

The Monitor

Newsletter of the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association
ARRL Affiliated Club #1720 - - - - Celebrating our 57th Year
www.w6tj.org / Riverside Repeater: 146.88 MHz, -600 KHz offset, PL 146.2 Hz

Volume 57

February 2012

No. 2

February Program

T32C presenter Arnie N6HC

To the uninitiated T32C sounds like the quarterback instructions for a play on the football field but HF amateur radio operators know better. T32C is the designator for the recent Christmas Island DXpedition. Riverside County ARA members and their guests will get a first hand report from Arnie, N6HC who with 38 amateurs from 11 countries activated the Island of Kiritimati or Christmas Island in Eastern Kiribati from October 1 through 24.

As a point of information, more RCARA club members worked T32C than any other previous DXpedition.



Arnie will tell us of their efforts to break many QSO records including total QSOs - 13,169, CW - 102,216 and North American - 109,327 to name a few. You will understand why these records are phenomenal when you find out the adversity they had to overcome just two weeks before the DXpedition was to begin.

Arnie's experience on T32C and five other major DXpeditions, K7C – Kure atoll, 3B7C – St. Brandon Island, TX5C – Clipperton Island, K4M – Midway Island and T31A – Kanton atoll in Central Kiribati, position him as an expert to thrill us with the story.

Please bring a friend and help us welcome Arnie N6HC at our February RCARA business meeting.

Don KD6UVT

**President's QSO
From the desk of
Jim Wiley:**



Clutter or a "collection."

Are your communication hardware and pieces and parts considered a mess or in grave disorder? Or are they a set of collected, properly labeled and displayed items?

I consider my storage boxes, with separate small plastic drawers, filled with all manner of screws, nuts, washers, (both metric and inch), resistors, diodes, capacitors and connectors to be display items. Most of the drawers are labeled, thus creating a self contained system by which I can recover at least some of the pieces and parts I am looking for. I consider this to be a collection, suitable for display. Therefore, I am content to leave many of the resistors, diodes, electrical connectors and tools, out in plain sight on any of three work benches, where the collection may be viewed and appreciated by all who might wander through. This, of course, requires supporting literature, in the form of magazines, special interest catalogs, and my hand written notes (which one day will have great historical value), to remain in view also.

However, I am informed that proper collections have names, such as "Francoma Pottery," "Depression Glass," "Rosewood" and the like. In addition, I was advised that proper collections reside in glass encased cabinets, protected from the environment and dust and cobwebs and fingerprints and the like.

How sad. And I had previously admired three to four layers of dust, considering it a degree of proof of that the piece had at least an archeological significance, even if it did not work. Thus I share my motto, "Although nothing is running, everything is fine."

See all of you at the meetings.

Riverside County Amateur Radio Association meetings are held at the La Sierra University 7th Day Adventist Church on the 2nd Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm

Member participation is vital to the future of RCARA!

The Monitor is published monthly by the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association
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The Monitor publication date is the 1st day of each month. All submissions should be labeled MONITOR, and sent to Liz at ad6jf@sbcglobal.net, by the 21st of the month.

General Meeting Minutes
15 January 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Jim, AG6EA, at 7PM. Introductions followed remembrances of Mark, K6GUK SK, by several members. It was announced that his graveside services would be held on January 25 at 2PM at Olivewood Cemetery.

Fred, W6TKV, made an announcement about the up coming SATURN conference in San Bernardino, on 28 January.

Don, KD6UVT, introduced our speakers: Sandra Sue, KD6HCI, and Dan, KE6RZA, from Communications Support Services (K6CSS). Their PP presentation is summarized in "Rearview Mirror."

Following the presentation, Don, KD6UVT, did a show and tell, and displayed some vintage short wave receivers. The Meet was adjourned at 8:30PM

Bob, KG5NIB; Fred and Anne, W6TKV; Mike, KI6JRM; Don, KD6UVT; Carlos, KQ6BMW; Ron Braley, KE6RYX; Maurice, KG6MXE; Merv, KD6APB; Jim, AG6EA; Duane, N6JPO; Bruce, WA6STA; Robert, KJ6TCL, Frank, WA6KCH; Dan, KE6RZA; Sandra Sue, KD6HCI; Tom, WA6TLL; Jim, KJ6TBI; Clair, K6LG; Ed, KF6BNQ; Robert, KJ6OOZ; Florencio, KD6QDQ.
Total attendees, 22. Membership on 11 January 2012, 44.

