

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

July 2008 – Editor: Fred Roberts, w6tkv@aceweb.com – ARRL Affiliated Club #2108

JULY 7th PROGRAM

We are very fortunate in having Michael Schofield, N6OKG presenting a program titled *An Introduction to Emergency Communication Under Crisis Conditions*. He is a very interesting, well informed speaker and his topic is right on the money for our current need to become more skilled so as to better serve the Norco Fire EOC in this area.

We hope everyone will make an effort to be at our meeting on Monday evening.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

Well, folks, we had a good time with Field Day, and managed to keep the RF going out in a rarely steady stream.

Ten of our Members spent a lot of time saying, "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey Six Papa Whiskey Tango". The stalwart 10 were Carlos-KC6CZT, Dan-KC0UYG, Dave-KI6LYZ, Dick- AF6F, Frank-KE6NZB, Fred-W6TKV, Joe-KO6XB, Larry-KI6DCG, Norm-KN6CV, and Perry-AE6GQ.

Our visitors during Field Day were Lloyd-W6HXS who cheered on the troops, Frank de Boer who made sure we didn't burn down the building, Luis-KP4DX who was a club member decades ago renewed friendships, Dick Norton-N6AA our Division Director stopped by to cheer us on, Steve Grudzinski-AD6HT and his XYL Ginny visited representing the Orange Section.

We definitely improved over the 2007 Field Day results. The ARRL results show we ended up with 218 QSOs, a score of 786 Points, and in 1,608th place out of a total of 2,333 clubs. Our final report has to be sent to the ARRL by the end of July, so our results will be posted in the next Circle City Communicator.

THE CNARC STORY

Our repeater – 147.060/+ MHz, PL-162.2 Hz

WebSite – <http://www.w6pwt.org>

Articles to your Editor at w6tkv@arrl.net

Our next meeting will be at 7:00PM, on Monday, August 4th.

T-HUNT SAGA

The T-hunt was held on Saturday, July 5th. Norm-KN6CV was the hidden T since Dave-KI6LYZ was unable to make it.

The hunters were Fred-W6TKV, Joe-KO6XB, and Perry-AE6GQ. It appears all hunters arrived in the general area without too much difficulty, but only Perry had the sense to start searching on what appeared to be Private Property. Norm claimed it wasn't posted, so there was no reason not to hide there.

Sometime soon, therefore, your Editor plans to hide the Hidden T in Nom's Huge Garden Patch behind his home. This is OK, you see, because it isn't posted.

Our next T-Hunt will take place on Saturday, August 2nd at 10:00 AM at St. John's Church. Mr. Fox will be Perry-AE6GQ.

All members are welcome to ride along with one of the hunters. Lunch always follows the hunt at Norco's Best on Hamner Avenue in Norco.

CA HANDS-FREE LAW GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1, HAM'S NOT AFFECTED SAYS COUNSEL

A new California hands-free cellular telephone law goes into effect July 1st. It, like many others around the country, prohibits using mobile telephones while driving, unless a hands-free device is utilized. ARRL has received numerous questions about its application to the use of mobile Amateur Radio stations by licensed amateurs. The law, in relevant part, states as follows:

"23123. (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving."

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, advises that "The definition of prohibited behavior in California's recent statute does not include a prohibition of operating a mobile,

CA HANDS-FREE LAW (continued)

licensed Amateur Radio station while driving, because Amateur Radio transceivers are not telephones. While ARRL cannot guarantee that this statute will not be interpreted by law enforcement officers or the courts of California more broadly than that, it is our view that a fair reading of the statute excludes mobile operation of Amateur Radio equipment by licensed radio amateurs.

"That said, it is obvious that drivers should pay full time and attention to driving. To the extent that operating their amateur stations while mobile is a distraction to them, they should consider, if possible, pulling over safely to the side of the road and conducting their amateur communications while stationary."

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, adds that while the statute on its face does not apply to Amateur Radio mobile operation, problems could still arise: "Law enforcement officers are not telecommunications experts and may not understand or be concerned about the difference between a cellular telephone and a ham radio. If you do get stopped, be polite and state that you were operating a mobile Amateur Radio transmitter as specifically authorized by the FCC and not a wireless telephone. Don't engage in an argument if the officer issues a citation -- that won't help your cause. If cited, you will need to follow the instructions about contesting the citation in traffic court.

As ARRL General Counsel Imlay notes, the language of the statute does not appear to include amateur mobile operation. Unfortunately, you could have to go through the inconvenience of appearing in court to contest a citation."

ARRL will continue to monitor the application of this statute relative to radio amateurs.

From The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 24, 6/20/08

MORE FROM CARL, W6UD . . .

. . . OUR SECTION MANAGER

The new California State law went into effect July 1st which prohibits you to talk on your Cell Phone.

If you are 18 and under and a ham: You cannot talk on a cell phone or your amateur radio while driving. If, however, you are 18 years and older and a ham: Do not drive while

using cell phone unless you have an ear piece (one ear only). You may use your Amateur Radio.

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL E-MAIL

Date: Tue, 27 May 2008 07:48:20 -0700

From: Fran Clader <FClader@chp.ca.gov>

Subject: New Cell Phone Laws - July 1, 2008

The new cell phone laws involve only wireless telephones. They do not concern radios such as your (Amateur Radios), unless they are also wireless telephones.

Again, the law only applies to wireless telephones.

Thanks for your inquiry. If you have any further questions, please give us a call. Or, you can call your local San Diego area CHP office.

Fran Clader

Commander

Office of Media Relations

California Highway Patrol

(916) 657-7202

CNARC Members Note: If you do operate mobile, it might be wise for you to carry a copy of your FCC License in the glove compartment of your car and a copy of the forgoing e-mail from Commander Clader of the California Highway Patrol.

Otherwise, it would be just like the guy handing you a ticket right after he says, "And, what do you have that supports what you are saying?"

WEDNESDAY EVENING NET

Field Day really ate into all other events simply because that event demanded our full attention.

Hopefully, we can get back on track with our Wednesday evening nets. There was some pre-FD discussion turning our net into a controlled net instead of a do-what-you-want net. The free wheeling net is the way we started, and that exposed those who might do a great job in the NCS role (NCS means Net Control Station).

LICENSE UPGRADE

Just as a matter of curiosity, is anyone interested in upgrading from Technician to General Class? Your Editor has come up with a method which he believes might work well for anyone.