

April
2010

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message Brad Ormsby, WA6GLE

After almost forty years it seemed reasonable to change my call sign, so I did. My new call, **W6VO** comes with history of course, and I have had fun doing the research. So far, I found that the Section Communication Manager, Los Angeles Section A.R.R.L. had the Call in 1930. More research to do, but it is nice to have some Amateur Radio History! Remember if you change your call sign, address, etc., please let our Treasurer, Dave Morton, **W7DMM** know so he can make the necessary changes in our Club records.

If you have not contacted Greg Lane, **K7SDW** about Field Day yet, there is still time. Please let Greg know if you are available for Field Day so he can plan more fun. If you have any questions about the event, Greg will be more than happy to explain how it all works.

Remember our regular Club Meetings for April and May will be in the Cafeteria at our normal location at the East County Sheriff Station. Please remember to wear your name badge and if you have an ACS badge you can wear that as well, since we will be escorted into the station to the Cafeteria.

President's Message, continued on page 2

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April Club Meeting "Depiction Mapping Software"

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Our speaker for April is Greg Lane, K7SDW, and he will be covering the Depiction software package. Depiction is mapping software which also allows the user to input various resources and to build scenarios' and adjust to the dynamic changes like earthquakes, floods and fires. APRS station data and other important data can be added and controlled to provide up to date status of the incident as it changes. Please join us this month in the Café area at ECSS for this presentation.

Greg got his first novice ticket in 1962 and over the years upgraded to Extra from a General as a result of joining CVARC at Field Day in 1987. As a retired aerospace Engineer, he now has been focusing on various tools which may be useful for disaster preparedness and situation awareness for the specific incident. The April talk will be showing the features of Depiction (www.depiction.com) as they may apply to the ACS group and Ventura County community. .

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.

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

This month our "Shack Tour" will be at 10 am at the Mobile Maritime Station Ventura West Marina 1867 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura. (Adjacent to the Channel Islands Park Service Headquarters) Please sign-up with Bill Willcox at the April 15th meeting. Remember, if you would like to host a "Shack Tour", please let me know so it can be scheduled.

This month we have a rare opportunity to practice and experiment with moon bounce signals. Here is the information:

"The **Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club** will be putting the 1000-foot radio telescope on the air for 432 MHz EME from April 16-18. It can be heard with a small hand-held yagi pointed at the moon.

The scheduled times of operation are:
April 16: 1645 - 1930 UTC
April 17: 1740 - 2020 UTC
April 18: 1840 - 2125 UTC

Tx Frequency: 432.045 MHz
Rx Frequency: 432.050 to 432.060+
Tx power: 400 W
Antenna gain: 60 dBi

KP4AO can be heard with a small hand-held yagi pointed at the moon and a good receiver. A 15 dBi antenna and 100 W will be enough to work us on CW. Operators at KP4AO will do their best to work as many stations as possible. Each session will start with a brief announcement and CQ in SSB. SSB QSOs may continue for 30 minutes to an hour, if the QSO rate remains high. The mode will be shifted to CW as soon as it is judged that higher QSO rates would result. We will listen for calls at frequencies 5-15 kHz higher than our own, and even higher if QRM warrants. Callers who s-p-r-e-a-d o-u-t are more likely to be copied. If you've already worked us in any mode, please do not call again -- give others a chance. If we call "CQ QRP", we will listen for stations running 100 W or less to a single Yagi. Please do not answer such a CQ if you are running more power or have a larger antenna.

On April 18, if we reach a condition where most calling stations have been worked, and we judge that operating in the digital mode JT65B would produce a higher QSO rate, we will switch to JT65B. Note that any of these planned operating strategies may be changed as circumstances dictate.

We are extremely fortunate to have been granted access to the world's largest radio telescope for this amateur radio good-will event. We look forward to working as many stations as possible in the allotted time!"

Good luck and have fun! We look forward next month to some reports.

Remember..."BE RADIO ACTIVE"
Brad, **W6VO**

Dinner with the Club Speaker Phil Bartlett, K6UJO

It's Tex-Mex at The Alamo bar and grill in Newbury Park. Thursday night from 5-9 pm is a Tex-Mex BBQ Dinner Buffet. BBQ Pork and Beef Ribs, BBQ Chicken plus a variety of delicious entrees and sides are available for one low price of \$11.95 with Kids at \$4.99. You may also order from their regular menu. The Alamo is located at 2311 Borchard Rd, Newbury Park, CA 91320, Tel: (805) 498-3115. Just south of the freeway at the Borchard Rd. Off -Ramp.

Join us at 5:30 pm before the meeting on Thursday, 15 April, for a taste of the South West and some fellowship. Our guest speaker will be there and share in the discussion. Invite your friends to join us. It is a great time to get to know the people in our community.

If you have any questions, e-mail or call, Phil at Peb@peb.net or 805.300.3045.

Youth Net Randy Mitchell, KJ6BXV

CQ...CQ...Calling All Youth...

When ten-year-old Randy Mitchell reluctantly accompanied his dad and sister to a Field Day ex-

ercise in Ojai last June at the invitation of John Cuthbert, AC6BR, no one could have imagined that a few months later he would be telling his story at the national Hamvention in Dayton, OH.

