

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

LARRY MICHALSKI - KI6DCG

de Fred-W6TKV

Rumor had it Larry is home and spending his time taking advantage of his family by pretending to be in the recovery phase. Kidding aside, I called him on Wednesday, September 30th, and he is indeed spending his time in recovering. He sounded great.

First thought to be a "brain aneurism", it turned out the bleeding was in his neck which somehow seems less serious.

We hope Larry or family member will give a member a phone call if we can help. At the least, we certainly can run errands.

OUR VE TESTING STATUS

On September 5th, the VE Team of Perry, Dick and Fred had 3 men and 2 women take the Technician test with 4 passing.

The number of test-takers seems directly related to CNARC now being listed in the on-line ARRL VE Directory. It does appear we should expect to be testing on the 1st Saturday of each month.

Our October 3rd Test Session currently has received four phone reservations.

WHAT'S UP WITH CNARC

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

WebSite – <http://www.w6pwt.org>

Our upcoming regular meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 5th 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

VE Testing is on October 3th at 1:30PM, and the next session will be November 7th - by appointment only, call Fred, 951-687-8145 for full information.

OUR CNARC PICNIC - 10/31/09

Finding a suitable park for our Annual Picnic turned into a real task especially when to use last year's site would cost us \$1,800. Wow!

Thanks to Norm-KN6CV, who spent a lot of time surveying possible parks, our picnic will be at Norco's Pikes Peak Park on October 31st from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

There is a pavilion with two spots for cooking hamburgers or hot dogs. And, of good news, the rest rooms are clean.

We hope that all of our local members, their better halves, and their kids will join us for a pleasant mid-day picnic.

The club will be bringing the hot dogs and hamburgers with rolls, condiments and soda. Each member should bring whatever is their family specialty, i.e. salads, side dishes, and/or deserts. Members should remember to bring their own plates and eating utensils.

Part of the entertainment is likely to be a T-Hunt and/or a GPS high-tech treasure hunt. Bring your camera.

Pikes Peak Park is new to most of us, but it is easy to get there. If you drive east from the 15 Freeway on 6th Street, you will pass the Fire Station (aka our club meeting QTH), then a little further you will cross California Avenue (traffic light). Your next cross street will be Crestview Drive, and immediately after crossing the intersection, Pikes Peak Park will be on your left. It is just 8 tenths of a mile from the Fire Station.

We hope every member will be at this picnic with their family. This is one of our few social events during the year, and everyone always has a good time. At a recent CNARC meeting, the club members agreed the club would put up \$100. toward the total cost of the picnic, and that attending members would equally share any excess over that amount.

We cannot recall when we ever had a picnic or any other event on this date. Wonder how the gang will look. See you there! Lest we forget Happy Halloween.

**JOIN THE ARRL
OUR BEST VOICE WITH THE FCC**

CNARC AND THE ARRL

Since the founding of our club in 1987, CNARC has been an affiliated ARRL club. Each club applying for affiliation is required to have at least 51% of their club members also be ARRL members.

The ARRL has divided the U.S. into Divisions and Sections. The Southwestern Division includes Southern California and Arizona and is represented at the ARRL by our Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA and Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI. Both of these men are active hams, DX-peditioners, great guys, smart, and extremely well qualified.

The Southwestern Division is broken into 5 sections - Arizona, Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. Our's is the Orange Section and it is administered by Carl Gardenias, WU6D, who serves us very well.

The Directors job is to manage the ARRL as an entity, where-as Section Managers are charged with helping and working with all of the amateurs and ham clubs in their Sections.

Most local hams thought the Section Managers reported to the Division Directors, but that is not the case. The Directors are on the ARRL Board under the ARRL President who is also elected.

Many hams see the ARRL just as publishers of a "magazine", but the ARRL is far more than that. The ARRL is our national amateur organization, and they do more in defense of our frequencies than all of the individual clubs across our whole country put together. Not too long ago, Fred-W6TKV asked Dave Sumner, K1ZZ the Chief Executive Officer, how much money the ARRL spent each year on protecting our frequencies. His answer was, "About \$100,000."

If you enjoy ham radio, it would be a very wise move on your part to support the ARRL by being a member. The cost is \$39. per year, and \$36. if you are over 65 years of age. Lifetime membership is currently \$1,550. - and if you believe that is a lot (which it is), Fred - W6TKV reports he has never been lifetime member, but has paid annually for 60 years - at the current rates, 60 years X \$39. adds up to \$2,340.

Oh yes, the ARRL has established the Diamond Club for those who wish to do a little more in supporting the ARRL - the annual Diamond Club, dues which include

membership, has several levels starting at \$75. per year.

Joining the ARRL is an excellent investment in the future of amateur radio and a good way to increase your enjoyment of the ham bands.

Our frequencies are always being challenged by business interests, and it's up to all of us to do our best in keeping the bands clear and available to both current and future hams. If we fail be a part of fighting all challenges, then shame on us.

HAM RADIO IN 1952

de Fred - W6TKV

When I was first licensed in 1952, I got involved with the local "Civil Defense" group. Portable rigs were built in a wooden carrying case, 2' wide x 2' tall x 1' deep. An HT like arrangement - but with a single crystal-controlled net frequency. The transmitter, receiver and power supply were fairly heavy.

Transmitters operated on one crystal-controlled frequency, so when you called CQ, you always ended with the phrase, "... and tuning the band". And, then you started at one end of the band, and would slowly tuned toward the other end, listening for someone calling you. When you found that someone, you would call him when he stood by - and so went QSOs. If you were monitoring a frequency, you only got to hear one side of the conversation.

With our local group, everyone used a crystal on the same frequency, usually on 10M, which was very much like a local 2M repeater. On Long Island in NY, everyone would get into a round table while driving to or from work in the morning or evening. I recall a period when a station in England joined our roundtable every morning for several weeks.

By the way, one of the most important elements in a mobile station was the motor generator under the hood which ran on 6 volts (off the car battery) and put out about 400 volts for the transmitter (and its vacuum tubes). The generator was about 15" long, 8"-9" high, and 8" wide - this was at a time when there was a simple engine under the hood along with a battery and a battery charger - no power steering, no power brakes. A whip antenna was always mounted on the left side of the rear bumper. The motor generator was military surplus - and there were tons of surplus gear.

More at another time.