

The QFQ Report

The official newsletter of the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



June, 2009

June 3rd meeting

Tom Cort **KB1EPR**

CVARC vice president

June CVARC meeting

When: 3 June 2009

Where: The Steak House
1239 Barre-Montpelier Rd.

What: • dinner (5:30 P.M.)
• monthly meeting (6:30 P.M.)
• program: Field Day prep / Show & tell

The main topic for the June meeting will be Field Day. There is a lot of planning and organizing to be done to prepare for the event, so the business meeting will likely spill over into the time allotted for presentations. To accommodate the variable schedule, we will be trying something different this month. Instead of an hour-long presentation, there will be a project "show and tell" with the remaining time. Club members and guests are encouraged to bring in their home-brewed antennas, electronics projects, completed kits, or pictures and share their tales of success and/or disappointment. The regular presentation format will return in July when Virgil Hall **AA1RW** will cover solar power and energy-saving measures.

From the president

Tom Long **KB1NGQ**

CVARC president



The upcoming month, or two always seem to come and go quickly, with so much lawn mowing, gardening, and all of the final clean up from winter to get done. Along with all of the tasks we have at home, it is also a very busy time for worthy fundraiser events, providing the opportunity for volunteer communicators in support of these events (three articles on page 4), as well as our biggest event of the year, Field Day (see above).

The June 3rd CVARC meeting will focus on preparations for Field Day (June 26th–28th). We could still use a Field Day committee chair to help orchestrate who has volunteered to do what, and when. We do have volunteers to organize the equipment needs, bring some food, etc. However, making sure who is providing overnight security on Friday and Saturday nights, who will commit to the Sunday morning tear-down and load-out, transport of equipment from, and back to CVARC's storage facility (Meadowcrest Farm) and other various chores, is *ad hoc* at this point. Does any one want to claim the glory?

On the subject of volunteers for club positions, we are still in need of a new "public information officer." Our vice president, Tom Cort **KB1EPR**, is now doing double duty and could use someone to make the contacts and write short blurbs to the appropriate media and public officials as to CVARC events and volunteer communicators for various causes.

This is also the season for a bit of CVARC official business. Steve Board **KA1LHZ**, our new director, has the paperwork filled out to transfer the FCC trusteeship of the **W1BD** call to him, as required in our bylaws. We will be sure another officer of the club signs off on the form and Steve will get that to the FCC to formalize the transfer. Once done, I will update the ARRL web site's club information page www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/detail.html?master_id=0004002251 as to current director and officers of the club. Also, June is our "rent due" month for the **W1BD** repeater site in Williamstown. I, with the assistance of our treasurer, Josette Metayer Messer **KB1EPT**, will get the check to our "landlords."

There is an upcoming Vermont Yankee response drill on the morning of June 10th, for RACES members to hone their emergency communications skills. If you are a RACES member and are interested but have not seen the notice from Vermont Emergency Management, please contact me and I'll get you the contact information. If you are not a RACES member, please consider joining.

Lastly, there is an ARRL New England Division cabinet meeting on Saturday, June 13th, in Manchester, N.H. I will be attending and will bring any appropriate subjects up at the meeting that CVARC members would like addressed. Please feel free to contact me, or let me know your thoughts at the June 3rd meeting.

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May, 2009, CVARC meeting minutes

Wayne A. Dorsett **KB1NDS**

CVARC secretary

Attendees

- Wayne A. Dorsett **KB1NDS**
- Virgil Hall **AA1RW**
- Joe Truss **KB1FDA** — Extra as of tonight
- Jane English **KD6PCE**
- Alexandra Whitelock **W1AEW**
- Wayne Whitelock **W1WRW**
- Bridget Brimacombe
- Tom Cort **KB1EPR**
- Steve Board **KA1LHZ**
- Josette Metayer Messer **KB1EPT**
- David Halé **W1KR**
- Tom Long **KB1NGQ**
- Avi Freund **K1AKF**
- Marcy Shaffer
- Martin McMahon **KB1SLG** — Tech. as of tonight
- Allen Wilde **N1IOE** — General as of tonight
- Ron Schoolcraft **KB1OPA**
- Gary Sheridan **N1RNJ**
- Fred Messer **WA1LIE**
- Ture Nelson **KB1NBJ**
- Ed Hutchinson **N1FMP**
- Chris Craig **K1MHZ**
- Ronald Pitkin **KB1NDU**
- Derek Adams **KB1KJQ**



David Halé **W1KR** (**KB1EPR**)

The meeting was prefaced with a VE session 5:30 pm – 6:15 PM in which we had

- an upgrade to Extra class: Joe Truss **KB1FDA**
- an upgrade to General: Allen Wilde **N1IOE**
- a new Technician: Martin McMahon **KB1SLG**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Long **KB1NGQ**, CVARC president, at 6:30 P.M. He opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves (see attendee list above).