Long story short, Randy was “hooked” by what he saw and heard...voice and CW communication with other hams far beyond California’s borders. He decided right then to get his license and join the fun! Now eleven years old, Randy studied for the Tech test and passed it along with his dad. Ray Smith, KI6VED, took his picture holding his Certificate of Completion. Smith sent the picture in to QST where it appeared in the November 2009 issue. Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in New York who coordinates the Dayton Youth Forum, saw it and wanted Randy to add his voice to the young presenters in May. But what does an eleven-year-old kid who has been a ham for only a few months talk about to an assembly of people who are probably older and more experienced?

Randy’s wanted to talk about sharing his enthusiasm for amateur radio by encouraging more Ventura County kids to get their ham license, and then forming a local youth radio net on the SMRA-ERN repeater. His dream is having ham operators in schools that will be able to communicate during an emergency when schools might be in “lock-down” and other ways of communication may not be operational.

All County young people are invited to participate in Randy’s Youth Net which meets on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM on the Red Mountain repeater at 146.880 Mhz. Unlicensed young people can participate as third party traffic if they operate with a licensed ham in control of the radio. Talking on the net would certainly be to an inducement to getting a license. Topics discussed so far have been school, music, friends, and hobbies, so fire up the repeater and we’ll have some fun!

Shack Tours **Brad Ormsby, W6VO**

This month our "Shack Tour" will be at 10 am at the Mobile Maritime Station Ventura West Marina 1867 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura. (Adjacent to the

Channel Islands Park Service Headquarters) Please sign-up with Bill Willcox at the April 15th meeting. Remember, if you would like to host a "Shack Tour", please let me know so it can be scheduled.

Welcome to New Members

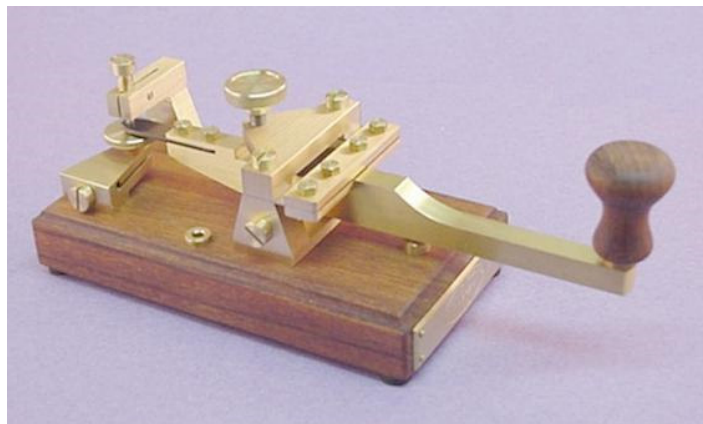
The club board would like to welcome the Barry Stephens, KJ6GNY as a new CVARC member. If you run into Barry at the club meeting greet him warmly and welcome him to CVARC...

Classified Ads

Classified ads are available to club members seeking to sell items of interest to other hams. Contact the newsletter editor if you have questions, or something you would like to post here.

(all are offered by Greg Lane, K7SDW (805) 498-0454)

Kent Key SK1: Retail \$129... I have two to sell, one assembled the other in original kit box. both \$100.00 each first come first served.



Alinco DJ-17 HT: used... works fine... retail \$149.00, for sale for \$100.00 (no photo)

Yaesu VX-1: used... as is... \$50.00.



FCC Issues *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* on Government Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio

On March 24, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the [FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules](#) relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

Background

Per [Part 97.1\(a\)](#), one of the fundamental principles underlying the Amateur Radio Service is the "[r]ecognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The rules, in [Section 97.403](#), also state that "[n]o provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and im-

mediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available."

In the *NPRM*, the FCC recognized that Amateur Radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations: "While land mobile radio services are the primary means of conducting emergency communications, Amateur Radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facilities are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed." The FCC gave Amateur Radio operations during 2005's Hurricane Katrina as an example, saying that Amateur Radio operators "volunteered to support many agencies [and]...provided urgently needed wireless communications in many locations where there was no other means of communicating and also provided other technical aid to the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina."

The FCC acknowledged that since Amateur Radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate Amateur Radio operators and the communication capabilities of the Amateur Service into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations have encouraged the participation of their employees who are Amateur Radio operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

The FCC said that its rules "expressly permit operation of amateur stations for public service communications during emergencies, as well as on a voluntary basis during drills and exercises in preparation for such emergencies." But since the Amateur Radio Service is primarily designated for "amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest," and rules expressly prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer," the FCC has mandated that public safety entities seeking to have employees operate amateur stations during government-

sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills presently must request a waiver.

Discussion

The FCC is seeking comments on whether to amend the rules to permit Amateur Radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. The Commission's rules already recognize the importance of Amateur Radio in emergencies, and permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (defined by the FCC as "non-employees of participating entities").

