

April
2008

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message by Greg Lane, K7SDW

So far I have not received any inputs for the Essay contest. Don't delay and get your words in early. Also, I still need a Social Chairman; so don't be bashful in supporting your club with a few organizational activities as mention last month. Enough of my Soap Box.

As Board members it is impossible to read the membership minds; therefore it is up to each member to "voice" their desires as to what programs they would like to participate or be active in organizing. You can do this via email, phone, or talk to any one of us during the break.

Some of you have "hidden" talents that the rest of us do not know and I am sure Tom, W0UFC, VP, would like to schedule you for speaking at one of the meetings. A lot of these ideas usually flow into the following year as it takes some planning to schedule speakers let alone finding informative and entertaining speakers.

My thanks to Steve for the spark gap demo and I am sure each of you enjoyed his presentation. It is amazing how far radio transmission as evolved from those early days and what it took to conjure up an apparatus to make things work.

With nano-technology around the corner I guess our hobby will be future implants! I wonder how that 80-meter tower is going to look like implanted in my head?

President's Message, continued on page 2

April Club Meeting "ARRL and Current Happenings"

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, will speak on the ARRL and current happenings in Amateur Radio.

Dick Norton was first licensed in 1955 as KN2PHF. A retired businessman and electrical engineer and an ARRL Charter Life Member, Norton has been a radio amateur for 49 years and is a member of the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame. Initially active in traffic nets and DXing, he is mostly active today on-the-air in contests.

Operating in CQ WW DX Contests from all of the 40 zones has given him an opportunity to see the world and meet with amateurs from all corners of the globe. He competed at the 2002 World Radiosport Team Championship and is a pioneer in computerized contest log checking.

Dick is currently ARRL Southwestern Division Director as well as president of the Southern California Contest Club. He has spoken frequently at Dayton, Visalia, and other conventions.

As always, the CVARC club meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month at the East County Sheriff Station located at:

2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

This facility is just off of the 23 freeway between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. We look forward to seeing you there!

Inside this issue

2008 Event Calendar	2
Palmdale PRB-1 Case	2
Crusin' the Conejo	2
Ohio Hams Lend a Hand	3
Utah Ham Rescues Driver	5
Special Titanic Event	5

President's Message, continued from front page...

Just a reminder, Field Day needs your polished up beams, VSWR checked coax (loose solder joints don't server us well) and make sure your operating manual is nearby if you want to show others how to operate your rig. Get with George to sign up. He got us on the ARRL FD locator map so others can find our site location via the web. If you have never participated in FD, then this year is your chance.

By the time you get this newsletter the Westlake Street Fair, MS walk, VE exams, all will have been accomplished. Therefore, look at the CVARC calendar and if you have a computer, put the days of activity to remind you to attend.

See ya all in April,
73 de Greg, K7SDW

WB6X Palmdale Antenna Zoning Case

Many generous Amateurs have taken up collections through their local radio clubs to help support the legal challenge of the WB6X antenna case in Palmdale, CA. Volunteer Counsel Len Shaffer WA6QHD, who is working on this case pro bono, has set up a trust account to which the collected funds can be sent. Amounts collected will be used for court fees and case-related expenses only. Here are the details:

Make checks payable to: Leonard J. Shaffer,
Esq. Mail to:
P.O. Box 570936
Tarzana, CA 91357

Include on memo line: WB6X Defense Fund

We'll keep you advised of progress on this case as it develops.

(Reprinted from the ARRL SW Division e-Communicator of April 4th, 2008, by permission)