A copy of *QFQ* was circulated before the meeting began which included the minutes of the April meeting, and they were accepted as printed. The minutes were submitted by Wayne A. Dorsett **KB1NDS**, CVARC secretary.

A copy of the treasurer's report was also published in the *QFQ*; this was also accepted as published. Josette Metayer Messer **KB1EPT**, CVARC treasurer, indicated that there were a few membership dues deposits not yet posted which she would take care of before the next meeting.

Old Business:

Josette **KB1EPT** presented a certificate of appreciation to Tom **KB1NGQ** (outgoing vice-president and incoming president). He had been ill and missed the April meeting.

Tom **KB1NGQ** then presented the following certificates of appreciation to:

- Fred Messer **WA1LIE**, outgoing director
- Erik Mueller-Harder **K1US**, *QFQ* editor, membership chair, and webmaster (*in absentia*)
- Josette **KB1EPT**, outgoing president
- Miles Silk **KA1LDL**, for tower-climbing work
- Wayne Whitelock **W1WRW**, for miscellaneous efforts to the club
- Allen Wilde **N1IOE**, for the tremendous job as repeater technician

New Business:

Fred Messer **WA1LIE** is seeking a crew go to Warren to remove a beam and tower. Contact him at fmesser@madriver.com if you can help. He will get back with details as soon as he makes arrangements.

Tom Cort **KB1EPR** asked for volunteers to help with the Vermont Corporate Cup Challenge. If you are able to help with this project contact Fred Doten **N1OEP** at dotens@juno.com.

It was also announced there would be SKYWARN training on May 7th at the Berlin Elementary School. It would begin about 6:00 P.M. and last about two hours.

While the above was going on, Tom **KB1NGQ** delivered the notebooks with what each needed to know for their position.

We then adjourned the business portion of the meeting so the program could begin. The program was a very good presentation about mobile antennas, with demonstration of various types of antennas, explanations of why some types were better than others, and how to make your own antennas of different types.

David Halé **W1KR** presented the theory and some examples of his experimentation, and of his completed or partially-disassembled-for-inspection mobile antennas. He also recommended several books.

Steve Board **KA1LHZ** presented his famous 160-meter mobile antenna as well as the roof-mount reinforced system he used for holding the weight and countering wind resistance. He showed us how he had modified his various Hamsticks to make them more efficient by adjusting the coils to the whip section, rather than the usual method of cutting the whip to match the coil.



Steve Board **KA1LHZ** (**KB1EPR**)

Treasurer's report for May, 2009

Josette Metayer Messer KB1EPT
CVARC treasurer

Balance forward			\$2,874.37
Expenses	[none]	\$0.00	
Total expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00
Income	Dues	\$95.00	
Total income		\$95.00	\$95.00
Ending balance			\$2,969.37

New, returning, & renewing members

Erik Mueller-Harder K1US
CVARC membership coordinator

- Greg Fox KE1MI
- Tom Long KB1NGQ
- Martin McMahon KB1SLG
- Josef Nevin KB1MHB
- Sara Nevin N1EIT

Wind & solar at home

Ed Hutchinson N1FMP



Raising the turbine (N1FMP)

We now have running a 1 kW Whisper 200 wind generator on a 30' tower and a 1.3 kW PV array. They feed a pair of OutBack 3 kW "off grid" inverters and store energy in a 26 kWh (48 v) battery bank.

For a couple of weeks, about a third of our domestic electrical load (5 kWh/day) has been off grid (deep well pump, refrigerator, boiler, some lights and computers). I plan to do some more rewiring to get a few more lights, the freezer, and my station on the backup power. So far, the batteries have stayed charged. It is obvious that the refrigerator is the little piggy; we may need to consider an upgrade (it is about 20 years old). About 3/4 of the generation is done by the PV, but the turbine is more fun to watch.

This is surely the hard way to "save" 75 ¢/day, and often just about pays the interest the money would have earned in the credit union. But it's not about money. I'm convinced that toast burned in the toaster with solar power tastes better than toast burned with power from the grid. (And we're sure your signal will get out further and sound better with your own power, too! — ed.)



Photo-voltaic array (N1FMP)



Invertors (N1FMP)



Batteries (N1FMP)

“Girls on the run” race

Tom Long **KB1NGQ**
CVARC president

The 2009 New Balance “Girls on the run” Vermont 5K run/walk is a non-competitive, family-friendly event where everyone is a winner. In 2008, more than 2,000 enthusiastic girls, families and community members joined in at the 5k events to celebrate their health.

This year’s event will take place on Sunday, June 7th, in Essex Junction. If you can assist, please contact Tom Heydinger at theydinger@brattleborodentalhealth.com.