The FCC recognizes that based on experience, it knows that amateur operations "can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property during emergency situations and disasters. And as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public safety agencies and other entities often conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills to be best-prepared for such eventualities."

The proposed rule would preclude the need for a waiver in such instances by allowing employees of public safety agencies and other entities to operate amateur stations for testing and drilling of emergency communications preparedness. The FCC "tentatively conclude[s] that employee status should not preclude or prevent participation in government-sponsored emergency and disaster tests and drills. Further, we tentatively conclude that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and thus serve the public interest."

In reaching these "tentative conclusions," the Commission asserts that it agrees with the core principle of the Amateur Radio Service as a "voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest." Per the NPRM, the FCC believes that the public interest will be served by "a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or

employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules." As such, the FCC proposes that amateur operations in connection with emergency drills "be limited to the duration and scope of the drill, test or exercise being conducted, and operational testing immediately prior to the drill, test or exercise."

The FCC also proposes that the emergency tests and drills must be sponsored by federal, state, or local governments or agencies "in order to limit the narrow exception to ensure that drills further public safety." The Commission does understand, however, that there may be circumstances where conducting emergency drills for disaster planning purposes, even if not government-sponsored, would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the FCC seeks comment on whether it should permit employee operation of amateur stations during non-government-sponsored emergency drills "if the purpose of the drill is to assess communications capabilities, including Amateur Radio, in order to improve emergency preparedness and response."

According to the FCC, a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer Amateur Radio operators to conduct drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication: "This joint activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first responder community. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, we believe the proposed rule changes would be in the public interest, consistent with ongoing national emergency preparedness and response priorities. We therefore seek comment on the tentative conclusions contained herein."

Proposed Rules

Part 97 of Chapter 1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

1. Section 97.113 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(3), adding new paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii), redesignating paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (a)(3)(iv) respec-

tively, and redesignating paragraphs (e) and (f) as (c) and (d) respectively, to read as follows:

§ [97.113 Prohibited transmissions.](#)

(a) ***

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:

(i) A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.

(ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

How to File Comments

Information on how to file comments via e-mail or by other means can be found on pages 4-6 in the [NPRM](#). The deadline for comments is 30 days after publication in the [Federal Register](#). The deadline for reply comments is 45 days after publication in the [Federal Register](#).

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter of March 25th, 2010, Reprinted by permission)

HRO MANAGER WILL SPEAK At the Club Meeting on May 20

CVARC's May speaker is Eric Christensen, KA6IHT manager of the Burbank Ham Radio Outlet (HRO). Eric will bring samples of the latest hardware and demonstrate items you may have been reading (and dreaming) about in the magazines.

Eric is an experienced ham, and is often heard on repeaters around Southern California. He is one of the few HRO employees who has been selected to represent that organization at the busy Dayton Hamvention for the past several years.

Come and listen to what's new and exciting in ham radio and perhaps get a "sneak preview" of new products that may be in the pipeline.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



Eric J. Christensen
Manager
K6EJC

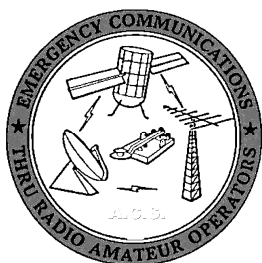
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Name: _____	New Renewal
Call Sign: _____	Single Membership - \$25 _____
Class: _____	Multi-year ___ years @ \$20 = _____
Address: _____	New Ham or New Member - \$10 _____
City, ST Zip _____	Single Membership, Full-Time Student \$10 _____
Tel: (____) _____ - _____	Family Membership - \$30 _____
E-Mail: _____	ARRL Membership Renewal (include ARRL form) \$ _____
ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label)	AD Space (2x3) One Year (member) - \$35 _____
ACS # _____ ARES# _____	AD Space (2x3) One Year (non-Member) - \$75 _____
Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____	Total Enclosed \$ _____
Family Membership: Names/Calls	Cash Check Number
Send Information/Application to:	Interested in License Upgrades? _____
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club	Joining ARES/ACS? _____
P.O. Box 2093	Disaster Action Team? _____
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093	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	146.385	+	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, Jerry Goldman, KC6JSO at (805) 405-8213 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.

2010 CVARC Officers

President.....	Brad Ormsby	W6VO	(818) 991-1130	bormsby@sbcglobal.net
Vice President.....	Rob Hanson	W6RH	(805) 376-9350	rob@w6rh.com
Secretary	Eric Peterson.....	WB6PYK	(805) 479-9953	expeterson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Morton.....	W7DMM	(805) 495-3920	dmorton@rain.org
Public Relations	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA	(805) 496-1073	mike.damore@roadrunner.com
Technical	Bill Willcox	KF6JQO	(805) 657-0351	wlinport@pacbell.net
Operations	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805) 498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Neil Waybright.....	AF6CD.....	(805) 517-2962	af6cd@arrl.net
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Social.....	Phil Bartlett.....	K6UJO.....	(805) 499-6935	peb@peb.net
Member at Large	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987	hrbrcb@aol.com
Member at Large	Charlie Pember	KG6CLT	(805) 495-6701	cpember@aol.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.