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Event Calendar

- Apr. 8..... 1st CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Apr. 13..... Westlake Street Fair
- Apr. 13..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Apr. 15..... 2nd CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Apr. 17..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Apr. 19..... Arbor Day
- Apr 26..... TRW Swap Meet
- May 3 Malibu Endurance Ride
- May 10 Cruisin' the Conejo Bike Ride
- May 15 CVARC Club Meeting
- May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention
- May 31 TRW Swap Meet
- Jun. 3 2nd CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Jun 8..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Jun. 17 3rd CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Jun. 19 CVARC Club Meeting
- Jun. 28-29 Field Day
- Jun 28 TRW Swap Meet
- Jul 3..... Moorpark Fireworks Show
- Jul. 17..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Jul 26..... TRW Swap Meet
- Aug. 5..... 3rd CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Aug. 10..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Aug. 19..... 4th CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Aug. 21 CVARC Club Meeting
- Aug. 23 (tentative)..... CVARC Summer Picnic
- Aug 30..... TRW Swap Meet
- Sep. 18..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Sep. 12-14 ARRL SW Division Convention
- Sep 27..... TRW Swap Meet
- Oct. 7..... 4th CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Oct. 12..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Oct. 16..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Oct. 21..... 5th CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Oct.25..... TRW Swap Meet
- Nov. 20..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Nov. 29..... TRW Swap Meet
- Dec. 6 (tentative)..... CVARC Holiday Party
- Dec. 9..... 5th CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Dec. 14..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Dec 27..... TRW Swap Meet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to af6cd@arrl.net

Cruisin' the Conejo: A Call for Hams Mike Bass, N7WLC

Cruisin' the Conejo is an annual bike ride that attracts over 1000 cyclists to Thousand Oaks. Why would so many cyclists come to the Conejo? We have some of the most outstanding cycling in Southern California. And Cruisin' the

Conejo provides a way to experience the area from Westlake to Hidden Valley to Camarillo and Moorpark. Some of our more adventurous riders will experience the challenges of steep climbs into the Santa Monica Mountains.

The ride also gives back to the community. Over the last couple of years, the Conejo Valley Cyclists have used proceeds from the ride to buy over 100 bikes for area kids who couldn't afford them. With safety a very important concern, the club has included helmets with the bikes.

Safety is probably the biggest concern for the ride organizers. The ride attracts all levels of cyclists. And some may not be as prepared for the challenges of the road. The ride puts together a fleet of "SAG" wagons to patrol the route and aid any cyclists with either a flat or some other mishap. Each SAG wagon is equipped with spare tubes and a first aid kit. Hams play a key role in keeping the SAG wagons coordinated. Each rider has a cell phone number on their route slips so they can tell ride organizers of a problem. Through ham radio, we can dispatch the closest SAG wagon to the rider.

So how can hams help out? We like to team a ham with a SAG driver. Together they patrol a section of the route. They help out riders. Sometimes the rider is just too tired to go on or is lost. The SAG will bring the rider back to the finish. Toward the end of the ride, they keep track of the last riders on their section, so we can close out sections of the course.

If the rider is injured, the SAG crew is usually the first to arrive and must assess the situation. Then the ham needs to inform the ride organizers so that additional help can be dispatched if necessary. Unfortunately we have had some serious injuries on Cruisin' the Conejo. If the rider is badly injured, the SAG is responsible for getting the bike back to the finish. Believe it or not, this will help the rider to relax knowing his bike is being taken care of. We have started posting Boy Scouts to warn cyclists about difficult sections of road.

Hams play an important role for Cruisin' the Conejo. But we also have some fun doing it. There are some technical challenges to support Cruisin' as well. The ride goes through some steep canyons where radio signals don't make it to the repeater. An enterprising ham will figure out a way to relay signals or move to a different location to get the message through. We also use APRS to keep track of where the SAG vehicles are. This keeps the voice channel open for important traffic rather than "Where are you now?" questions. Steve, KE6SCS, is coordinating our APRS efforts.

If you would like to help out, send me an email at n7wlc@vcars.org. Cruisin' the Conejo will be held on Saturday, May 10. SAG wagons will be operating from 7am to 4pm. If you can help the entire day, that would be great. If you can only help during the morning or afternoon, we can still use you. If you are still on the fence, ask me or someone else who has worked Cruisin'. We have a great time and we even get a free lunch!

73 de Mike, N7WLC

Ohio ARES Teams Lend Support to Hepatitis Vaccination Clinic

When news of a hepatitis A outbreak alarmed residents of West Chester, Ohio last month, local officials sprang into action to inoculate more than 1200 people who had eaten at a local fast food restaurant; an employee with a confirmed case of the virus worked at the restaurant in March may have contaminated ice and other food items, health officials said. Inundated with more people than expected, Butler County Health Department and Emergency Management officials were overwhelmed with traffic, communication problems and general logistics of the event. When a second hepatitis A vaccination clinic was scheduled for April 5, officials called on local Amateur Radio operators to assist with communications, as well as traffic and crowd control.

