



# The Coachella Valley Repeater



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PO Box 11092, Palm Desert, CA 92255  
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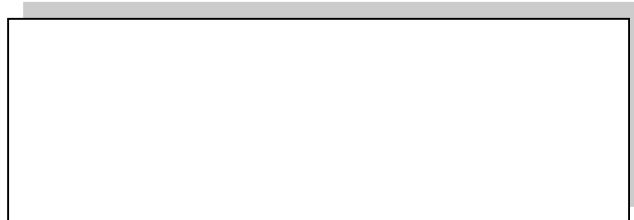


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## *Coachella Valley Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 11092, Palm Desert, CA 92255*

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		REPEATER:		NR6P 146.025+ pl 107.2

CVARC IECARO Delegates: Maureen Hiemstra K6BSC & Harold Witten K6TQM



**Palm Desert, CA 92255**  
**P.O. Box 11092**  
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## Coachella Valley R.A.C.E.S.

The monthly meeting was held at Civic Yard, Palm Springs on Thursday 10 April 2008 with some 35 attendees. Thanks once again to PS City Fire's John Hardcastle for his support and for making the necessary arrangements.

The main element at the April meeting was a talk given by our own Dr Gene Pentecost W4IMT our 'in-house' APRS expert. Gene was as usual well prepared with a Powerpoint show which he used to explain various elements of the APRS system. There were specific examples of how the system had been used, and how some problems had been overcome on the Tour de Palm Springs cycle marathon. Gene also detailed how several other members of RACES, particularly Randy K6YFE, had devoted time and expertise to solve those issues. He outlined how RACES had bought and supplied the Tiny-Trak units, carry-cases etc but each participating member had supplied the radio. Quite a few members were now using the system on a daily basis. Harold K6TQM had a laptop at hand to demonstrate live reports from the system.

After the break there was a discussion on the recent hospital drill. Randy K6YFE distributed a very practical and useful *aide-memoire* listing suggested actions in the event of an incident. John Hardcastle KI6AHR gave some disturbing information about the prognosis for restoration of utilities after a major earthquake. There is an ongoing study – details expected by late summer which suggests that while electricity and gas may be back on in a week or so, water may not be restored for quite possibly several months.

Members are reminded of the huge amount of information contained on the County RACES website. <http://www.rivcoraces.org/>. All members are encouraged to check it out before the next meeting which is scheduled for **Thursday 8 May 2008**.

I look forward to seeing you there as it will be the last meeting before summer recess. Our scheduled meeting thereafter will be on Thursday 11 September – but of course EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN in between times, so a regular reminder to keep your portable battery and a spare fully charged.

**Ken Nelson W6NEL**  
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services  
District Officer, Coachella Valley  
Home 951-849-7397 / Cell 760-219-7962



(Article Submitted by David W6OPS)



**Leo and Abigail have returned to Omaha.** They arrived safe and sound after an uneventful journey.

**Bill Burton, K8ZZO, became a SK** during the month of April. During the past six months, Bill and Suzanne had moved into their new Joshua Tree house where he was building a first class DX station. His death was unexpected. Bill was active in our chapter as well as in other Valley ham related events. He will be missed.

As defined by our chapter written policy, we marketed most of his ham related assets. Thanks to hams here in the Valley, we were able to sell much of his equipment. One complete station is still available and is listed on page 2 of this Repeater. Many minor items are stored until November.

**Dick Clark, K6GLB,** designed our new chapter web site. At our April luncheon meeting he described his design criteria. This included not only the web page itself, but the selection of the domain name. Dick's experience in website design was obvious and we learned a lot. Thanks Dick.

**There will no luncheon meetings until November.** On behalf of all chapter members, I wish to thank all hams at Palm Desert Greens Country Club who helped make our meetings a success. Special thanks go to Jerry, N6CRI, for acting as liaison with club personnel.

Try to stay cool during the long hot summer.

73  
Gene Pentecost W4IMT  
President, Leo Meyerson Chapter 154  
Greater Palm Springs Area Quarter Century Wireless Association  
208-375-6337 [gene.pentecost@ieee.org](mailto:gene.pentecost@ieee.org)



**QCWA  
Chapter 154  
DREEP's Droppings**



# R.A.C.E.S. EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

- 1) Make sure you and your family are safe and your surroundings are secure.
- 2) Turn your ham radio on to RACES frequency 146.025, + offset, 107.2 PL.
- 3) If the repeater is down, use 146.025 simplex. (Program simplex freqs in your radio)
- 4) First RACES operator on the air is NET CONTROL until relieved.

