at the June meeting.

73 and HAPPY HAMMING. See you at the Meeting, looks like we will have an interesting program.

Dick N6XUC

FIELD DAY
June 26 and 27,
1993

CNARC Meeting May Presentation

Topic: NTS Message Handling

Date/Time: May 3, 7:30 pm

At the next meeting, Art Sutorous, KC6YRH, will talk about the ARRL National Traffic System Message Handling. If you have a copy of the ARRL Net Directory, an outline is included starting at page 60. You don't have to have any special equipment to send a message, and anyone can originate a message. The best part is that it's free, now how can you beat that?

Again, I would like to remind everyone that we still need volunteers for the upcoming "Field Day" event (June 26 & 27). We need "Station Chiefs" for each of the 4 or 5 stations to be responsible for obtaining the equipment and personnel needed to operate the station for the duration of the event. The Field Day Chairman (KN6CV) will have a first cut copy of the Field Day Plan available to those who plan to participate in the event. Last year we had press coverage and several members pictures showed up in the paper the next day. So plan to Ham it up with some of the other members of CNARC this year at Field Day.

After the business portion of the meeting, two (five chance) quick picks and a 50/50 prize will be raffled off.

The Program Committee
Norm Musselman, KN6CV
Art Sutorous, KC6YRH

CNARC General Meeting

(Cont'd from previous column)

President N6XUC called the April 5th meeting to order at 7:42 pm followed by introductions.

KC6YRH gave the Treasurer's report: Balance is \$681.60 and the Equipment Fund has \$31.00.

Per NF6Y, upcoming RACES events will be the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 10 and the Run for the Crown 5/10k on May 8.

Larry Van Nimwegen, KB6GQE, has volunteered his services as a disc jockey to provide music for listening and dancing at this years Christmas Party. The tentative location will be the R&R room at the Corona Senior Center.

The Board has looked into moving the location of the monthly meetings to the Corona Senior Center. We already have the beginnings of a club station and also hold the radio classes there. This will be discussed and voted on at next month's meeting.

W6TKV requested that those who have not already returned the Elmer Survey to him please do so as soon as possible.
(Cont'd next column)

Two of our members, Ron Hansen, KD6TPV, and Larry Jensen, KD6TPU, not only received their new callsigns but also were winners of the LOTTO Tickets from the raffle. As usual, N6XUC was the winner of the 50/50. Dick donated \$17 to the Equipment Fund. Marcie, KD6QFA won an Advanced Class manual and Doc, WA6ZKZ won a "World Radio".

The program for the evening was presented by Fred, W6TKV. He covered the basics of both HF and VHF antenna systems from dipoles and verticals to Yagi beams.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by AF6F

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Corona Norco Amateur Radio Club

ARRL Affiliated Club #2108
P.O. Box 1873
Corona, California 91718

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MET ON THE NET

Bill and Penelope met
On a 2-meter traffic net.
The message he sent her:
"Be a consenter
To a dinner at La Poullet."

She said, "Please stay in
your hamshack...
In a minute, I'll give you
a callback,
For it can't be just me;
It will have to be three,
I'll go ask my spouse,
the fullback."

AF6S (1992)
from ARNs, April 1993

RACES CORNER

(Cont'd from previous column)...

April was a busy month for RACES. On the third we had two events for which we provided communications. There was the Corona Host Lions 25/50 mile bike ride (I like to point out that the Lions fed us Christians for a change - we got a free lunch, that is...), and almost simultaneously there was the Day of the Child at the RCC Norco Campus. Both events' sponsors expressed appreciation for our efforts.

Then on April 10, there was the Corona Parks and Recreation Department Easter Egg Hunt at four of the Corona parks which were spread between Parkview and Ridgeline Parks - almost at the east and west ends of Corona. Some relay action was required to communicate with all four. But once again, through the miracle of Amateur Radio, information was passed as needed.

For the bike race and for the parks events we used a J-Pole on an extension pole to provide better communications. We could use a couple more of these enhancers. In some cases we might have hauled a 300 ohm twinlead J-Pole into a tree, but there were others where there were no trees, and some degree of mobility was needed. We shall have to investigate the use of the 220 MHz KB6JVA repeater in Corona to help this situation.

The next item of note is the Run For The Crown, sponsored by the Corona Parks Dept. on May 8 starting at the Corona High School Track at 0730 - we should be there by 0700. We will need seven or eight operators with handhelds (or mobiles). We will have an open mike at the Start so everyone will know exactly when the races start. Thus you will be able to start your

(Cont'd next column).....

watches and holler elapsed time to the runners as they pass. Some fun. So far we have three operators - we need 5 more. They've promised a commemorative T-shirt to each ham who helps out.....