Clair, K6LG
Secretary, RCARA

Board Minutes
12 January 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Jim, AG6EA, at 6:15 PM. Members present: Don, KD6UVT; Robert, KJ6OOZ; Clair, K6LG; Ed, KF6BNQ; Mike, KI6JRM; Bob, KG6NIB (late). Absent: Liz, AD6JF and Art, AA6CA. Visitor: Ron KE6RYX.

Old Business and Reports

Ron, KE6RYX, Repeater Committee Chairman, reported that the problems with the non functioning 220 link and the 440 control link were still unresolved. The committee will inspect next week and determine any expenditures, in addition to annual maintenance cost, which may be needed. Ron will also be ordering needed additional keys for the repeater cabinet. He will also change the auto-patch code soon.

Ed, KF6BNQ, reported that the license class committee, Jim Wiley, Don Williams, Rick Turner and himself, met and is working toward starting a class soon. He also reported that there had been 47 membership renewals.

The treasury report was postponed until next meeting, when the books have been turned over to our new treasurer.

Mike, KI6JRM, said he had not received any further info on staffing the city emergency communications van. He, Ron and Bob will make contacts to try to reserve space for FD at McLean Park.

New Business

Don reported that he has yet to schedule a program presenter for February, but will try to get Arnie, N6HC, for that meeting. President Jim, Secretary Clair, and Treasurer Robert C., will go to Provident Bank soon to sign required new signature cards for our accounts.

Jim appointed the Audit Committee: Steve, AF6HR and Fred, W6TKV.

Also appointed were the hosts: Coffee, Jim W.; Sunshine, Steve Evans, and Badges: Don Goodwin.

The board authorized a \$100 check to LSU Church for use of their facilities. Clair will send check with thank you letter to the church.

Outreach projects for 2012 were discussed: CERT Classes (Don and Robert), Girl Scout Conference, Palm Springs (Don); Air Show (Bob) and FD and JOTA.

Board meeting times were discussed and it was decided to temporarily continue meeting before the general meeting....but beginning at 6PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45. Next meeting will be 9 February at 6 PM.

Clair, K6LG
Secretary

In the Rearview Mirror

Our January program was presented by Sandra Sue Taylor, KD6HCI, and Dan Fergot, KE6RZA, members of Communications Support Services, an organization which provides communications for law enforcement and other groups.

For the past seventeen years, they have supported several groups in the Baker to Vegas Race. In this event, law enforcement groups compete in a relay race extending from Baker through Pahrump, then over Ibex pass to Las Vegas.

Each of the 270 teams is composed of 20 runners, 5 alternates, and 5 to 7 support members. This totals at 45,000 people on the course. It requires 300 hams, who provide the communication links on VHF/UHF, mostly on simplex. They are assigned to each support, shuttle and catcher vehicle. Multiple bands and frequencies are used.

Sandra Sue is in charge of coordinating the CSS communications in the event, which requires complex planning and intensive training of the hams. This year CSS will be responsible for four groups.

She said that hams are so well versed on the rules of the event and each group depends on their expertise. When participants were asked why they volunteer year after year, the answers were...for the challenge, camaraderie, training, and FUN. She stated that there was no better training for real emergency communications than that given for this event. Each "yellow jacket" is given a manual which includes detailed schedules for that ham.

Training is held in Beaumont with drills in Redlands. Participants need to bring their VHF/UHF HT. If you would like to participate in this adventure, more information is available at www.k6css.com. Contacts: admin@k6css.com or 909 223 3328.

Many thanks to Sandra Sue and Dan for the exciting and informative power point presentation.

de K6LG

RCARA Members, Ham Radio Outlet "HRO" in Anaheim offers discounts on some items. **Call ahead or** mention that you are a member of RCARA when checking out for possible savings.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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Mark Conway, K6GUK 1912-2012



Mark Conway, K6GUK, passed away, January 9th, 2012. Graveside services for Mark were held at Olivewood Cemetery on January 25.

Mark was a charter member of RCARA, and served as president in 1958-59. He was also a charter member of the Riverside QCWA chapter and RACES.

Mark was active in the club's first Field Days, and related how they set up, using surplus military gear and tents. The Antenna Group (later called the RF Group) initially met in Mark's garage, where many of our newbie's built their first 2M J-Poles and other antennas. He was a great craftsman and mentor to beginners.

Mark had strong opinions...we remember, with a chuckle, his stressing that simplex was much better than relying on a repeater, for real emergencies.

In his working years, he did building construction here in town and in the county. During WWII he installed hydraulic systems in planes at the Lockheed Aircraft Company.

Other interests included guns and hot cars. Who can forget that new red Mustang he drove a few years ago?

We'll long remember Mark's colorful personality, and his service to the club over many years, and extend our condolences to his family.