"After the first vaccination clinic was swamped with people coming to get their shots, both the

Board of Health and the Emergency Management Agency in Butler County realized they needed assistance," said ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW. "They had the super idea of bringing in the local ARES group and called on District Emergency Coordinator Robert Spratt, N8TVU, to organize some hams to come help out."

According to Spratt, officials at the first clinic could not communicate on their cell phones due to lack of coverage in the area. "Officials had only planned for about 800 people to show up to get inoculated. When they had more than 1200 people show up, they tried using their cell phones to call and get more vaccine, but they just wouldn't work." Calls made to 911 for police back-up to deal with unruly persons also had trouble getting through, Piper said.

Ohio has a statewide, secure, reliable public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders in place – MARCS -- used by Emergency Management officials in times when traditional communications systems fail. "When Butler County officials tried to use it at the first clinic, the system displayed 'OUT OF RANGE' or 'NO SIGNAL' messages on every channel," Piper said.

At the second clinic, eight hams from both Butler County and Hamilton County were on site and ready to assist. The clinic, located at a church, was scheduled to run from 10 AM-4 PM. The hams were ready for early crowds; at the first clinic, people were standing in line more than two hours before the doors opened.

"When the ARES team arrived, they established the parking lot area, the traffic flow patterns into and out of the church area and set up the required communications," Spratt said. "ARES members canvassing the complex discovered several other events were ongoing at the facility, including a funeral, fingerprinting for youth sports, a planning meeting for a summer carnival and a planning meeting for the upcoming soccer season. Soccer practice also added to the traffic and pedestrian congestion."

More than 225 people received hepatitis A vaccinations at the second clinic and ARES members directed more than 1200 cars to their correct destinations on the property. The Butler County Health Department officials, clinic staff, the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, the West Chester Police Department and church officials thanked the ARES team for a job well done, all without any reported incidents. Spratt said that the Ohio District 4 ARES teams in Warren, Clermont, Hamilton and Butler counties have had prior Volunteer Reception Center and vaccination clinic operation training that "helped greatly in understanding and knowing what would be needed in the way of communications at the clinic, as well as security, traffic control and crowd control."

Spratt said that people coming to get inoculations "asked about who we were and who we were working for. We made some new friends in the community and recruited three or four people for the upcoming Technician classes. They thought what we were doing as volunteers was great and they want to become part of the team."

Piper concurred with Spratt. "In the Ohio Section, we have the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP) <<http://www.trac-online.org/Docs/oserp.pdf>>. This is a small document compared to some ERPs I have seen. This document outlines how ARES is activated in the Section, who reports to whom and how communication flows. DEC Spratt and his team followed the OSERP pretty much to the letter, and it worked well. Many ARES districts have participated with their Regional Medical Response Systems in their assigned districts on tabletop exercises, as well as actual call-up drills. In February, District 3, under the command of ADEC Fred Stone, W8LLY, conducted a Pandemic Flu activation that extended over several days in February, including a real-time snow storm which affected the drill. This vaccination clinic this past weekend proves to all of us that ARES is vital to the emergency medical community."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, hepatitis A is a viral infection that attacks the

liver and is spread primarily by close person-to-person contact or by consuming contaminated food.

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No. 14 of April 11th, 2008, by permission)

Hams Come to Rescue in Utah

Eldon Kearl, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, was driving in the Logan Canyon, Utah area last week when he came upon a driver who lost control of her truck in the snow. Her truck fell more than 100 feet over a cliff, and two of the three passengers were thrown from the truck. Witnesses tried to call for help on their cell phones, but the closest cell coverage was more than a 30 minute drive away. Kearl, however, had a radio in his car and was able to get a hold of another ham, Roger Ellis, KE7HTE, of Logan, Utah. Kearl relayed to Ellis information about the accident scene and Ellis called 911. First responders were on the scene within half an hour. Although the driver and passengers in the truck suffered only minor injuries, a spokesman for the Utah Highway Patrol said that if Kearl and Ellis had not responded in getting help so quickly, the injuries could have been much worse. As Kearl said, "It all worked out pretty good." Kearl and Ellis have never met, but live relatively close to each other; they plan on meeting each other in person soon. -- Information provided by KSL-TV, Salt Lake City, Utah

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No. 13 of April 4th, 2008, by permission)

Special Events to Commemorate 96th Anniversary of Titanic Tragedy

Several Amateur Radio special event operations are scheduled to mark the 96th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic. The "unsinkable" White Star Line passenger vessel was on its maiden voyage from Liverpool, England, to New York City when it struck an iceberg and sank early on April 15, 1912. More than 1500 people perished, while some 700

passengers in 19 lifeboats were rescued by the RMS Carpathia, whose radio operator copied the frantic distress call (the still common "CQD" signal, possibly coupled with the then-new "SOS") transmitted by MGY radio operator Jack Phillips as the Titanic foundered.

