

THE CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CORONA NORCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

January 2010 – Editor & Rumor Monger: Fred Roberts, froberts-w6tkv@att.net

VE REPORT

Our December 5th, first Saturday VE Test Session was our first "all pass, no fail day" and we even had one fellow pass both the Technician and General for a "double header". The tests given:

Technician - 6

General Class - 4

Extra Class - 1

We had the interesting experience of walking into the EOC only to find most the furniture missing, plus the street side door was blocked open with no one in sight. It turns out there was a parade, and much of the furniture was on top of a "reviewing stand". Apparently, the parade was finished, so we move chairs back in, locked the door and set up some available folding tables.

Our VE Team for the day was Eric-W6GEV, Fred-W6TKV, and Perry-AE6GQ.

As you may know, each VE Test Session requires a staff of 3 VEs. If you are an Extra class member, your VE Team would sure like to see you sign on as a VE (Volunteer Examiner) and be available for an occasional first Saturday testing session. Fred-W6TKV can provide you with the VE Application Form and routing.

THE GROUND LOOP AWARD

Some of members may have heard a long-time member use the term, "Ground Loop" or "Ground Loop Award". Most newer members may be puzzled and think, "What on earth is that?"

About 20 years ago, one of our members had the brilliant idea which would recognize and "reward" those who did "not so smart" or "silly" things. JB Sims was the trigger, and so the Ground Loop Award was created.

For your information, a ground loop occurs when there is more than one ground connection path between two pieces of equipment. The duplicate ground paths form the equivalent of a loop antenna which very efficiently picks up interference currents. Lead

resistance transforms these currents into voltage fluctuations. As a consequence of ground-loop induced voltages, the ground reference in the system is no longer a stable potential, so signals ride on the noise. The noise becomes part of the outgoing signal.

The first winner of this prestigious award was J. B. Sims, W6PWT. It seems JB was conducting a 2M net one evening when he received a phone call from a ham in the eastern part of our country. This fellow advised JB that he was transmitting the entire 2M net on 20M - it seems JM's push-to-talk microphone was wedged between a couple of books and so the entire 2M net was being heard across the U.S.

Another winner of this award was your editor who arranged a special meeting and then forgot to attend. Another notable winner was a member who participated in Field Day - when masts were being raised during such event those helping are always keeping their eyes on the upper part of the mast and adjusting their rope line tension to assure the mast remains vertical. In the midst of raising our mast, one of the crew started hollering which made all to look at him. Everyone broke into hysterics when they saw this fellow lying on his back, with the hoist line well wrapped around his legs - the other end of his rope was at the mast top.

Those were definitely the good old days!

SATERN ANNUAL SEMINAR

Each year, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network holds a seminar at the The Salvation Army in San Bernardino.

This year's event runs from 8:00AM to 2:00PM and features a Welcome and Introduction to SATERN, EMEM on 40 Meters (an we don't mean 7 MHz), Ready to Serve, Building the Ultimate DX & Contesting Vehicle.

A complimentary Lunch is provided to everyone which provides an opportunity to chew the rag a little.

They do request an RSVP so they are prepared for all who attend - an e-mail to Trace-KI6DPN at ki6dpn@arrl.net will do the trick. These seminars have always been good.

DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder - it's now that time of year to pull out your wallet and hand \$15. to Norm Musselman, KN6CV to cover the year 2010. You can hand it to Norm at our February meeting, or mail it to him at 1610 Pacific Avenue, Norco, CA 92860.

Thanks in advance for doing this.

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

The upcoming North American QSO Parties are great contests for operators new to HF or to contesting. All stations are limited to 100 watts, but you will hear big signals from those with larger antenna farms!

You can operate 10 hours in the contest's 12-hour period. The exchange is simple - your name and state. i.e. "*Jack ... California*". The other station will give you his/her name and state, or Province e.g. *Alberta*, or DXCC country, e.g. *Mexico*.

Members can use the CNARC club station for these contests, but if you just have a Technician class license, you can always ask a member to be present - that way, you operate as W6PWT. If you are General or Extra class, you can either use your own call or W6PWT.

OPERATING ALONE

One of the concerns which came to mind early in our use of the EOC related to the security of both the meeting room and the ham station. We know the meeting room is utilized by several volunteer groups who also serve the Fire Station just as we do.

There was at least one occasion when the exit door on the meeting room was left unlocked, and on another occasion, the front-door was held open by a chair, but with no one present.

So, it was decided we would have a sign-in book for all members who enter the ham station and are the sole person present.

Should you be a Lone Ranger, just sign-in when you arrive and sign-out when you leave. Should you find an open door, just lock it, and enter that into the sign-in book along with any other problems which may occur, e.g. a particular radio failed to work in some manner, the light switch was found in the "on position". Well, you get the idea.

THOUGHTS ON FIELD DAY

Yes, we know Field Day is on the 4th weekend in June ... and we know it is only January, BUT ... it's not a bad time to consider what can be done. So, here are a few ideas for what we might do:

- 1) Plan to have 24 hours on each of the HF radios.
- 2) Plan to have a VHF station on during daylight hours.
- 3) Consider adding a couple of "mobile radio cars" in the parking area - this would put two more unused bands on the air. Mobile antennas would be used, with a house power line.
- 4) Consider asking XYLs setting up an outdoor picnic table for a dinner meal.
- 5) Consider putting ATV on the air for an hour or two.
- 6) Consider operating some added CW activity in addition to the usual SSB operations.
- 7) Consider inviting other non-member Norco hams as a recruitment tool, and to make Field Day a bigger event for CNARC.

Anyone have any other ideas? Remember, you never know what you can do unless you are willing to try.

MEETING PROGRAMS

CNARC used to have a program at every club meeting, but in recent times they have been few and far between.

It would be worth while for us to consider drafting a program schedule for the entire year of 2010. When your editor was elected VP of the Riverside County ARA some years ago, right after the elections he roughed out a schedule for every month of the coming year - some months had specific speakers listed, others just had a subject. A copy of this schedule was given to each Board Member at our first meeting.

This modest effort turned out to be an extremely strong tool. We shifted some months around to accommodate the schedule of speakers, and we adjust program content as needed.

It was, however, an extremely strong tool because the Board always knew what was scheduled for the coming month. And, it was possible to schedule speakers with great ease.