Shorts

ON THE AIR

WA6UDR

Arlo is back on the air! For the first time since his mid-November heart attack, he checked into the RACES 75M Sunday AM net, January 15. The net and WA6TLL, WB6FKR and K6LG welcomed him back. His recovery is progressing well.



KF6BNQ

Ed, who upgraded to General, last year, picked up on an announcement at the last meeting, and bought a Kenwood TS-430. Hooked it up to his 10M vertical and made his first HF contact with a ham in Ohio. Congrats Ed!



KQ6UP

Chris was thrilled to use the International Space Station (ISS) as an APRS digipeater, and successfully sent an email through the ISS! He promises to share the details in an upcoming meeting. Congrats, Chris.



AG6EA

President Jim survived his ski trip to Utah...no broken bones!! Maybe we'll hear a story on ski mobile?



K6LG

Clair's article on EME appears on page 73, in this month's QST (February 2012 issue). If you were one of the few who attended his PP presentation in November 2010, you already know the story. This was his first article, since the one in the July 2003 issue. No, he didn't get his picture on the cover this time! Maybe some old dogs CAN learn new tricks?



KG6NIB

Bob reports he got his best ever Christmas gift. His relatives moved out...and now he has his own second story radio room right under his antennas! He is a happy camper!

Riverside County RACES



Many of you are aware that the Riverside Fire Department Office of Emergency Services uses the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service or RACES to provide emergency communications in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. RACES operators staff city, hospital, paramedic and health department

emergency operation centers in 14 separate districts, the County's Primary Emergency Operation Center in Riverside, its Secondary Emergency Operation Center in Indio and the backup Emergency Communication Center in Perris.

Many of us told our spouse, family and friends that one of the reasons we got into the amateur radio hobby was the ability to help with emergency communications during emergencies. RACES, ARES or Amateur Radio Emergency Service and other auxiliary Communication Services (ACS) train to meet the requirements of the agencies they support.

Good amateur radio skills aren't enough; public agencies want trained professionals, whether paid or volunteers, that understand the lines of authority and the command and control structure used in emergencies, not just communicators.

RACES ask their members to successfully complete FEMA courses IS-100.b (ICS 100) Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS) and IS-700.a – (ICS 700) National Incident Management System (NIMS). The ARRL recommends that ARES members complete the two FEMA courses and the Leagues Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs and Introduction to Emergency Communication.

Emergency communication services encourage hands on training beyond the textbook using on the air communication nets, public service events, table top exercises, drills and field exercises. Additional personal training opportunities may include marathons, bicycle races, triathlons, ultra marathons and off road events.

Don KD6UVT

RCARA Member Contest Reports:

January 1st, 2012 Straight Key Night "SKN" Report from K6LG Clair:

<u>UTC:</u>	<u>Call:</u>	<u>Band & Mode</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
0116	KA9UDA	80 meter CW	Roger, Barstow CA
0133	K5NOF	80 meter CW	Al, San Antonio TX
0227	K6KPH	80 meter CW	Larry (W7JYJ) at MRM in Bolinas CA
1620	K6LQ	40 meter CW	Mike, Fair Oaks, CA
1656	W8KA	40 meter CW	Frank, Ventura, CA
1713	W5TZR	40 meter CW	Ralph, Hemet CA on his 95th birthday!
1734	WA9QWX	40 meter CW	Ron, Tucson AZ
1746	AE6C	40 meter CW	Denny, Fremont CA using the ARC-5 pictured below!



Thanks to AE6C for the photo.

"Should Auld Acquaintance be forgot....?" Yes, SKN is all about nostalgia. Hearing many unique fists at the key is always great....but when I heard a chirpy, unstable signal from AE6C, I knew in a moment he was using something special. Denny was using an ARC-5! Wow, that brought back a flood of memories of my first year (1949) as a ham. I converted one of these "war surplus" rigs, hooked it to a 40M folded dipole, and worked stations across the globe. What a kick to again hear signals like those of yesteryear!

February Ham Radio Contests

Delaware QSO Party 2012

February 4th and 5th, 2012: 1700Z Saturday, February 4th until 2359Z Sunday, February 5th.

Object: Contact as many stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and All VHF bands.

Suggested frequencies: Phone: 1.860, 3.960, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 50.145 CW: 1.825, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, 50.950

Info: <http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/qsohome.htm>

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

Feb 11, 2012 0000Z, to 2400Z, Feb 12, 2012

Mode: RTTY, Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m Exchange: RST + Serial No.

Info: <http://www.cqwprrtty.com/rules.htm>

ARRL International DX Contest, CW

February 18-19, 2012 Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday.