Special event W0S

<http://www.wzeros.com/W0S_Special_Event.html>, which stands for "White Star Line," will be on the air from the Titanic Museum in Branson, Missouri <http://www.titanicbranson.com/>. The W0S operation will commence at 1300 UTC on Saturday, April 12, and conclude at 2400 UTC on Sunday, April 13. Members of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club (SMARC) will be among those at the helm of W0S. Icom, Vibroplex, MicroLog, Rayfield Communications and MFJ are corporate sponsors for the event.

Look for W0S on or around these frequencies: SSB, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250 and 21.350 MHz; CW, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050 and 21.050 MHz; PSK, 80 and 40 meters only. Operators will be listening 3 kHz up for calls. There will also be activity on D-STAR, EchoLink and IRLP; please check the event's Web page for information concerning these frequencies. Visitors are welcome. E-mail the Nixa club for more information <titanichams@wzeros.com>.

Special event station W1MGY will be on the air from the Titanic Historical Society Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts. Operation will concentrate on 20 and 40 meters April 11-12 from 1400 UTC until 2030 UTC each day, although W1MGY may be on the air at other times, bands and modes throughout the 96th anniversary weekend.

Look for W1MGY on or around: CW, 3.533, 7.033, 14.033, 18.099, 21.033 and 28.033 MHz; SSB, 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 18.160, 21.360 and 28.336 MHz, conditions permitting.

To schedule a contact with W1MGY, contact Dave Isham, KB1MU <kb1mu@charter.net>, indicating a preferred date, time and frequency. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with QSL requests to Titanic Historical Society,

W1MGY, PO Box 51053, Indian Orchard, MA
01151-0053.

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No. 14 of April 11th, 2008, by permission)

KANSAS BECOMES 26TH STATE TO HAVE PRB-1 LAW

After an unsuccessful attempt eight years ago to get a PRB-1
<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.htm>> type bill signed in Kansas, radio amateurs in that state have succeeded in becoming the 26th state with a PRB-1 law on the books. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed HB 2805
<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2805.pdf>
into law on April 9. The bill, written by Rep Arlen Siegfried (R-15), passed unanimously in both the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate. It takes effect July 1, 2008.

Known as the "Kansas Emergency Communications Preservation Act," the new law concerns federally licensed Amateur Radio Service communications. According to the governor's office, the law "prohibit[s] a city or county governing body from taking any action that precludes federally licensed amateur radio service communications, or that does not conform to federal regulations related to amateur radio antenna facilities."

The new law states that if a municipality takes any action that regulates the placement, screening, number or height of a station antenna structure, the action must "Reasonably accommodate federally licensed amateur radio service communications; and constitute the minimum regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the governing body." Antenna support structures constructed prior to the bill's effective date "are exempted from subsequent changes in zoning regulations...and may be repaired as required."

JD Spradling, KC0NYS, of Olathe, Kansas, is chairman of the committee
<http://www.hamsforkansas.org/> that led the charge to get a PRB-1 law on the books in that

state. He commented: "Many local zoning boards don't give FCC regulations adequate consideration when making zoning decisions and across the country amateurs have found that state laws are a more effective tool for influencing local zoning regulations. So beginning in the 1990s, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1-type language into their state laws."

Upon hearing the news that Governor Sebelius signed the bill into law, Spradling said, "This venture has been successful because we have had a great team effort all the way through the process, from all who stepped up -- from our state and local representatives, to our subject matter experts and the PRB-1 Committee members from Miami County, Kansas, as well as everyone else who had been proactive in the 2008 Kansas Legislative process for your fellow hams."

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No. 14 of April 11th, 2008, by permission)

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times & Frequencies

Area 2 ACS/ARES members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday night at 7:00pm on the Area 2 check-in nets.