The event is only about two hours, starting at 10:00 (probably three hours including set-up (about 9:00–12:00 EDT)).

For more information, see www.girlsontherunvermont.org, and look for the 5k race information for Essex Junction.

What: **New Balance “Girls on the run” 5km run/walk, Essex Jct., Sunday, June 7th**
Who: **amateur radio volunteers**
When: **9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON**
Contact: **Tom Heydinger theydinger@brattleborodentalhealth.com**

Waterbury crop walk

Tom Cort **KB1EPR**
CVARC vice president

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide — and right here in the U.S. — to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Each year some two million CROP walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and soles in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world — and in their own communities. And you are part of it!

For the past several years, CVARC has assisted with communications for the walk. We are looking for a few volunteers to help out again. If you can assist this year, please contact me at theveep@w1bd.org. Additional details will be available at the June CVARC meeting.

What: **Waterbury CROP Walk**
Who: **amateur radio volunteers**
When: **morning of June 14th, 2009**
Contact: **Tom Cort **KB1EPR** at 223-5273 or theveep@w1bd.org**
More info: www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/CropWalks/general?fr_id=2980&pg=entry

“Run the ridges” race

Karen Mueller-Harder **KB1PCM**

We’re looking for several more ham radio operators for the Cabot “Run the Ridges” race Saturday, June 13th. We’re convening on the Cabot Common at 8:00 A.M., with the walkers beginning at 8:30, followed by the runners an hour later. The race should be over by 11:00, and there’s a light lunch served at the finish for the volunteers as well as the runners. This is a low-key 6-mile run/walk/bike race over some really lovely countryside (where I have the privilege of living!). Most of the operators will be posted on a quiet stretch of road, keeping tabs on a modest number of runners going by, so it’s a great opportunity for someone who hasn’t worked a race before to give it a try (two of our volunteers in the past few years have been under 12).

That day will also feature Cabot Creamery’s 90th birthday party, with various fun activities (including lots of stuff for kids) from 10:00 A.M. until mid-afternoon. It will only overlap slightly with the race — the events are at the Creamery, a bit south of the race route, and the race will be wrapping up not long after the party begins — but we will need to be on top of things for that bit of overlap. And of course you can go check out the festivities after our ham work is done!

What: **Cabot “Run the Ridges” race, Cabot, Saturday, June 13th**
Who: **8 to 10 amateur radio volunteers**
Where: **meet at Cabot Common**
When: **meet at 8:00; race starts at 8:30 A.M.**
Food: **lunch served to volunteers at the finish**
Contact: **Karen Mueller-Harder **KB1PCM** at 563-2669 or kb1pcm@aroundvt.org**

VE session for new technicians & upgrades

Fred Messer **WA1LIE**
CVARC VE coordinator

There will be a VE session (test for Amateur Radio licenses) on Wednesday evening, June 3rd, 2009 at 5:30 P.M. at the Steak House Restaurant on the Barre-Montpelier Road. Candidates should bring \$15, a copy of your current license (if applicable), and two forms of ID, picture preferred. Tests for all classes of license will be available. Questions may be directed to **WA1LIE** or any CVARC officer — and please let us know if you plan to attend, so that we may be sure to have proper supplies on hand.

Any VE who desires to assist with the VE session, please notify **WA1LIE**. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

CVARC nets

All licensed radio amateurs are welcome.

Central Vermont FM Net

Sundays at 8:00 P.M. on the 146.625 MHz Williamstown repeater. Our "flagship" net regularly draws check-ins from all over Vermont and neighboring areas of Québec, New York, and New Hampshire. Allen Tinker **W1AAT**, Net Manager.

Net Control Operators

1st Sunday	various
2nd Sunday	Ed Hutchinson N1FMP
3rd Sunday	various
4th Sunday	various
5th Sunday	Chris Craig K1MHZ

	Apr '08	May '08	Jun '08	Jul '08	Aug '08	Sep '08	Oct '08	Nov '08	Dec '08	Jan '09	Feb '09	Mar '09	Apr '09
Sessions	3	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4
Check-ins	69	31	49	43	35	50	49	70	45	48	49	65	45
Traffic	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	1	4	3	5	4
Minutes	124	134	209	175	184	171	191	253	194	215	176	227	197

Good Morning, Vermont! Net

Monday through Saturday at about 6:15 A.M. on the 146.625 MHz Williamstown repeater. Join early risers and morning commuters for a "rise and shine" morning. Wayne A. Dorsett **KB1NDS**, Net Manager.

