

# MINI **MONITOR** FLASH

Hi RCARA Hams

December, 2020

Wow, what a year this has been!!! So much is different!

KM6KPW, our President, has been wanting to keep our members communicating with each other even though we can't meet so he has ask me to revive our club **MONITOR**. You've read old issues in the website archives (Club Matters/"The MONITOR Newsletter Archive"), right? Great works way above my skill level so I can't replicate their professional quality. But let's spread our Ham enthusiasm anyway.

This is **Membership renewal time** (you've seen Marlene's email – Go to the website's "2021 Membership Application")!!! We want all of you to hang in with us for a brighter 2021 so we're creating this MINI **MONITOR FLASH** to present bits of radio interest for you.

Categories of interest could be: TECHNICAL, DX, CONTESTING, SATELLITE, APRS, etc. Why not submit something that other members might find interesting? I will present what I find, but you can share also.

**Participation** by you is important, even if it is only one sentence: "My farthest contact last night was a Ham in Corona"; "I discovered a Ham is 1.5 miles from me"; "I built my own antenna and it worked". And we need to know what our younger family members are doing. Have they been reading the bios on QRZ.org to learn about how different Hams got started in Radio? So many interesting stories out there. Can our Family members submit ideas from their young Hams?

This year RCARA has done lots of things. No, we could not do Field Day even though KM6LOQ was eager to get it done, but we have innovated. Besides the regular **Monday night 2M Net** on 146.880/146.280, we have a **10M Roundtable Net** on 28.420 (my 10M vertical stuck in a flower pot gets a sharper signal than my rooftop Screwdriver antenna), a **Saturday morning Simplex** on the third Saturday of the month alternating 2M (147.510) and 70CM (446.00) and now, for a regular club meeting on the second Thursday of the month, we **pre-meet** casually on Zoom then **Meet on the Air** at 7pm via repeater 146.880/146.280. That has been a lot of radio practice and we hope that, even if you are not actively signing in or talking, that you are monitoring and getting ideas for new activities.

RCARA has had some interesting activities. The **Tape Measure antenna** project turned out successfully as a small start. Did you try it? KM6KPW gave me an extra one that he had started (soldering isn't in my skill basket yet so I thank him). That project led to the Fox Hunt using these antennas. The weather was perfect. The park was large enough that we could easily spread out and our individual skills interpreting the antenna's signals guaranteed that we were all at least 6 feet apart. If you didn't participate this time, maybe you'll try next time.

RCARA members tried a **Parks on the Air(POTA)** event at the Citrus Park, again a very nice morning. I was there to learn because I did not have portable equipment (ARRL's On the Air magazine had an outdoor article). KM6KPW started with USB on 20M and an improvised antenna, W7RSO with LSB on 40M with solar panels and a small Screwdriver antenna. Ten voice contacts varied from Oregon to Torrance. I was inspired and have bought solar panels. This is another outdoor event that is not as hard as it might seem.

There was an unexpected **Summits on the Air (SOTA)** one Saturday while we were waiting for the Saturday morning Simplex (11am). A Ham was transmitting SOTA on 70Cm from **Cucamonga Peak**, just north of all of us, crisp and clear (59), and I was able to get up enough nerve to actually answer him, knowing that, if I just had a telescope, I might be able to see him. It's little contacts like that which make Ham Radio special. *You've had this type of experience. Share.*

**Sharing** can lead to **Inspiring** which leads to **Experiencing**. When RCARA members started the 10M vertical roundtable Tuesday net, I did not have a 10M Vertical but K6LG offered me his old **homebuilt** one and I've contacted Hams around the LA basin. Thanks to K6LG for sharing. Since that experience I would suggest that maybe building your own antenna might expand your experiences.

73

Madeleine

AJ6MF

Email submittals to me at [monitor@w6tj.org](mailto:monitor@w6tj.org)

**Disclaimer:**

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