Area	Time	Mode	Frequency	Shift	PL	Repeater/Notes
Area 1	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	147.930	-	127.3	AD6SV
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:00-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>146.850</u>	-	<u>94.8</u>	<u>K6AER/Grissom</u>
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:10-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>224.700</u>	-	<u>156.7</u>	<u>K6HB</u>
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:10-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>449.440</u>	-	<u>131.8</u>	<u>W6AMG/Amgen</u>
Area 2	(Simplex)	Voice	146.445	None	None	Simplex
Area 2	(Backup Repeater)	Voice	147.885	-	127.3	N6JMI "Bozo"
Area 3	7:15-7:30 pm	Voice	147.915	-	127.3	WB6ZTQ
Area 4	7:15-7:30 pm	Voice	149.970	-	127.3	WB6YQN
Area 5	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	145.400	-	None	N6FL
Area 6/7	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	147.975	-	127.3	N6VUY
Area 8	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	146.985	-	127.3	South Mtn.
County	7:30-8:00 pm	Voice	146.880	-	127.3	WA6ZTT
County	6:45-7:00 pm	Voice	52.980	-	82.5	K6SMR
County	7:30-8:00 pm	Voice	224.020	-	127.3	WB6ZTR
County	Before 6:30 pm	Packet	145.710	+	None	Hospital Net
County	(ACS Simplex)	Voice	147.570	None	None	Simplex

Net Control operations for the weekly ACS/ARES Area 2 check-in are run from the ACS/ARES communications center at East County Sheriff Station (on Olsen Road) every Tuesday starting at 7:00pm.

Visitors are welcome and have the opportunity to operate the station. Please contact Gino Spinelli, K16DJV at (805) 529-6101 if you would like to attend.

ACS members should remember that their ACS card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jackie at the Office of Emergency Services in Ventura, (805) 654-2551, to renew it.

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please call the Area 2 Emergency Coordinator, Ken Larson, KJ6RZ at (805) 495-9435 or go to the ACS/ARES section of the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805) 498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
Vice President.....	Tom Stough.....	WØUFC.....	(805) 373-6836	w0ufc@arrl.net
Secretary	Mary Ho.....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241	abele7213@mypacks.net
Treasurer	Roy Deschene.....	KE6UMW.....	(818) 887-4039	RoyfD@aol.com
Public Relations	Jeff Reinhardt.....	AA6JR.....	(818) 706-3853	aa6jr@pacbell.net
Technical	Rick Barrett.....	KE6DKF	n/a.....	ke6dkf@roadrunner.com
Operations	George Bryant.....	KB1PFX.....	(805) 857-5278	nh13140@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Neil Waybright.....	AF6CD.....	(805) 517-2962	af6cd@arrl.net
Education.....	Karl Moody	AE6TO.....	(805) 523-0622	ke6wvz@aol.com
Social.....	open	open	open	open
Member at Large	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987	hrbcrb@aol.com
Member at Large	Dave Morton.....	AA6DM	(805) 495-3920	aa6dm@arrl.net



CVARC is recognized by the ARRL as a Special Service Club (SSC). To be a part of the ARRL's Special Service Club program, the club must regularly show that it is actively involved in certain areas, including:

- New Ham Development and Training
- Public Relations
- Emergency Communications
- Technical Advancement
- Operating Activities



Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2093
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

Address Correction Requested

– FIRST – CLASS – MAIL –



CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC Web Site at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the Web site, you may like to join the CVARC Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CVARCDiscussion/>

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, except December. The meeting location is the Community Room at The East County Sheriff Station, 2101 E Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks. Meetings start at 7:30pm with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

“News from CVARC” is published monthly (on the Monday preceding the CVARC club meeting) by the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, AA6CV PO Box 2093, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093. It is mailed free of charge to all members.

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its Board, or its members.

CVARC Membership Rates

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings, and we do not pressure newcomers to join. If, however, you would like to support the club and its activities by becoming a member then we will be very pleased.

The simplest way to join (or to renew) is to write us a check bearing your address, and give or send it to our Treasurer. Make the check payable to “CVARC” and please put your call sign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, Call sign, or Address changes may be emailed to the Treasurer.

Current annual rates are: Regular Membership: \$25. Family Membership: \$30. Special discounts are available for; New members just licensed: \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year.