

# THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

## FINAL FIELD DAY RESULTS

Well, we filed our 2008 Field Day entry on time. As noted in last month's issue, we improved our 2007 Field Day score of 218 QSOs and a total score of 786 Points. Our 2008 results were 558 QSOs with a total score of 1,578. These numbers reflect our QSO count improved 156%, and our score by 100%. Let's repeat these same gains again in 2009!

Our Iron Man was Joe-KO6XB who logged 258 QSOs, the most of anyone. Those next in line were Fred-W6TKV with 181 Qs; Dick-AF6F with 66 Qs; and Dan-KC0UYG with 23 Qs. Our 10 man team included: Carlos-KD6CZT, Dave-KI6LYG, Frank-KE6NZB, Larry-KI6DCG, Norm-KN6CV, and Perry-AE6GQ.

We certainly made no effort to build up our total Bonus Points, and so that area would seem a reasonable target for 2009. On the operating side, we could do a few things - 1) add 6M and VHF activity, and 2) separate the 40M and 80M dipoles allowing us to operate on both bands through the night, and 3) a GOTA Station (GOTA = Get On The Air) possibly staffed by a Boy Scout troop. If GOTA was to happen, we would require an outdoor GOTA station which might just function on Saturday from 11:00 AM to dusk.

We will place Field Day 2009 on our April 2009 calendar as a FD starting point.

## CNARC DATA

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 is scheduled for 7:00PM, on the first Monday of the month. Every member was sent a notice asking their preference for the first Monday, September 1st or the second Monday, September 8th. The retirees have nothing but days off, and sometimes find it hard to tell one day from the next - thank goodness for calendars. ☺

The date members prefer most will be announced at our August 4th meeting.

## JULY 29th EARTH QUAKE

For a few moments last Tuesday, many of us wondered if the earthquake was in fact the one scheduled for November's exercise but mistakenly delivered early. At least that was the first thought of Fred-W6TKV who just happened to be in our Radio Room wrapping up Field Day data when the shaking started.

Some members popped up on the repeater almost instantly, and W6TKV later realized it would have been a lot more interesting had he come on the repeater as W6PWT asking for check-ins as soon as the shaking stopped (another Lesson Learned). Kim-N6KNL popped up on frequency and reported the 5.4 quake was in Chino Hills. Dave-KI6LWZ and Norm-KN6CV also checked in - sorry if any check-ins were missed.

Of interest, with all the shaking, nothing fell off the Radio Room shelves above the operating positions. Guess we are just not used to the jiggle and wiggle routine.

## STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Field Day gave us an excellent opportunity to see how things work when 2 operators sit side-by-side for an extended period of time - something that certainly would happen during a serious emergency (or even the November exercise).

All in all, we really did get to see how the EOC worked for us, and noted several items we must address in order to make the radio room work better for us.

- 1) We need a sound barrier between each of the 2 or 3 operators on duty in an emergency. The best barrier might be one which could be installed or removed as needed.
- 2) The present foot switches are hard to use due to their thickness at the front end of the switch. The supporting squares worked well.
- 3) With two HF operators using the Heil headsets, the operator on the right could hear his own voice in his right ear, and the operator on the left also heard that same voice in his

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right ear. Noteworthy, the second headset hooked in parallel with the operator's headset did not display this effect - suggesting a choke might resolve an RF problem on the Heils.

4) In an emergency, having 2-3 operators with a closed door for sound control, there will be a need for a new exhaust vent for air circulation.

5- We need to have a training class on IC-7000 features and controls, as well as one for the VHF radio.

6- If we have 2 operators working through Saturday night, then moving the 40M dipole to a separate coax line would be very helpful - a switch on the multi-band vertical and a 40M dipole should do the trick.

## AUGUST T-HUNT

Our August T-Hunt will be held on August 2nd. With our meeting just 2 days later, a verbal report will be made, and there will be a commentary in our next edition of the Circle City Communicator.

Our Hunters will be Norm-KN6CV, Dave-KI6LYZ (unless he has a photo assignment), and Fred-W6TKV (who may have a co-pilot - Nathan, a grandson from MN - younger brother of Dan-KC0UYG who was with us for Field Day).

Our Sly Fox will be Perry-AE6GQ who will hide within our hunting boundaries - 91 Freeway, 60 Freeway, 71 Freeway and all of Corona. It is quite a large enough area.

Our hunts start at 10:00 AM from St. John's Church located on the corner of Magnolia and Ontario Avenues in Corona.

Anyone who would like to ride along with one of the hunters and get a taste of T-Hunting is welcome to join us. Our hunts usually take 1 to 1-1/2 hours, and always end up for lunch at Norco's Best on Hamner Avenue (halfway between 4th and 5th Streets).

Best of all, if you are a ride-along, you will get a free ride back to the starting point where your car will be patiently awaiting your return.

## 40M/80M ANTENNA

Our 80M dipole was a mono-band antenna. With Field Day coming up, it was converted into a 40M/80M dual-band antenna, and the photo shows that work in progress. It all worked very well for us during Field Day.

## AN INTERESTING QUESTION

Field Day is sponsored by the ARRL, our national radio association. It is many things to many people. It is considered 1) an Emergency Drill, 2) a Contest, 3) an Outing with lots of food and lots of talk, 4) a Get Together for a restful weekend, 5) a good time to introduce Technicians to the wonderful world of ham radio, and so on.

Field Day is always held on the 4th weekend of June - not the last weekend since every so often, a 5 week June pops up.

The Field Day exchange between stations is always a class (we were 2F indicating 2 transmitters and being in an EOC), and always your ARRL Section (we are in Orange which is abbreviated ORG and passed along as Oscar Romeo Golf) - thus our exchange was "2F ORG".

What was especially curious this year was the number of ARRL Sections we contacted - there are a total of 80 sections used in Field day - the 71 Sections in the U.S, and 9 more in Canada.

Anyone care to guess how many of these 80 Sections were contacted by W6PWT during Field Day? The answer suggests there is still room for improvement. Your guess?

## THE MIKE & KEY CLUB

In 2007, Dan-KC0UYG and Fred-W6TKV spent Field Day with this club at Fort Flagler State Park on the Olympic Peninsula near Seattle. This site has 4.5 miles of salt water to the east and also 10 miles to the south. In 2008, this club operated Class 6A with Phone on 15M, 20M, 40M, 10M/80M/Digital, CW stations on 20M/80M and 15M/40M, a GOTA station, and a VHF station on 6M, 2M, 440MHz - the club ended up with 3,912 Qs.

