

June
2009

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message Greg Lane, K7SDW

What is around the corner? Yep, Field Day! Get ready for some interesting Ham Radio efforts on the part of CVARC and come join the party and fun! Don't forget to invite any Boy/Girl Scouts to our event. Let's just hope it's a nice warm day for all those "icy's" to be had by the early birds. Also, get you \$\$ into the next General Meeting so we can enjoy the BBQ special that both Sue and Rob have planned for us. More on FD at the Club meeting so don't miss out and attend both!

If you like this event, maybe you will also sign up for the JOTA in October? We need some volunteers for this one to plan ahead with the scout troops in our area that will want to see some Amateur Radio in operation as was in Field Day. If any of you have or would want to be a Radio Merit Badge Counselor, please let me know.

I have been missing several of the Wed night "tech-talk" and slow code due to some physical limitations. I hope this does not carry over to FD, else I'll need a wireless key strapped to my nose!

CU ALL AT CVARC Meeting.

73 de Greg, K7SDW

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June Club Meeting "Field Day"

This months meeting will cover field day preparations. The field day committee will discuss the plans, locations and details of the CVARC field day activities and review what will be needed, and when we need to have it there.

Also covered will be meal and "human comfort" logistics, as well as how we intend to work to get out the message of amateur radio to the community visitors.

Please join us as we show the site layout, antenna planning, radio ad power needs, as well as discuss the operator schedules needed to make the event a success from the many perspectives it was designed to exercise, including:

1. Public awareness
2. Emergency preparedness
3. Operator training
4. Amateur camaraderie
5. Fostering interest in new hams

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

The East County Sheriff Station facility is just off of the 23 freeway between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dinner with the Club Speaker Sue Hanson, N6OIZ

“Where do you want to go?”

Our dinner experience at Toppers Pizza last month was delightful. Good food and good companionship was had by all. Thanks again for the excellent suggestion Eric.

Don't know about your family but with ours it's always "I don't know, where do you want to go?" Planning a meal out for a group just magnifies this dilemma, so any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Since the time of Field Day draws nigh, our speaker this month will be our own Rob Hanson. No doubt he can be persuaded to join us for dinner. When asked where he wanted to go, you will never guess his response. That being said, the **Mandarin Buffet** was really good when we were there a few months ago, so we are going to return there this month.

Mandrin Buffet is located at 55 rolling Oaks Drive. Exit Moorpark, go south, left onto Rolling Oaks, then a quick left into the parking lot.

Many thanks to all those that attend.

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Event Calendar

June 1	2nd Technician License Class Ends
June 14	FCC License Exam
June 16	Third Technician License Class Begins
June 18	CVARC Club Meeting
June 27 - 28	Field Day
June 27	TRW Swap Meet
July 3	Moorpark Fireworks
July 16	CVARC Club Meeting
July 25	TRW Swap Meet
August 4	Third Technician Class Ends
August 9	FCC License Exam
August 18	Fourth Technician License Class Begins
August 12	SB Section Hamfest, Santa Barbara
August 20	CVARC Club Meeting

August ___ (tentative)	CVARC Summer Picnic
August 29	TRW Swap Meet
September 17	CVARC Club Meeting
September 26	TRW Swap Meet
No Official Date (Yet)	ARRL SW Division Convention
October 6	Technician License Class Complete
October 11	FCC License Exam
October 15	CVARC Club Meeting
October 16 - 18	Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
October 20	Fifth Technician License Class Begins
October 31	TRW Swap Meet
November 14	Malibu Endurance Ride
November 19	CVARC Club Meeting
November 28	TRW Swap Meet
December 5 (tentative)	CVARC Holiday Party
December 8	Fifth Technician Class Completes
December 13	FCC License Exam
December 26	TRW Swap Meet

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

FUN, FRESH AIR, FRIENDS AND FOOD: IT MUST BE TIME FOR ARRL FIELD DAY!

