

# THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

June 2009 – Editor & Rumor Monger: Fred Roberts, w6tkv@aceweb.com

## FIELD DAY 1980

As Field Day approaches, a look at a long standing record may help put this event into better focus.

In the 1980 Field Day, the Southern California Contest Club amassed 27,625 points in the 8A Battery category with twelve operators. Not only has this category score never been beaten or even approached, it also set an all-time modern Field Day scoring record for all categories that stood for fourteen years!

And this was before we had logging computers, voice keyers, and such.

## FIELD DAY 2009

Last year, CNARC's two big achievements were: 1) operating for all 24 hours and 2) contacting all ARRL Sections with the exception of Indiana - no one seemed to know where all them injuns were hidin'.

Our annual Field Day is a 24-hour event starting on Saturday, June 27th at 11:00AM and ending on Sunday at that same hour.

Operating from the EOC ham station in the Norco Fire Station, we enjoy the benefit of not spending hours on both set-up and tear-down. Our set-up consists of simply turning a wall switch on, and turning it off at the end of the event.

We will use exactly the same logging software we used last year - namely N3FJP's Amateur Radio Software. The computer in the ham station has the logging software, so every operator can get familiar with the logging process via your hands-on practice of actual logging - be assured it is very easy so a few minutes at the keyboard will make it all a piece of cake during Field Day.

As last year's operators will recall, the first thing we ask of you as you sit down in front of the radio, is to enter your call sign in the logging program before making any contacts. ef

There will be two logging computers during Field Day, one for the 80M-40M station, and a second one for the 40M-20M-15M-10M station. Note that 40M antennas are available

for both radios. At night, one is on 80M and the other is on 40M. During the day, one radio will be on 40M and the other on 10M, 15M or 20M. Should the club decide to add a VHF radio, we can either add a third computer or keep a VHF paper log for VHF and transfer the data to one of the two computers after Field Day concludes. Note Fred-W6TKV will take care of merging the Field Day files into the ham shack computer a few days after Filed Day.

There are Points to be achieved through contacts with other stations. In addition, there are Bonus Points for a number of off-the-air events such as having a welcome sign outside for the general public, inviting the public to see Field Day, advertising Field Day, etc. We do need a few club members to take on the task of getting as many Bonus Points as possible - and this includes recruiting other members to lend a hand. A couple copies of the ARRL Field Day Rules will be available for your review at the June meeting.

Remember, the idea is to achieve as high a score as we can. So, plan to operate for QSO points or to work on Bonus Points - or both.

In operating, remember to keep calling "CQ Field Day - Wiskey 6 Papa Wiskey Tango" and to leave very short listening gaps between calls.

**IF YOU DON'T BELONG TO THE ARRL,  
IT IS VERY GOOD TIME  
TO SIGN UP!**

## THE JUNE T-HUNT

Our May T-Hunt was canceled as a hunter had a family commitment.

The upcoming T-Hunt will be held on June 6th with Norm-KN6CV being the hidden T with Perry-AE6GQ playing the role of Hidden-T, and the hunters will be Perry-AE6GQ, Fred-W6TKV 'n Joe-KO6XB.

We have an open invitation for any member who wishes to play the role of the

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Hidden-T - just give Norm a call, and he will see that you receive the rig everyone uses for hiding, and he will make sure you understand the limits of the Hunt Area.

After the hunt, we will all head to Norco's Best for lunch where the hunt is discussed - lies, exaggerations and all.

## MEETING PROGRAM

Our June program will feature Fred-W6TKV speaking on the subject of Antennas. He will discuss various design considerations, parameters of antenna design, the choice of antennas, cost considerations.

While most helpful to newer hams, there will be definitely be some things most hams may never have thought about.

Don't miss this one!

## APRIL CLUB DATA

W6PWT Repeater: 147.060/+ MHz,  
PL-162.2 Hz

WebSite – <http://www.w6pwt.org>

Our next regular meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 1st at the Norco Firehouse.

2M CNARC/RACES Net on Wednesday evenings, 7:00PM, on our repeater.

Our next VE Testing on June 6th at 1:30PM - by appointment only, call 951-687-8145 for info.

## MISSING SUN SPOTS

In a recent ARRL Propagation Report, they noted the long period without a single Sun Spot being observed - with periods of 28 spotless days. Well, that isn't news to those who are operating on 20M, but it turns out it is a rare ill wind that doesn't benefit someone.

Robin McNeill, ZL4IG on New Zealand's South Island has been on HF for about a year, and is another of many new operators who are enjoying HF propagation at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

Robin wrote, "With the sunspots and thus the MUF as very low as they are, surely this means that 40M is currently as good as it ever gets. In fact, shouldn't 40M currently be as good as any band ever gets? I base this assertion on the fact that 40 meters is very close to the MUF and, as noted the last bulletin, "there are now few QRN causing solar events."

He continues, "But that doesn't explain why only a handful of European superstations and very few others find their signals into ZL for hams like me on 40M with modest wire antennas and urban QRM, even using the gray line. That said, I have had a handful of QRP SSB QSOs into Europe recently, though I was working hams who have 3-el beams with presumably low QRM locations - one of them, in fact, seemed surprised I was running 5 watts, not 500 watts, which surprised us both.

40M is a good band right now, but it isn't "as good as any band ever gets." When solar activity returns, the MUF will rise enough to use the 10M-20M bands, which typically will have less absorption than 40M. In addition, the average ham is more likely to have greater antenna efficiency on the higher HF bands.

Another message in, this time from Rich Zwirko, K1HTV of Amisville, VA, about the joys of the extended solar minimum and the resulting quiet geomagnetic field.

Rich writes, "I'm now in my 4th month of retirement. I retired after 48 years in broadcasting (the last 28 at the VOA). Based on what the 'experts' were saying a number of years ago, I figured that soon after retirement I would be using the F2 layer to add more DX countries to my 148 country total on 50 MHz. Boy, were the experts wrong!"

He continues, "Well, as they say, if life hands you lemons, make lemonade. With the extended solar minimum and very low MUF numbers, my lemonade is being made on 160M. Shortly after retirement my XYL Phyllis (K1WSN) and I moved to a new QTH in Virginia. The first antenna to go up was a 160M Inverted-L. At the old Maryland QTH, I had worked 200 countries on the Topband with 100 Watts."

Rich goes on to say, "After 6 weeks of operating, five new ones have been added to the K1HTV 160M low power country total - K5D, CP4BT, OA4TT, T2OU and, a few days ago, VK9GMW on Mellish Reef became 160M country #205." He ends with, "So, keep the solar minimum going. We 160M folks love it!"

More recently, there have been recent sun spots.

## WORD TO THE WISE

There are **BOLD** tower climbers.

There are **OLD** tower climbers.

But there are **NO OLD, BOLD** tower climbers.