

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

September 2009 – Editor & Rumor Monger: Fred Roberts, froberts-w6tkv@att.net

LARRY MICHALSKI - KI6DCG

On August 24th, Norm-KN6CV learned that Larry Michalski -KI6DCG suffered a brain aneurism and was taken to Kaiser Hospital where he is presently being treated. Norm talked with his daughter who said Larry was on assisted breathing and they are determining the next step in his treatment. Norm will pass along updated information as it becomes available.

We know you will keep Larry in your prayers. We all hope and pray for a very quick and successful recovery.

FCC VANITY COST GOES UP

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. The increase takes effect on September 10th.

NEW GOVERNMENT REBATE PROGRAM ON THE TABLE

Now is good time to upgrade your old radio.

In an effort to further revive the weak economy, the government announced that it started a new *Cash for Radio Clunkers* program on August 17th. The program is aimed at members of the Amateur Radio Service, also known as ham radio operators. Operators with transceivers with less than 80 db Blocking Dynamic Range (2 kHz spacing) will be eligible to trade in their old units (which will be crushed) for new transceivers and will receive a credit based upon the improved BDR.

Improvements of 20 dB are eligible for \$100 credit and 40dB or better are eligible for \$200 credit. Operators must be currently licensed and must show proof of purchase of the old transceiver, which must be in working order. Tube transceivers are deemed to be museum pieces and not eligible for this program.

For further details, see your local retailer.

This program will expire April 1, 2010.

UPDATE ON SUN SPOTS

The quiet sun continues to baffle us. If there are no sunspots today, and I don't expect any to emerge, this will be the forty-second day in a row with no sunspots. July 10 was the last day we saw any spots. There is really no way to predict when the next sunspot will appear. If we see no sunspots through the end of the month, then nearly 80 percent of 2009 so far will have been spotless.

ARRL Propagation de Tad Cook, K7RA

WHAT'S UP WITH CNARC

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, September 7th at the Norco Fire Station.

Our 2M CNARC/RACES Net is held each Wednesday evening at 7:00PM on the W6PWT repeater. NCS is Jim-KD6ECI

Our next VE Testing on September 5th at 1:30PM - by appointment only, call Fred, 951-687-8145 for full information.

OUR PICNIC NEEDS A QTH

As you know, the only thing standing between us and our picnic is an \$1800 fee.

There are several parks in Norco and in Corona, so your suggestion will speed a solution of a new location.

Please check your local spots, and call Norm-KN6CV with your locations. Tnx.

IECARO IS NOW QRT

In a special meeting on August 15th, the Inland Empire Council of Amateur Radio Organizations voted to disband the council.

For those unfamiliar with IECARO's history, it was founded for the sole purpose of managing the ARRL Southwestern

Division Conventions every fourth year in Riverside - our first sponsorship being in September 1997. The four councils sponsoring these conventions are located in San Diego, Los Angeles, Arizona and the Inland Empire (i.e. IECARO).

IECARO was founded in 1975 solely due to the enthusiasm and energy of Jerry VerDuft, AD0A - a past president of the Riverside County ARA. Council "Members" were limited to ham clubs/organizations located within Riverside, San Bernardino, and Inyo counties. Each organization was entitled to 2 Delegates, but only one vote. The initial officers were Jerry-AD0A as Chairman, Fred-W6TKV as Vice Chairman, and Joe Magaditsch-KO6XB as Secretary/Treasurer - of interest, two of these fellows who served as IECARO's initial officers, were CNARC members.

During the startup phase, Fred-W6TKV generated IECARO's By-Laws which were approved on May 1, 1997. The By-Laws were subsequently amended five times to adjust to current needs. Of these changes, the very first change was to redefine the definition of "Member" in order to accommodate SATERN as an IECARO Member. The last change was to amend what was considered as a most unlikely event - the dissolution of IECARO.

The Member Organizations which were a part of IECARO either along the way or all the way were 1) Big Bear ARC, 2) Citrus Belt ARC, 3) Coachella Valley ARC, 4) Corona Norco ARC, 5) Desert R.A.T.S., 6) Golden Triangle ARC, 7) Inland Empire ARC, 8) Inland Valley Schools ARC, 9) Keller Peak Repeater Association, 10) Moreno Valley ARC, 11) Riverside County ARA, 12) San Geronio Pass ARC, 13) SATERN, 14) Sun City ARC, 15) Victor Valley ARC, and 16) Yucaipa Valley ARC.

