

# THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

CNARC has always had a Christmas Party on the date of our December meetings - and this year is no exception.

Carlos - KD6CZT stepped up and offered to chair the arrangements for the dinner which will be held at the Home Town Buffet in their "group" dining room - just ask when paying on entry. The price for dinner is reasonable, there is a large selection of salads, foods and deserts - and you can eat as much or as little as you wish.

For those who have never left home, the HTB is located just off the 91 freeway in the same shopping center as COSTCO and Home Depot.

We hope all members join the gala with their XYLs or YLs - we say "or" as it seems wise members will bring one of the other, but not both. Those who bring both are likely to be joining the ranks of SKs in very short order. ☺

**Don't miss this party!**

## THE CNARC STORY

Our repeater – 147.060/+ MHz, PL-162.2 Hz  
2M Net - Every Wednesday at 7:00PM except when RACES meetings are held

WebSite – [www.w6pwt.org](http://www.w6pwt.org)

Articles to your Editor at [w6tkv@arrl.net](mailto:w6tkv@arrl.net)

Our next meeting will be at 7:00PM, on Monday, January 5th.

Next VE Test Session, 1:30PM on 1/3/09 by appointment only. Call 687-8145.

## WHO READ THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER?

Answer: At best, it's debatable. However, it seems like the politically correct answer is zero.

We were supposed to hold our annual elections in November, but somehow Fred-W6TKV forgot to include it in the agenda - and no one raised the point.

So, there will be a breakthrough when we hold our November election in January! It is so exciting to break new ground!

Maybe there is a place in the Guinness Book of Records for CNARC. On second thought, it is probably already held by the World-Wide Procrastinators Club.

As a reminder, the article in the November issue is included in this issue.

## ELECTIONS

*November has been the traditional month for CNARC elections. And, so they will be held during our next meeting.*

*As you know from having read our Constitution and By-Laws, we are operating under a Management Committee with three members - Fred-W6TKV, Norm-KN6CV and Larry-KI6DCG - based upon a committee decision, Fred currently serves as Chairman.*

*Larry has decided to step down at this time, and so we need to have someone replace him on the committee. Fred and Norm represent two of the members who have been members of CNARC for a very long time. It clearly might be our wisest choice to elect a newer member so that have a more balanced leadership.*

*It may be time to get your feet wet!*



## EOC AND GOLDEN GARDIAN

At 10:00 AM on the 13th of November, the Inland Empire suffered widespread damages from a 7.8 earthquake, the largest ever to strike anywhere in California.

Well, that was the scenario for the exercise which brought all emergence services to full alert in Riverside County as well as across the state. The Norco Fire Department hosted the local party attended by several CNARC members - Carlos-KD6CZT, Dick-AF6F, Fred-W6TKV, Jim-KD6ECI and Norm-KN6CV. There was a pre-event request by Jurupa for a ham operator, so Dick-AF6F took off to fill that chair. All the seats around the Norco EOC table were occupied, and the parking area was filled with school kids who were bussed over to act as the injured, and the messages began.

This drill was planned for 7 hours, but lasted for about 3 hours. Being early birds, Norm-KN6CV got to carry an HT and ride around on a fire engine, Jim-KD6ECI got to take control of the 2M/440MHz station, Carlos-KD6ECI got to take control of the 40M station, and Fred-W6TKV set a 2M/440MHz rig and antenna on his car.

More than a few "lessons learned" came out of this exercise for CNARC. These were gleaned from your editor's observations and inputs from our members and hams at other locations.

1) Jim-KD6ECI used a headset and fell victim to the "raised voice" syndrome experience by all hams. He did, however, turn the volume down so stuffing his mouth with rags did not prove necessary.

Jim noted he was able to listen on both 2M (local communication) and 440 MHz (Riverside County communication) at the same time with the headset - one band in each ear.

After the drill, Fred received an e-mail from another ham who had also been on 440 MHz. He noted a "beep" whenever Jim keyed the mike, and this "beep" covered the first few words Jim might have said when keying up. Our angel said many Yaesu radios have this feature which can be disabled and advised how to do that. Very good to learn this now.

2) It appears in might be useful to separate 2M and 44) MHz into two separate stations.

3) A comment was made to consider a sound barrier between station positions. Since this very same suggestion came out of Field Day where 2 members sat side by side, it seems like a temporary barrier is a must.

4) When Norm went on his trip on the Fire Engine, he discovered the magnetic base of the

antenna would not stick to the metal roof on the vehicle - stainless steel it seems.

5) Outgoing messages were delivered to the station by opening the door and handing them to whoever heard the door open. This suggests it might be beneficial to set up two "mail slots" where outgoing and incoming messages could be placed - only requiring one hands, not two. The placement of messages might also turn on a flashing red light which could be reset when message were taken out of the "mail slot".

6) It appeared we only processed outgoing traffic, and no incoming traffic. The message form was new to us, and near the end of the drill, several were rejected due to a lack of addressee. During a CNARC RACES meeting, it would be wise to become more familiar with the format of the RACES message form.

9) To become more knowledgeable on handling traffic, we should spend time on sending and receiving messages using the RACES message form.

10) In addition to setting the frequencies, it would be useful to have a printed list of all frequencies and who they are used with.

Other "lessons learned" relating to the overall county message system:

A) The Riverside County EOC appears to have just 2 stations for incoming emergency traffic from the entire county. In listening, it became quite clear their 2 stations fell short capacity-wise when trying to serve the county. One solution comes to mind - if the Riverside County EOC were to assign a ham with VHF mobile capability to be on a nearby hill, and another with HF mobile capability assigned to another hill, they would need either 2 or 4 additional "message handlers" to drive (of cycle) back and forth with incoming and outgoing traffic. Setting up 2 remote stations would double their message handling capacity - which appeared to be insufficient. Or, revisit our friend Packet.

B) B) Riverside County should have a list of all address destinations - organized much like the Yellow Pages. If it exists, it should be circulated. If it doesn't exist, it should be created. This would assist all EOC locations and substantially improve message routing.

All in all, it was an interesting morning which served to highlight the areas where work is needed. We should be very thankful this was just a drill - and not the real thing.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**