

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

March 2009 – Editor: Fred Roberts, w6tkv@aceweb.com – ARRL Affiliated Club #2108

NEW ADDITION TO T-HUNTS

Norm-KN6CV came up with a great idea on a new way to introduce newer members to T-Hunting. In the past, we used the "ride along", but we now have an added twist.

The idea is for the newcomer to fill an important role, that being the Hidden-T. We have a "hiding kit" which holds everything except one key item. The kit holds::

1) The 2M transmitter with the "hidden-T message" which means the message from the Hidden-T is all set to go - and this, in fact, exactly what all of the Hidden-T's use. The package contains a variety of cables, one of which is used to plug directly into the car's cigarette. The only addition we will have to add is a 2M antenna and there are several in our EOC ham-shack, all with a magnetic base for roof-top mounting.

2) The CNARC hunt area is being within the triangle defined by the 91, 60 and 71 Freeways plus the entire the city of Corona.

3) In the interest of driver safety, we conduct mileage hunts and so each hunter provides the Hidden-T with his starting mileage before beginning the hunt. In a recent hunt, W6TKV arrived last of the 4 hunters, but had the lowest mileage and so was the winner.

4) The Hidden-T must be located on public property, not on private property.

5) If you plan to be the Hidden-T, and want to be sure you can be heard at the starting point, why not just set up a "test" schedule with one of our current T-Hunters - he will go up the starting point near Magnolia and Ontario while you are at your hiding spot. In the event a Hidden-T does not get a response from the T-Hunters, he will move to the repeater. It is most common for the Hidden-T to hear the T-Hunters, but often the Hidden-T cannot be heard. This has to do with a difference in power levels and type of antennas used.

Your object, should you accept the challenge is to be in a spot where we cannot find you. Think you can do so?

SWITCHING TO DSL de W6TKV

I have been using dial-up for the past several years, and have been satisfied with it even though it sometimes took quite a while to down-load large files. If one is retired, why not tackle a Sudoku puzzle while waiting - after all, retired folks have nothing but time. One useful aspect of Ace Web was that unread files were held in an externally accessible file which turned out to be a great aid when traveling - any computer could connect with the ACE Web stored file, and I found that very useful - particularly when visiting my daughter's QTH where they use Juno.

Recently, however, this remote document file stopped reliably clearing out all downloaded files - and so messages frequently got downloaded more than just once. Of course I contacted Ace Web seeking a fix, but this problem continued to sporadically occur - and each time was really annoying.

So, I decided to move up to DSL and to sign up with AT&T. Although their least expensive offering is high-lighted at \$25 per month, but tucked away, I noticed they do offer the first year at just \$10 - just a few dollars more than Dial-Up. To get the low cost offering, all I had to do was to answer a couple of simple questions. AT&T is very organized and fast in getting things done - so I received all the items I needed to switch over from Dial-Up to DSL - or so I thought. I installed one of the AT&T filters onto our regular phone which took all of 2 minutes. But, we also have an alarm system, and when you open the door has a row of 25-30 connections. Fortunately, when I called the alarm company, they were very helpful and told me the phone jack was located next to the alarm system - my only problem was the AT&T jack had 2 wires and the alarm system jack had 4 wires - so I had to order the alarm companies filter which was \$40, the same amount we pay for a year's alarm service. The \$40. did however include the shipping cost. The filter arrived in a couple of days, and took just 2 minutes to install.

My son flew out for Sunday breakfast to the eatery at Riverside Airport so I borrowed him for an hour or so to install my DSL. It works just fine, and is indeed faster than what I have been used to.

It is, however, much more fun installing a new ham rig or a new antenna. Oh well, we retired folks have nothing but time or at least that seems to be the way the everyone thinks it works.

OUR NEXT T-HUNT: SATURDAY, MARCH 7th

T-Hunts are on the first Saturday of each month and start at 10:00AM from St. John's Episcopal Church located near Ontario and Magnolia Avenues in Corona. Our members are always welcome to ride along or do you want to hide?

Every member is welcome to ride along with one of the regular T-Hunters. Your Editor does believe he hunts better when there is someone riding along - maybe explaining to a guest what is going on reminds him of what he is supposed to do next.

Following every T-Hunt, the hider and the hunters meet at Norco's Best (Hamner between 4th and 5th Streets). Anyone member who rides along is guaranteed he will be chauffeured back to the starting point where his vehicle is located.

JIM-VK9NS NOW VK9NS/SH de Fred-W6TKV

It is with sadness we report that Jim (VK9NS) passed peacefully away on Norfolk Island on February 10th after a short illness. The DX community has lost another friend.

Jim is survived by his wife Kirsti (VK9NL) and his four children: Bruce (G3HSR), Stuart, Sheena and Fraser (all living in the UK).

My first contact with Jim was on 10M during the CQ WW DX Contest on 10/29/88 - and my last contact with him was 11 years later, on 7/22/99 during his visit to Garibaldi, Oregon when he signed /W7. We spoke briefly about his QTH as a very nice spot where Ann and I have spent many RV weeks during summers over several years.

My W6TKV band contacts with VK9NS were on 10M, 15M, 20M, plus other special contacts while operating as W6TJ (club call for

RCARA-the Riverside County ARA), W6PWT (club call for CNARC), and W6IEC (club call for IECARO-the Inland Empire Council of Amateur Radio Organizations).

Jim worked 5-Band DXCC, 5-Band WAS, 5-Band WAZ, 160M DXCC, and he held many other callsigns too - VS1BQ, G3SHR, DL2TH, HZ1AB, MP4BR, 9V1PR, P29JS, VR4BJ, H44BJ, T3AJ, VK9YS, VK9KS, VK0JS/VK9N, 9M8JS, VK0JS, ZL0ABB, ZM7JS, and ZL1BUN. He also operated from: C21AA and T3KJ - and held the CQ WPX Award of Excellence - not a small achievement.

Jim's being on Norfolk Island had everything to do with my contacting him, just as he drew thousands of other hams in the same way. 73 to Jim Smith, VK9NS/SK

2M NET ADDING BANDS

Hams generally meet problems head on, and Jim-KD6ECI is currently aiming at adding an HF band to the net so Joe-KO6XB can check in from the Victorville area. It will be interesting to see this develop. The Riverside County ARA has a 10M pre-net check-in and the 10M NCS later checks into the 2M net and passes along all of the 10M check-ins calls.

A test was run between Jim and Joe on 10M which was unsuccessful. What band is next? Will KW amplifiers show up? Will beams go up? Stay tuned.

IECARO REPORT

The IECARO meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday on the odd months, i.e. January, March, May, etc. The next meeting will be at 9:00AM on March 14th. Fred-W6TKV and Norm-KN6CV are the CNARC Delegates, and all clubs get 1 vote. This helps in having a Delegate from every Member organization at every meeting. A report will be given at our April meeting.

JOIN THE ARRL

As an affiliated ARRL club, CNARC is obliged to have at least 50% of our members who are ARRL members too.

The ARRL is not just a monthly magazine, but rather the agency protecting ham radio interests with the FCC in Washington, DC. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, their Chief Executive Officer, estimated the ARRL spends about \$100K on this effort - why not be a part of this ?