

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

In reviewing our current Roster, it was very interesting to sort our membership by the Class of License held by each member.

Our club breaks down into 27% Technician, 27% General, 11% Advanced, and 35% Extra. It is most interesting that more than a third of our members hold the highest level license - which provides them all with more frequency privileges than any other class.

Had the FCC not deleted CW as a requirement for Extra class, it is probable the 35% figure would be somewhat lower.

The Advanced class, for those reading this and saying, "What class is that?", was introduced as a bridge between the General and Extra class licenses about 1965 or so. The Advanced provided additional Phone privileges over General, but not quite as much as held by the Extra class.

When the Morse Code requirement was dropped in 1992, there were a great many Advance licensees who moved up to Extra, but not all - witness the 11% of our members who still hold Advance class licenses. W6TKV recalls studying for the "no-code" Extra class license while serving on Riverside Jury Duty, and being in the first group of 25-30 hams in the Inland Empire to do so - and recalls being the first one to turn in his exam (only 1 error).

The 27% of our members holding the Technician class have the most to gain by upgrading to General. The Question & Answer Pool for General is available at the NCVET web site, <http://www.ncvec.org/> and the CNARC VE Team is available to test your knowledge on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30PM.

Such a deal - call W6TKV for an appointment. When you have access to all of the Questions and all of the Answers, what on earth is holding you back???

WHY WAIT?
JOIN THE "A" TEAM
JOIN THE ARRL TODAY

PICNIC ACTIVITY

Our club picnic was held on Halloween, at Pikes Peak Park which is a brand new park in Norco. It is in a very interesting spot for a picnic with a very nice scenic view. In addition, we had good friends and good food. We even enjoyed some music made available due to a handy 120V outlet - talk about a first class picnic.

We were delighted to have Larry Michalski (KI6DCG), XYL MaryLou, and a daughter or two of theirs joining us.

It was also very nice to have Frank Clark (KE6NZB) drive up from his new QTH in Temecula. And, we were very pleasantly surprised to have Jim Way (KN6XX) and XYL Janet with us - they are our northern-most members who reside both locally and in Mountain View (in the San Francisco area).

The food was on the spectacular side - almost not like a picnic! For those who didn't make it, you really missed a good one.

We experienced a series of four very strong wind bursts which blew a series of paper napkins, plastic plates, etc. down the hill and across the road. Fortunately, one of the girls took off like a scalded cat whenever the wind blew, and scooped up the paper products. Had she not been present, we would have likely had to get in the car and go to Safeway for more supplies.

All in all, we had a good time sharing a very pleasant picnic.

REPORT ON VE EXAMS

Our October 3rd VE Test Session resulted in 2 brand-new Technicians, 1 up-grade to General and 1 up-grade to Extra.

Greg Rowell, KE6HXT who graduated to Extra class is a resident of Corona and also a brand new CNARC member.

Our next VE Test Session will be on Saturday, November 7th and we currently have 4 test applicants - 2 for Technician and 2 for General. Interest in upgrading? Just e-mail W6TKV to register for the 11/7/09 session.

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, November 2nd 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 November 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 monthly T-Hunt is held on the first Saturday of each month. The T-Hunt for November has been canceled as not everyone can make it this time around.

PROPAGATION FORECAST

Extracts from ARRL Bulletin 43 by Tad Cook, K7RA

You can look back at daily geomagnetic and solar indices from 1994 to the present at http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/indices/old_indices.html.

Scott Craig, WA4TTK has an updated data file for his Solar Data Plotting Utility. This is useful if you are not yet running the program and collecting the data. The data can be updated semi-automatically each week from this bulletin, and manually as well. The new data file has daily solar flux and sunspot numbers from January 1, 1989 through October 7, 2009. Download it for free at <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp>. This is a good way to visually realize the difference between the previous solar minimum and this extended quiet period we are in.

Brian Webb, KD6NRP of Ventura County, California notes that even with no sunspot activity, using low power and a simple antenna he hears and works many stations overseas on 17M. On October 19 at 1556z he worked PA3HP on PSK on 17 meters, after answering his CQ. Brian's antenna was a horizontal delta loop, about 50 feet on each side, and fed with 300 ohm twinlead and 100 watts. I noted that between his location and the Netherlands on that date there was a good chance of an opening from 1600-1730z, according to W6ELprop.

This week an interesting piece about sluggish flow inside the sun appeared, authored by two scientists on the GONG project. Read it at <http://spie.org/x37587.xml?highlight=x2418&ArticleID=x37587>.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has another monthly column on propagation in the latest November issue of the now online-only WorldRadio Magazine. It is free, and you can download it in small parts or one big file at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>. Just click on the big WorldRadio Online button. Carl's column this month is on Short-Path Summer Solstice Propagation, and begins on page 22. Also from that page you can click a link to see the rules for the CQ World-Wide DX Contest this weekend (Phone) and November 28-29 (CW).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Notice: There are a large number of sources for the planned activities by hams from all over the world, and this includes DX-peditions, special events, and just plain traveling hams.

One of the best places to achieve Worked All States (WAS), Worked All Zones (WAZ), DXCC (work 100 countries), etc. are the frequent contests that take place on the HF bands. A great source of scheduled contests is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php> - you can even download an annual contest schedule from this site.

The contests can, in themselves, become addictive - so please note you have been duly warned. Some odd things occur as a result of contesting - for example, you may discover you can work all states in less than a whole day. And, if you work a few stations in Brazil or Argentina, it may lead to your chasing all of the countries in South America. - or it may lead to a tower and a beam. Who knows - but it is a real kick to get involved with contesting, chasing DX and making friends all over the world.
Fred - W6TKV