The 2009 ARRL Field Day will be here before you know it, so now is the time to grab your rig, grab your friends, grab some grub and get ready to get outside June 27-28

<<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. If you haven't yet started planning for this year's Field Day, it's not too late -- Field Day packets are available for download from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2009-packet.pdf>>.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, reminds clubs and groups that the deadline to order exhibit kits and ham radio recruitment handouts is drawing near. "We need to have all orders for kits and brochures no later than Wednesday, June 17. If we have your order by then, we will be able to package your order and get it to you in time for Field Day. Any orders received after June 17 will be fulfilled and they might make it to recipients before Field Day," he explained. Exhibit kits can be ordered online at

no cost; there is a small shipping and handling fee <<http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>>.

If you are looking for a Field Day site to attend, or are looking to publicize your Field Day site, be sure to check out the Field Day Site Locator <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>>. For more information on this service, please check out the Locator Site Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/03/10021/?nc=1>>. "More than 1000 Field Day sites have been registered on the Locator, with more being added every day," Henderson said.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators gather for a demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event -- and all about fun!

"We all became hams for our own reasons," Henderson said. "Some of us were interested in public service and helping others in times of need. Many discovered the hobby as an outlet to their curiosity about electronics and communications. Still others joined our ranks because of the quest to meet new people and expand their own personal bank of knowledge. Whatever the reason you became an amateur, there is one compelling thread that brought us all together. It is as simple as can be: We became hams for the fun of the hobby!"

Henderson said that while Field Day serves a wide array of interests and purposes, "there is no greater 'fun-damental' goal for Field Day than to have fun! While it encompasses a broad range of Amateur Radio interests -- CW, Phone, Digital, emergency preparedness, public service, satellites, recruitment, antennas, new and vintage equipment and so many more -- Field Day is, above all else, a chance for us to have some fun with our hobby."

Henderson reminded hams that fun is where you find it: "Some will discover the fun by operating overnight, building up their club's total number of QSOs. Others will never make a single Field Day

contact, but will derive their fun by helping set up antennas and generators. The joy of sharing your radio knowledge with a newcomer will be fun for many old-timers, while other old-timers will experience the 'Field Day high' when they make their very first QSO using a new digital mode or via one of the Amateur Radio satellites. The camaraderie of the annual club Field Day picnic or covered dish supper will be a fun highlight for many, while still others will find the joy in the hobby by simply being able to spend a couple of hours from home on an otherwise busy weekend, tuning the bands and making a few contacts."

If you want to be one of the best-dressed hams at your Field Day event, be sure to pick up the 2009 ARRL Field Day T shirt, hat and pin <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=field+day&SearchWords.x=0&SearchWords.y=0>>. Featuring a woody, outdoor scene, these items are a great way to recognize your involvement in the excitement and fun of this annual operating event. ARRL is also offering Get On The Air (GOTA) pins <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8911>>. It's a great idea to have your GOTA station operators wear these attractive pins. Pins from previous Field Days are also available -- make your collection complete with this year's pin. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, a new shipment of 2009 Field Day T shirts has just arrived, so be sure to order yours today.

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CHANGES COMING FOR ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST LOG SUBMISSIONS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest Manager Ken Adams, K5KA, said he and the ARRL Contest Branch intend to "dramatically reduce the time-frame for producing results that are available to all ARRL Sweepstakes participants." According to Adams, the contesting community has requested that results be made available more quickly. Currently, Sweepstakes results are published six months after the contest has taken place.

"To facilitate this request, we would like to make the 2009 ARRL Sweepstakes final results available on the Web in 60 days in the form of a PDF file," he said. "If this effort proves successful, we plan to shorten this window to 30 days in 2010. This PDF would simply be the scores in each category -- full write-ups and detailed analysis of the Sweepstakes contest would still appear in QST and on the Web at a later time."

To meet this aggressive schedule, Adams said that the log submission deadline will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days. For the 2009 Sweepstakes, the deadline for CW Sweepstakes logs will be 0300 UTC on Monday, November 23, 2009. The deadline for the Phone Sweepstakes will be 0300 UTC on Monday, December 7, 2009.

"The number of non-Cabrillo logs received at ARRL HQ must be reduced," Adams explained. "By receiving logs 15 days earlier, we can begin the log checking process that much faster, but we will need your help on the paper log issue. In 2008, the ARRL Contest Branch received more than 300 paper logs for the Sweepstakes contests. These paper logs were converted to Cabrillo format by a dedicated, yet small, group of volunteers. This took several hundred person-hours of time."