I talked with Capt. Franck of the Norco Fire Department the other day and he wondered if any hams would be available to install ham equipment in the new Norco EOC when it arrives. Of course I volunteered us to a man/woman! Capt. Franck has been holding orientation/discussion group meetings in Norco to help prepare for "THE BIG ONE" - April 15, 19, and 26. The big one is the kind of event when we will all be needed. I think we RACES folk will be ready but I'm not sure the city will know how to use us with all the chaos that is sure to be. Keep your batteries charged...

73 de NF6Y

ORDER YOUR CNARC BADGES & JACKETS NOW!!

Place your order
at the next General Meeting.

See Art, KC6YRH.

Badges: \$5.00 each
Jackets: \$30.00 each

QST QST QST

As you probably know, this year is Riverside County's 100th birthday. Many Riverside County cities, towns and civic groups will be celebrating this centennial with special events.

The Riverside County Amateur Radio Association, W6TJ, is sponsoring special event stations to commemorate the centennial occurring May 2 through May 16. We plan to use 75/80 meters on HF, and various VHF, UHF, and packet frequencies. Times and frequencies will be provided after the next RCARA board meeting.

An attractive certificate will be available to amateurs working the W6TJ special event stations. Send your QSL card plus \$1.00 to W6TJ, 7360 Whitegate Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506, and the certificate will be flat-mailed to you in a 10"x12" envelope.

In the first two weeks of May we will concentrate on working as many stations as possible in Riverside County. After that, we may target out-of-county stations.

We hope that as many county hams as possible will qualify for this certificate. It has even been suggested that the QSLs received be placed in a capsule to be opened 100 years hence. Remember, if you don't get this certificate, it will be another 100 years until the bicentennial!

Please pass this information to your club members. I hope to work you on one of the special event stations in May.

73

Dick Birbeck, K6CID, Chairman
Riverside County Amateur Radio Association Centennial Committee

Plans for CNARC Radio Room

N6XUC has been working on establishing a CNARC club station at the Senior Center. Originally, this station was set up to act as an emergency station and it will still serve that purpose. To make it work when we need it, however, we need to have a station that enjoys regular use by CNARC members. This will serve as an excellent way for new licensees to get onto the low bands. At present, we have a 2M rig (NF6Y loan), an HW-101 5-band transceiver, a 2M J-Pole, and some wire antennas.

Plans are afoot to expand and update the equipment. W6TKV and KC6VUY are acting as the Equipment Fund Raising Committee. They have established an equipment list for review by the Board and are developing a fund raising plan. The more this committee can raise, the better the end result will be.

All donations will be acknowledged both in the newsletter and on a permanent plaque to be displayed in the radio room.

73 de Fred, W6TKV

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Digital Digest

by Mike Frasier, KC6TWR
KC6TWR

@KD7XG.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA

One of the most daunting and confusing parts of packet radio is the physical connections between the TNC, the computer, and the radio. Because the manufacturers of TNCs have no way of knowing what kind of radio the TNC buyer will have, or what brand of computer will be used, they include the necessary cables with the TNC, but with connectors on the TNC end only. Of course they include instructions on how to hook the radio connector on the radio end of the cable, and instructions on how to hook the computer connector on the computer end of the cable. If you are knowledgeable about RS-232 ports, and radio mic or accessory ports it can be very easy. But, if you are like me and have a phobia about solder, then there has to be an easier way. There is!!!! MFJ, the maker of many HAM radio products, has come up with a complete series of pre-wired connecting cables for the most common radios and TNCs. They also have a neat little box that allows you to switch from microphone to TNC and back with just the push of a button, since TNCs are typically connected to the microphone port of your radio.

The MFJ-1272B is the TNC/MIC switch that I have been using for nearly a year, and I wouldn't be without it. I can leave my microphone plugged into the MFJ box and the box plugged into my radio, my TNC, and an external speaker. In the MIC position, the microphone audio is passed to the radio, and radio audio is sent to the external speaker, so I can use the radio for normal voice communications. In the TNC position, the TNC output and push-to-talk (PTT) control is sent to the radio, and the very annoying packet noise is shut off from the external speaker (much to my XYLs relief). I ordered the box from my favorite ham radio supplier and when it arrived I had it hooked up and (Cont'd next column).....

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working in about 5 minutes. No muss, no fuss, and no solder.

The other cables that MFJ provides are pre-wired at both ends for TNC and radio. The MFJ catalog has a very clear table to help you determine which cable to order depending on the make of TNC and the radio that you will use for packet whether the radio is a mobile, base, or HT. I purchased the cable for my HT and my TNC and had the whole system working in under 5 minutes.