## NET CONTROL

- 1) Announce that you are NET CONTROL and are taking check-ins.
- 2) Ask for check-ins and a BRIEF report of conditions at their location.
- 3) Ask for relays for weak stations checking-in or with traffic.
- 4) Have an operator with HF monitor 3.945 / 7.295 and report HF traffic to you.
- 5) Announce that 146.025 is for check-ins and emergency traffic only.
- 6) Remain NET CONTROL until relieved or assign duties to another operator.
- 7) Relay all check-ins and traffic to new NET CONTROL.

## RACES ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) **DO NOT GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED LOCATION UNTIL DISPATCHED BY A RACES OFFICER WITH AN INCIDENT NUMBER!!**
- 2) Proceed to your assigned location safely when dispatched.
- 3) Set-up and check-in with NET CONTROL when you arrive.

## PREPLANNING

- 1) Program repeater and simplex freqs in memory channels.
- 2) Review your radio's user's manual. Make 'cheat sheets' for field use.
- 3) Charge radio batteries on a regular schedule.
- 4) Buy an AA battery pack for your HT radio. Store extra batteries.
- 5) Make a HARD WIRE DC connection from your vehicle's battery for your radios.
- 6) Make a "GO PACK" with necessary radio equipment, supplies, food, water, etc.
- 7) Check in to local nets on a regular basis.
- 8) Download and review the RACES Members Manual.

The first hours of a major emergency will be chaotic.  
Keep your cool and be professional.

Randy Skrypek K6YFE  
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services  
Station Manager, Coachella Valley



### Coachella Valley Amateur Radio Club

Please attend the next Coachella Vly Amateur Radio Club Meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. for details on Field Day.



### Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society

No formal Desert RATS meeting scheduled at this time. Visit our web site at: <http://desertrats.x.am> for all club information and other Desert RATS news.

## **SK Ham Equipment for Sale**

From the estate of Bill, K8ZZO, the QCWA has a complete HF station for sale: Icom IC-775DSP \$1800, D-104 Silver Eagle microphone \$100, Kenwood SP-950 \$100, Dentron MLA-2500 (amp) \$400.

This equipment has been checked by Ken, W6NEL (Hm (951) 849-7397 / Cell (760) 219-7962), who will answer questions about its condition. We will make an attractive package price for two or more pieces.

Gene, W4IMT

# May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm CV RACES NET	2 11:00 am LUNCH @ Palm Desert Greens	3
4 8:30 am RACES NET	5 7 pm RATS NET	6	7 7 pm CVARC VE Testing Red Cross (42nd & Corporate Wy)	8 7:15 pm RACES Mtg 425 N. Civic Dr, P. Spgs  7 pm CV RACES NET	9 11:00 am LUNCH @ Palm Desert Greens	10 8:30am Ham Breakfast sponsored by the RATS @ Hometown Buffet (Hwy 111 & Fred Waring) 
11 8:30 am RACES NET	12 7 pm RATS NET	13 7 pm CVARC Mtg Cathedral City Fire Dept, 32100 Desert Vista Rd 	14	15 7 pm CV RACES NET	16 11:00 am LUNCH @ Palm Desert Greens	17
18 8:30 am RACES NET	19 7 pm RATS NET	20	21	22 7 pm CV RACES NET	23 11:00 am LUNCH @ Palm Desert Greens	24
25 8:30 am RACES NET	26 7 pm RATS NET	27	28	29 7 pm RACES COMM. TEST 146.025+ pl107.2	30 11:00 am LUNCH @ Palm Desert Greens	31

H A P P Y B - D A Y S



**NET(s) FREQUENCIES:** Sundays 830 hrs - RACES Net (3.945 MHz)  
 Mondays 1900 hrs - Desert RATS Net (146.940-, 107.2 pl)  
 Thursdays 1900 hrs - Coachella Valley **RACES** Net (146.025+, 107.2 pl)