Adams said that there are plans to contact as many paper log submitters as possible and point out resources they can use to generate Cabrillo logs: "I am asking that every club have a special project and meeting this year to insure that 100 percent of their members submit Cabrillo logs for Sweepstakes. If you have club members who don't have computers, please form your own volunteer teams to convert their logs after the contest. This would be a great excuse for a big post-Sweepstakes club pizza party, combining data entry with club camaraderie."

While the ARRL will never turn away a paper log, Adams said that the advantages of electronic log submission are critical to the success of the accelerated presentation of the Sweepstakes results. "Numerous software contest loggers exist for Windows and DOS, including the free packages CT <<http://www.k1ea.com/>> and N1MM

<<http://pages.cthome.net/n1mm/>>," he said. Entrants are also able to manually convert their own paper logs to a Cabrillo log at the WA7BNM Cabrillo Web site" <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw_cab.php>

"You, the members of the contesting community, have requested faster turnaround of contest results for some time," Adams said. "With every contester's help, we can achieve this goal of dramatically reducing the time between contest and results. We have identified several other areas we hope to improve in the future, such as simplified Web access for Sweepstakes information, historical log search capability, easy access to FAQs, records and the like. We will continue to work on those goals. Thank you for your continued participation and help with the ARRL November Sweepstakes, the greatest domestic contest out there."

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HIGH SPEED TELEGRAPHY ON THE WORLD STAGE

The October 1936 issue of QST reported on the first official "Amateur Code Speed Contest" ever held. Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy with his winning speed of 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text for two minute intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. "Only bona-fide amateurs, holding at least an amateur operator's license, were eligible" to compete in the contest, the article stated <<http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/toppdf.cgi?id=18072&pub=qst>>.

Fast forward to 1995. Competitors from 15 countries on three continents traveled to Siofok, Hungary to show off their CW operating skills in the first IARU High Speed Telegraphy (HST) World Championship. According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. Kutner was the sole US representative at the 2005 HST World

Championship in Macedonia. In 2009, he is leading a team of seven this September to Obzor, Bulgaria for the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship <<http://www.hst2009.eu/>>.

Kutner said that most of the participating IARU Member-Societies hold a national competition in their country, seeking members to field and sponsor a team to the World Championship. "In some of the eastern European countries, where they take this very seriously, there are team and/or individual coaches, too," he said. Competitors must be licensed Amateur Radio operators, except entrants in the younger categories may be SWLs. The IARU HST World Championships follow rules set forth by the IARU Region 1 High Speed Telegraphy Working Group <<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/archives/hstrules.pdf>>.

In the US, Kutner said those who wish to participate in the World Championship do so at their own expense. "In past years, there has either been one -- myself in 2005 and Ilya leyman in 2007 -- or no US participants," he told the ARRL. "This year, we have a team!"

The US team consists of shortwave listener Brana Kleyman (category A, women 16 and younger); Kody Low, KB3RUP, and Cal Darula, K0DXC (category B, men 16 and younger); Ilya Kleyman, KE7OPG, and Ken Low, NV1P (category H, men age 40-49), and Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, and Kutner (Category I, men 50 and older). "The 2 OM categories are full," Kutner said. "But we are always looking for younger hams, especially young ladies!" There are nine categories, and each country can only send two competitors per category, for a maximum of 18 competitors.

There are three main competitive events at HST meets: Transmitting, receiving and receiving Amateur Radio call signs via RUFZxp <<http://www.rufzxp.net/>>; the sending and receiving portions of the competition are referred to as the Radioamateur Practicing Tests (RPT). There is also a pileup competition.

In the RPT, random letters and numbers are sent via Morse code – five characters at a time -- at a

high speed. Separate competitions are held for the reception of only the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, only the 10 Arabic numerals or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols. Competitors may choose to record the text by hand on paper or by typing on a computer keyboard. The competition starts with one minute of transmission sent at an initial speed defined for the entry category (usually 50 letters per minute for juniors and 80 letters per minute for the other age categories). After each test, the competitors' copy is judged for errors. Subsequent tests are each conducted at an increased speed until no competitor remains who can copy the text without excessive error.

