

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

VE TESTING AT CNARC

Well, CNARC is back in the VE Testing business. We first became active during the huge influx of Technician Class licenses a decade or more ago. Our club even won an ARRL Contest which was awarded to the club with the best recruiting plan. Our plan was simple: Any newcomer to ham radio who took the FCC test offered by our team received free membership for the balance of the calendar year. In fact, the letter we submitted to the ARRL ended with the sentence: "Now that you have heard all about our plan which really works, you can just send the computer to us!" They did! And, our treasury was fattened when we sold the prize to one of our members.

Dick-AF6F, Perry-AE6QT and Fred-W6TKV recently contacted the ARRL (already being ARRL VEs), and were able to arrange CNARC's first VE Test in a long time.

Our VE Test Session was held on September 13th with Dave-KI6LYZ and Jim-KD6ECI taking the General Class test. Both passed with flying colors, and were immediately able to operate on the General Class bands. Their updates appeared in the FCC records on September 18th, just 5 days after up-grading.

T-HUNT & PICNIC - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

In October, the first Saturday falls before the first Monday, our regular meeting date.

Saturday, however, is a dual function day. First and foremost, our Club Picnic will be held at the Naval Surface Warfare Center - in Norco, on 5th Street, just west of Hamner. If you plan to attend, be sure to advise Norm-KN6CV as you must be on an attendance list which will be checked by their Security people. Whomever is on the list, gets in - and those who are not on the list, just don't get in.

Since this is our T-Hunt day, there will be an HT T-Hunt to find a nearby hidden T. Also, if you are into Geocaching - bring your GPS. a great opportunity for all other members to try another "hide and seek" game.



Current CNARC VE Team - Fred, Dick & Perry



General Class: Dave-KI6LYZ and Jim-KD6ECI

THE CNARC STORY

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

2M Net - NOW ON Tuesday at 7:00PM

WebSite – www.w6pwt.org

Articles to your Editor at w6tkv@arrl.net

Our next meeting will be at 7:00PM, on Monday, October 6th

THE WEEKLY 2M NET

This past week, Jim-KD6EI, who recently has "role call duty" noted the occasional conflict between our RACES meetings and the 2M nets. He suggested moving the net, and it was agreed the future nets will be on **Tuesdays at 7:00PM** (Larry proposed 8:00PM, but hasn't come on, so ...)

EXTRA CLASS

Several of our club members hold Extra Class licenses. Your VE Team could certainly use your participation. Our plan is to hold "appointment only" testing on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30PM - right after our T-Hunt. Testing is at our meeting location, and we must have 3 VEs at each VE session. Your participation will allow us the ability to cover every session, especially those where one of the current VE Team has another engagement. Right now, we are at the absolute minimum level - 3 VEs.

Any questions? E-mail W6TKV.

CHANGES IN IECARO

The Inland Empire Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (IECARO, pronounced eye-carro) was founded in 1995. Jerry VerDuft, AD0A, was the key organizer in forming IECARO, and now resides in Colorado Springs, CO, but used to live in Riverside. The council's purpose was to manage the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention once every 4 years wherein our Member organizations shared the proceeds of each sponsored conventions. This turned into a lot of work by relatively few club members, but yielded over \$1,000 on our first outing in 1996.

Over the years (1996, 2000 and 2004), KN6CV has handled the Convention Program twice, and W6TKV has handled the W1AW/6 Special Event Station. During the first convention, W6TKV also managed the Exhibits task, and Joe-KO6XB and his XYL, Gwen assisted with the second Convention Program.

In 2000, CNARC earned ~\$100 less than 1996; and in 2004, about ~\$100 less than 2000. IECARO didn't get started early enough to organize everything for the 2009 convention.

As a result of latest occurrence, an IECARO meeting was held on September 27th and the Delegates present (KN6CV and W6TKV attended as CNARC Delegates) voted not to manage the 2009 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, and at the same meeting, elected a new slate of Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). The essential plan is for IECARO to provide the Member organizations (each club is a Member - capital M, and members are all those who belong to each Member organization, CNARC in our case.)

There are currently three existing Member oriented benefits to IECARO membership - these were established after the first successful ARRL Southwestern Division Convention. Each of these benefits were intended as a means of retaining Member organizations during "dry" the years in-between conventions. They are:

- 1- IECARO provides no-charge handling of Outgoing DX QSL Cards via the Outgoing ARRL QSL Bureau. This is normally mail and handling costs absorbed by each individual in sending his own DX QSL cards. This benefit is used more during times of better propagation.
- 2- An IECARO Raffle was implemented wherein all ticket proceeds are solely used for prizes. Thus, if the first Raffle ticket sales were \$1,234. but the named Prizes cost only \$934., the difference of \$300. would be maintained in a Raffle account and cannot be used for any other purpose than future prizes.
- 3- An Annual Field Day contest which was started many years ago wherein each club has the opportunity to win the traveling trophy and have bragging rights for the year. Past single-year and multi-year winners have included Citrus Belt ARC, Corona Norco ARC, Golden Triangle ARC, Inland Empire ARC, and Riverside County ARC.

The new Board intends to provide each Member organization with support in aiding them to enhance their club overall operations - this might include such things as:

- 1- Putting together an annual council-wide get together which might include a swap-meet, picnic, as well as undefined events.
- 2 - Circulating club newsletters to each Member organization.
- 3 - Advising each Member of a club's upcoming program speakers and inviting their attendance whenever they wish.

To be sure, there is a definite sense of IECARO moving forward and some of that early-year excitement the council has slowly been losing in recent years has returned.

We are all indebted to Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Orange Section Manager, who was the key player in getting the IECARO council together and acting as a facilitator. His efforts were appreciated by all Delegates present at the meeting held at the Yucaipa Valley ARC clubhouse.