So, if you don't want to mess with confusing instructions, soldering irons, solder, and connectors, and just want to hook it all up and get on the air, look at the MFJ catalog for the correct combination of cables. With every bit of good news comes a bit of bad. You will have to work out the TNC to computer connection on your own. It's fairly easy and there may be standard serial (or RS-232) cables that will work. Ask someone in the radio club, or your local computer guru for some advice. Good luck and when you get on the packet channels, send me a message at my packet address listed above. If you don't know how to send me a message, be patient. We'll talk about that next month.



Vital D. Lourenco
Lino D. Lourenco

283 W. 6th Street
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Give Me a Break!

The wreck on the interstate was a bad one. Steve pulled to the shoulder, grabbed his mike, and waited for a pause on the repeater. Soon the station stopped transmitting and Steve yelled "Break!" But when he released the mike button, someone else was talking.

When that guy stopped, Steve yelled "Break! Break!" but again the yakking continued. Finally one of them heard Steve's frantic call and said, "Breaker, you can have it in a minute" He then described his burnt scrambled eggs at breakfast.

Eventually they let Steve in and he called for police and an ambulance. No one died in that wreck, but Steve later told how helpless he had felt with a microphone in his hand but no way to communicate.

Repeaters have courtesy tones to remind hams to pause between transmissions. Remember: neglecting to pause could extend someone's suffering or even cost someone's life. Think about it. Scrambled eggs or a life - the choice could be yours!

Break...

The word break has a specific meaning. When you say "Break" you're telling others "Stop. Emergency!" Never use the word just to enter a conversation. Others, doing just that, may have dulled that egg scrambler's mind, so he didn't respond with alacrity.

To enter a conversation, just say your call and wait to be acknowledged assuming, that is, the yakkers leave a gap.

And, if you hear someone say "Break", treat the situation as an emergency. If it isn't, don't embarrass the offender on the repeater, but a discrete phone call might be in order. (Cont'd next column).....

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To avoid making the person wrong - a sure way to offend the person and destroy your effectiveness - explain the protocol on this repeater, as if it might be different on some other repeater.

by Bill Binn, N8POV

from ARNS April 1993 from the October '92 'Carascope'-K8NIO Editor via the December '92 Lancaster County (South Carolina) ARC 'Newsletter'-Lori Robbins, KQ4GJ Editor

Be On The Lookout.....

Art, KC6YRH, was out of town for a few days a couple of weeks ago. While he was gone, someone entered his home and now his Yaesu FT-411 2 meter handheld is missing. The serial number is SN 1L511641. If you happen to see it around or hear of someone with one to sell, please contact the authorities.

ZAP

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CNARC FINANCIAL REPORT
(04/05/93)

PERIOD BEGINNING: 3/1/93
PERIOD ENDING: 4/5/93

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE(3/1/93):-----\$650.75

INCOME

Income-----

1993 Dues.....\$ 70.00
KD6KRI/WA6YOJ/KC6SMK & WB6TFK(Family)
KC6NZU/KC6AEV/D. McClintock(No Call)

Advertising (AirPro Online).....\$ 25.00
Raffle Receipts(Note 1).....\$ 84.00

Income Subtotal-----\$179.00

EXPENSES

Expenses-----

Communicator Expenses.....\$63.48
(M. Frasier)

Club Badges/Lotto Tickets.....\$45.20
(A. Sutorus)

Reproduction Costs.....\$ 8.08
(N. Musselman)

Engraving Costs.....\$ 5.39
(M. Adams)

Club Business Cards.....\$15.00
(T. Deiro)

Raffle Cash Door Prizes.....\$11.00

Expenses Subtotal-----\$148.15

Current Balance-----\$681.60

Note: \$31.00 designated to equipment fund (Current fund balance - \$31.00).

Submitted by:



Art Sutorus, KC6YRH
Treasurer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, May 3, 1993, 7:30 pm	General Club Meeting St. John's Episcopal Church 526 Magnolia Avenue, Corona
Wednesday, May 5, 1993, 8:00 am	Monthly CNARC Breakfast Location to be announced. Check-in on local frequency.
Tuesday, May 11, 1993, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting Grinder's Restaurant South Main Street, Corona
Saturday, May 15, 1993, 10:00 am	Monthly T-hunt Check-in on local frequency.
Monday Night Nets, 8:00 pm	Weekly except the first Monday of the month. Check-in on 146.535 Mhz.
Thursdays, 11:30 am	Thursday Lunch Bunch

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