The transmission tests require competitors to send five character groups in Morse code as fast as possible. Competitors send a printed message of five character groups at a specific speed that is judged for its accuracy by a panel of referees. Like the receiving tests, there are separate competitions for sending five character groups of only letters, only numbers or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols.

Kutner noted that 100 letters per minute is equivalent to 25 words per minute and 100 numbers per minute is equal to 36 words per minute. The mixed category of 100 letters, numbers and punctuation is equal to 29 words per minute.

The Amateur Radio Call Sign Receiving Test uses a software program called RufzXP that generates a score for each competitor. Rufz is the abbreviation of the German word Rufzeichen-Horen that means "listening of call signs." In RufzXP, competitors listen to an Amateur Radio call sign sent in Morse code and must enter that call sign with the computer keyboard. If the competitor types in the call sign correctly, their score improves, and the speed at which the program sends subsequent call signs increases. If the competitor types in the call sign incorrectly, the score is penalized and the speed decreases. Only one call sign is sent at a time and the event continues for a fixed number of call signs (usually 50). Competitors can choose the initial speed at which the program sends the Morse code and the winner is the competitor with the highest generated score.

There is also a Pileup Trainer Test that simulates a pileup situation on the air -- numerous stations attempt to establish two-way contact with one particular station at the same time. This competition uses a software program called MorseRunner <<http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>>. In this test, more than one amateur radio call sign is sent at a time via Morse code that is generated at different audio frequencies and speeds, timed to overlap each other. Competitors must record as many of the call signs as they can during a fixed period of time. They may choose to do this either by recording the call signs by hand on paper or by typing them in with a computer keyboard. The winner is the competitor with the most correctly recorded call signs.

Kutner said that each US team member practices on an individual basis, using both on-the-air and computer generated CW. As the team gears up for Bulgaria, "we are in frequent contact via e-mail, exchanging tips and ideas," he said.

HST has definitely come a long way since 1936 when Hubbell dazzled the crowds with 52.2 words per minute; competitors at the IARU HST World Championships consistently have speeds of more than 500 characters per minute -- 100 words per minute. While it's too late to join the 2009 US team, it's not too early to think about upcoming events. If you are able to copy and/or send CW at dizzying speeds, why not think about attending the next IARU HST World Championship? For more information on HST events, contact Kutner via e-mail <w2up@arrl.net>.

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CVARC Hats Available at the June Club Meeting Neil Waybright, AF6CD

There are a small number of CVARC hats available for purchase at \$13.00 each. See Greg Lane at the Thursday meeting to purchase one.

Name: _____
Call Sign: _____
Class: _____
Address: _____
City, ST Zip _____
Tel: (____) _____ - _____
E-Mail: _____
ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label) _____

ACS # _____ ARES# _____
Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____
Family Membership: Names/Calls _____

Send Information/Application to:
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2093
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

New Renewal
Single Membership - \$25 _____
Multi-year ____ years @ \$20 = _____
New Ham, New Member - \$10 _____
Single Membership, Full-Time Student \$10 _____
Family Membership - \$30 _____
ARRL Membership Renewal (include ARRL form) \$ _____
AD Space (2x3) One Year (member) - \$35 _____
AD Space (2x3) One Year (non-Member) - \$75 _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____
Cash Check Number _____

Interested in License Upgrades? _____
Joining ARES/ACS? _____
Disaster Action Team? _____
Obtain a HAM License? _____

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	146.970	-	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	145.650	None	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, KI6DJV at (805) 529-6101 if you would like to attend.

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>.

ACS members should remember that their ACS card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jerry B. Goldman KC6JSO (805) 405-8213 or (805) 493-0076 Office. Jerry works with OES on a regular basis and will track your renewal to ensure that you receive your new badge in the shortest possible time. You will need to complete a Volunteer Update form for your renewal. Jerry will email this form to you 45 days prior to your ACS card expiration date. Please make sure that Jerry has your correct email address at all times.

2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805) 498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
Vice President.....	Phil Bartlett.....	K6UJO.....	(805) 499-6935	peb@peb.net
Secretary	Mary Ho.....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241	abele7213@mypacks.net
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Member at Large	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA	(805) 496-1073	mike.damore@roadrunner.com



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.