Net Control Operators

Monday	Steve Pierce KB1KJS
Tuesday	Frank Pesce N1YBX
Wednesday	Wayne A. Dorsett KB1NDS
Thursday	Frank Pesce N1YBX
Friday	Wayne A. Dorsett KB1NDS
Saturday	Steve Pierce KB1KJS

	Apr '08	May '08	Jun '08	Jul '08	Aug '08	Sep '08	Oct '08	Nov '08	Dec '08	Jan '09	Feb '09	Mar '09	Apr '09
Sessions	20		24	27	25	24	25	25	27	27	23	22	
Check-ins	136		88	128	89	94	144	166	233	218	213	211	
Traffic	18		5	13	13	7	5	16	16	19	16	14	
Minutes	522		509	685	671	568	877	845	1089	1036	886	844	

Good Night, Irene! Net

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 P.M. on the 146.625 MHz Williamstown repeater. Join your friends at the end of the day. An informal net chaired by many members to touch base with friends just before bedtime for the early risers among us. Join your CVARC friends for a delightful half hour before you pack it in for the evening. Wayne A. Dorsett **KB1NDS**, Net Manager.

Net Control Operators

Monday	Wayne A. Dorsett KB1NDS
Tuesday	Allen Tinker W1AAT
Wednesday	Tom Cort KB1EPR
Thursday	Steve Pierce KB1KJS
Friday	Steve Pierce KB1KJS
Saturday	Scott Law KB1NDT

	Apr '08	May '08	Jun '08	Jul '08	Aug '08	Sep '08	Oct '08	Nov '08	Dec '08	Jan '09	Feb '09	Mar '09	Apr '09
Sessions			24	26	23	22	25	25	26	25	24	24	
Check-ins			172	202	179	216	239	246	258	239	213	232	
Traffic			16	6	14	18	8	20	13	12	21	19	
Minutes			697	756	810	849	931	956	1013	998	856	796	

CVARC Phone Net

Mondays at 8:00 P.M. on 1966 KHz. Come join in and see whether 160-meter nets deserve their reputation for, well, long-windedness. David Halé **W1KR**, Net Manager.


CVARC membership

To join CVARC or to renew, please send your check made payable to "CVARC", to:

Erik Mueller-Harder **K1US**
993 Coit's Pond Road
Cabot, VT 05647

Full	\$20/year
Family	\$25/year
Sustaining	\$75/year
Contributing (non-voting)	\$10/year

Dates to remember

3 June	CVARC VE session
3 June	CVARC meeting
7 June	"Girls on the run" race (see page 4)
13 June	"Run the ridges" race (see page 4)
14 June	Waterbury CROP Walk (see page 4)
27–29 June	ARRL Field Day 2009 
1 July	CVARC meeting
4 July	Independence Day
5 Aug.	CVARC meeting
15 Aug.	STARC Hamfest
2 Sept.	CVARC meeting
7 Sept.	Labor Day

Recent CVARC programs

May '08	Planning for Field Day 2008
June '08	Planning for Field Day 2008
July '08	Analysis of Field Day 2008
August '08	
September '08	Picnic at Virgil Hall AA1RW's
October '08	NOAA winter SKYWARN™ training (Greg Hanson KB1GYE)
November '08	Auction
December '08	Holiday party at The Steak House
January '09	[cancelled due to bad weather]
February '09	Antennas 101 (Fred Messer WA1LIE)
March '09	Portable antennas (David Halé W1KR)
April '09	2009 CVARC annual meeting
May '09	Mobile antennas (David Halé W1KR & Steve Board KA1LHZ)

CVARC officers, &c.

<i>president</i>	Tom Long KB1NGQ	theprez@w1bd.org
<i>vice president</i>	Tom Cort KB1EPR	theveep@w1bd.org
<i>secretary</i>	Wayne A. Dorsett KB1NDS	thesecretary@w1bd.org
<i>treasurer</i>	Josette Metayer Messer KB1EPT	thetreasurer@w1bd.org
<i>director (club call-sign custodian)</i>	Steve Board KA1LHZ	thedirector@w1bd.org
<i>repeater technician</i>	Allen Wilde N1IOE	therepeaterguy@w1bd.org
<i>QFQ Report editor</i>	Erik Mueller-Harder K1US	theeditor@w1bd.org
<i>membership chair</i>	Erik Mueller-Harder K1US	themembershipguy@w1bd.org
<i>webmaster</i>	Erik Mueller-Harder K1US	thewebmaster@w1bd.org

CVARC repeaters

	Williamstown	Cabot
<i>Call sign</i>	W1BD	W1BD
<i>Frequency</i>	146.625 MHz	146.820 MHz
<i>Offset</i>	-600 kHz (146.025 MHz)	-600 kHz (146.220 MHz)
<i>P/L tone</i>	100 Hz	100 Hz

CVARC web site

<http://www.w1bd.org/>