Exchange: W/VE: RST + (state/province) non-W/VE: RST + power

Info: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Feld Hell Sprint

Feb 18, 2012, 2000Z-2200Z,

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Info: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

Download the free Hellschreiber program at: <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=3537> and use your soundcard interface. Hellschreiber runs cool (50% duty cycle) and is easy to use.

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

Feb 24, 2012 2200Z, to Feb 26, 2012 2159Z,

Exchange: W/VE: RST + (state/province) non-W/VE: RST + power

Info: http://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_160_meter_contest/cq_ww_160_meter_contest_rules/2012_cq_ww_160_meter_contest_rules.pdf

North American QSO Party, RTTY

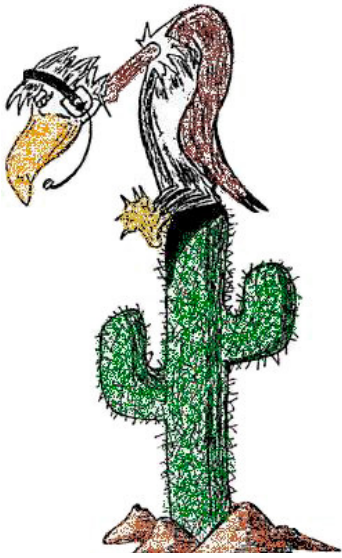
Feb 25, 2012 1800Z, to Feb 26, 2012 0600Z

Exchange: NA: Name + (state/province/country) non-NA: Name

Info: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

This is only a partial listing of February 2012 contests; visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar for more: <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=238>

2012 SW Division Convention



8th Annual Yuma Hamfest & Arizona State Convention Yuma, Arizona Feb. 17 & 18, 2012

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information
and a Current Schedule of Activities and Seminars

Gates Open for Camping
Thursday, 2 pm
Vendor Setup
Friday, 7 am - Noon

Event Hours
Friday, Noon - 5 pm
Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

Buzzard BBQ &
Grand Prize Drawing
Saturday Night
6:00 - 8:00 pm

- \$5.00 admission
- Free parking
- Relaxed fairgrounds environment
- A food concession operated by a professional chef
- Reasonably priced breakfasts and lunches
- Our famous \$10 "Buzzard BBQ" buffet-style banquet dinner
- Full seminar schedule in multiple tracks
- "Country Store" consignment sales area
- Antenna clinic & transmitter hunt
- W1AW/7 special event station
- ANSR "near space" high altitude balloon launch
- License exams & upgrades
- Incredible grand prize package worth over \$11,000
- Commercial exhibitors in the indoor hall
- Outside tailgating
- On-site RV camping
- DXCC card checking

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz
Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org

So how did RCARA do with T32C?

Call /Bands	SSB	CW	RTTY	FM
AA6CA	4			
AD6JF	3	3		1
KG6NIB	4			
KJ6OOZ	5			1
AF6HR	7			
W4OFE	3			
KJ6HZ	7	9		
W6RTW	1	1		
WA6TLL	4			
KI6HPV	1			
K6LG	7	9	3	1
N6JW	5	7	4	
KI6OQU	3			
W6TJ	2	4		
Total contacts	68	39	7	4

Grand total for club: 118 contacts with T32C

*Upgrading your Ham Radio License? Practice tests are available on line at:
<http://www.qrz.com/xtest2.html>*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR WEEKLY NETS

Every Sunday at 8:30 AM	RACES Public Service Net, 3.945 MHz	Info: AF6HR- Steve
Every Monday at 7:15 PM	Repeater Net: 146.880 MHz/PL 146.2	Info: N6WMH-Bill 687-3055
First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM	QCWA simplex net: 145.580 MHz	Info: W6RTW - Bob

EVENTS

2nd Thursday of the month at 6:15 PM	Board Meeting	Info: KG6NIB-Bob
2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM	Club Meeting	Info: KG6NIB-Bob
1st Saturday of the month at 8 AM	T-Hunt at St Johns Church Corona	Info: W6TKV-Fred
1st Saturday of the month at 1:30PM (By Appointment only)	VE Testing	Call W6TKV-Fred 687-8145

Upcoming:

Feb. 17 & 18, 2012	8th Annual Yuma Ham-fest & Arizona State Convention	See page 10 of this edition of The Monitor
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SWAP MEETS:

Location:	Sponsor:
2nd Saturday of the month 7:00AM	Cable Airport Swap Meet, Upland IEARC
3rd Saturday of the month 7:00 AM	Chino Hills High School Swap Meet CHS Boosters
Last Saturday of the month 7:00 AM	TRW Swap Meet, Manhattan Beach W6TRW ARA