The council Delegates worked extremely well together, and there was just one occasion when a roll-call vote was necessary to determine "yea or nae". The Delegates enjoyed the company of the other Delegates, and worked together

extremely well at meetings and during the lengthy convention preparations.

The conventions held were in 1995, 2001 and 2005 - with expectations for 2009. The 1997 convention was the first and was held at the Riverside Convention Center. We were fortunate in being able to arrange for the use of W1AW, the ARRL call sign as the IECARO Special Event Station. This was the very first time the ARRL had ever approved use of W1AW at a Section level convention. The hotel provided IECARO with a top-floor hotel room for the W1AW/6 station and roof access for the installation of masts and antennas on the roof of the hotel. There were 5 operating positions, Operators were plentiful, and QSO's were abundant with roof-top antennas on 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, 10M, 2M and ATV. This first convention was the most successful (success being measured by the financial return to each Member organization). The second convention in 2001 was well done, but with slightly fewer exhibitors - and financially slightly less successful. The third convention in 2005 had fewer exhibitors and was the least financially successful one. In all three conventions there were excellent program speakers, great convention booklets, a collection of good prizes, fine banquets with entertaining speakers, and W1AW/6 as our Special Event Station.

In the later years of IECARO, the experienced leadership drifted away, electing a full set of officers proved very difficult, and capable leadership was slowly lost. In October 2008, consideration was given to restructuring IECARO but the effort proved unsuccessful. As a result, the current leaders and Member organizations voted to close the doors on IECARO. In accordance with IECARO's By-Laws, the remaining treasury funds will be divided into equal shares for each Member organization, and 1) those Member organizations who are registered with the IRS as 501(c)(3) None-Profit Organizations will directly receive their share, whereas 2) all other Member organizations not so registered, will have their shares donated to

the ARRL on behalf of each remaining Member organization.

In final summary, over the life of IECARO, CNARC as well as every other Member organization received a total of approximately \$3,000 from the proceeds of the three ARRL Riverside Conventions - these monies coming directly from the dedication and efforts of the individual club members of the participating Member organizations who made it happen. The CNARC members who played a part in our clubs were Norm-KN6CV, Joe-KO6XB and Fred-W6TKV. And so an era ends.

TIPS FOR LEARNING CW (aka MORSE CODE)

Chuck Adams, K7QO 'n Rod Dinkins, AC6V



1. Start! Whether you use audio cassettes, CDs, computer software, or a partner to send and receive, you won't get anywhere until you get started.
2. As a small child learns first to crawl, then to walk, and finally, to run, you, too, must learn in steps. Learning Morse code (CW) properly requires both self-study, and the help of someone sending CW to you.
3. Learn each character as a sound. Morse code is a language of sounds. Never write dots and dashes.

4. Repetition is the key to remembering anything, including CW characters. Some folks master it in days, others in months. All who kept at it got it.
5. The Farnsworth Method is recommended - you learn each character at 15 words per minute with large spacing in between characters. This has been proven to be the best method for long-range development. Once the characters are learned, copying speed is easily increased by decreasing the spacing between each character.
6. Practice, practice, practice. No matter if you learn quickly, or slowly, the key to learning is practice. With enough practice, just about anyone can learn Morse code. Sometimes, skipping a day or two of practice is helpful, it can get you back on track.
7. Take advantage of all available practice. If you have a shortwave receiver, you'll benefit from any CW you hear. Just listen and copy as many characters as you can. Once again, practice will pay off. The more you listen, the more you'll be able to copy and understand. After a while, you'll be copying more characters than you are missing. While driving down the road, translate road signs to Morse code in your head - the faster the better.
8. One of the best ways to practice is to use the "Buddy System." Get a friend, spouse, relative, or anyone willing to share their time, to learn along with you. Enlist the aid of an experienced CW operator for answering questions, and making sure you don't develop any bad habits.

CW Abbreviations: Learn the language
<http://ac6v.com/morsepages.htm>

JOIN THE ARRL TODAY!
DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER