



January 2002

CVARC NEWSLETTEREDITOR:
ROGER LOILER N6WNE**A Year Of Fun Activities Are Planned**

The Board of Directors have established "a year of fun activities" as the primary CVARC focus for this coming year. The intent is that having a good time and enjoying one another's friendship will be the primary objective in everything that we do this year. The terrorist events on September 11th were a wakeup call to us all in many different ways. These events remind us that disaster, in many different forms, can strike at any time. Yes, disaster response through ARES/RACES is a very important part of amateur radio. But an equally important aspect of our amateur radio hobby is to provide us all with a break from the stress and pressures of our daily lives. Taking a break, time to relax and unwind, is part of the job of earning a living and making our way through each week. Without the time to relax, we can easily find ourselves too tired and run down to handle a crisis should it occur. With this in mind, the primary object that we will try to achieve in our CVARC activities this year is to simply have a good time. For example, during Field Day we will attempt to maximize our club's contest score by contacting as many stations as possible. But, the intent of the Board of Directors is to make that goal secondary to everyone having an enjoyable time at Field Day. There are a number of ARES activities planned this year that are important to the community. However, with the right focus, we can provide important community service and have a lot of fun doing it. That is what we want to do!

Bill Hughes, K6HB, has worked hard to come up with some very interesting programs this year. In my mind that is a pretty good trick since Bill already provided us with an excellent set of programs last year.

Some of the activities that the board are considering for this coming year include a mini field day, perhaps coupled with an over night campout at a nearby park. We would like to have a couple of picnics during the warmer months. There has also been interest in a T-hunt once or twice during the year. T-hunting could also be a lot of fun during a picnic or campout. Our Comm Van is quite a capable mobile communications system. We would like to bring the Comm Van to an increasing number of our club activities so more members can share in the fun of operating the Comm Van.

The board has been looking for fun activities that those of us in the club would enjoy participating in. What almost seems to get overlooked is the fun and excitement that exists in the already planned ARES community service events. The Cruzzin Conejo and the Sea To Summit bike races are major events that need our help. They are also a lot of fun to participate in. Many of us are not in condition to ride a bike up and down hills and mountain roads for 50 to 60 miles! But we can participate in the fun and enjoy the usually beautiful spring time weather by providing much needed radio communications for these events. In the spring we also have crop walks and street fairs that need our help and also are fun to be part of. Rick Tate, KQ6NO, is always looking for help in supporting the 4th of July fireworks activity in Moorpark as well as the Moorpark County Days Parade. Going to watch fireworks and parades is fun. However, the people involved in these activities generally have more fun than the spectators. At times, this seems to be a well kept secret, but it is true. The best part is, that the folks putting on these activities have specifically asked us to join in their fun!

So, put CVARC at the top of your list of enjoyable things and plan to have a fun year. 73 Ken

Has your membership expired? Editor's Note: Roger N6WNE

Check out your News Letter Mailing Label. If the upper right hand corner says Jan - 02, it means that your membership expires January 2002. It is up to the individual member to renew. Members, past due, will be automatically dropped from the membership roster.

Mark your calendars: January 10, 2002

I'm happy to report that Paul Raab, KF6CM, member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department's Search and Rescue Team will be our speaker at the CVARC January 10, 2002, meeting. He will bring the Search and Rescue van and equipment, and his presentation will include a video of Search and Rescue activities. I've invited Paul to be our guest at 6 pm dinner.

Spread the word.

73, Bill Hughes K6HB

February Speaker

Karl Moody, KE6WVZ, will present Disaster Preparedness . What should you have for the next big

The following are the winners and their toys

Jonathon, Becker KC6QOQ : DM-330MVT Switcher Power Supply

Melissa, Reinhardt KD6BIT: DJ-196T, VHF FM HT

Jordan, Wutkee KG6DGP, 2ea DJ-S11T, VHF FM HT

Grand Prize winner of Emergency Radio Kit: FT 1500 2 Meter 50 Watt mobile, Batteries

Herb, Morrison KC6WQU

Grand Prize winner of DR-135TG, VHF Mobile Transceiver

Joe, Buhek W6YLE.

Thank each of you for your participation in this years Holiday Raffle event. (Pictures below)

Total collected for this end of the year Holiday raffle was \$465.00. Good job members, hope we do as well again next year. Prize suggestions are always welcomed.

Next year the red tickets that are used during the monthly meetings will be retained and put into a barrel for 1 prize (Value to be determine from the monthy meeting raffles) to be given at the end of the year. We will also encourage another separate drawing like the one held this year for the "really big ones." Again, I thank each of you for your participation this year and look forward to seeing each of you at the January meeting with any new toys or stories to share with the members.

73 de Greg



Herb, Morrison KC6WQU;

Ann Lane



Mike Pershing KD6IJF; Ken Larson KJ6RZ; Roger Loiler N6WNE



Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR



Rob Hanson W6RH;

Phil Bartlett K6UJO



Paula Larson KG6FUM; Mike Pershing KD6IJF



Roy Deschene; Valerie Maslin ; Alberta Munding; Jordan Wutkee



The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service club. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Meeting location is at the Elms Lodge, 158 Conejo School Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA. Meetings start at 7:30 P.M. with a pre-meeting social hour and technical assistance session, for those who are interested at 6:30. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

2002 CVARC Officers

President	Ken Larson	KJ6RZ	(805)495-9435
Vice President	Bill Hughes	K6HB	(805)492-5511
Secretary/Archivist	Open		
Treasurer	Roy Deschene	KE6UMW	(818)887-4039
Education	Karl Moody	KE6WVZ	(805)523-0622
Technical	Rob Hanson	W6RH	(805)376-9350
Editor/Publisher	Roger Loiler	N6WNE	(805)499-1716
Public Relations	Peter Hofmann	KE6HUI	(805)496-5893
Operations	Gregory Lane	K7SDW	(805)498-0454
Social	Jonathan Becker	KC6QOQ	(805)371-1333
Member-at-Large	Mike Pershing	KD6IJF	(805)493-1934



ARRL:

Southwestern Division Director:	Fried Heyn, WA6WZO 962 Cheyenne St. Costa Mesa, CA 92626	(714)549-8516 wa6wzo@ARRL.org
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VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club) Certification:	Peter Heins, N6ZE	(805)496-1315 n6ze@aol.com

Special Interest Groups

RACES (Area 2)	Gregory Lane	K7SDW	(805)498-0454
RACES (Area 8)	Richard Tate	KQ6NO	(805)529-3934
DAT	Alberta Munding	KA6WKR	(805)492-2128
DCS	Brad Ormsby	WA6GLE	(805)495-2298
VE	Jeff Reinhardt	AA6JR	(818)706-3853
VUCC	Peter Heins	N6ZE	(805)496-1315

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Ventura County area 2 R.A.C.E.S. members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday.

Members should check in with the RACES number listed on the ID badge. Specific times and frequencies are as follows:

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 147.885- pl 127.3 N6JMI AREA 2
(Secondary backup freq) 147.555 no pl Simplex AREA 2
6:45 PM - 7:00 PM VOICE 52.98- pl 82.5 K6SMR 6 METER
before - 6:30 PM PACKET 145.03 - VCROC early checkin
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM VOICE 146.88- pl 127.3 WA6ZTT COUNTY
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM VOICE 224.02- pl 127.3 WB6ZTR COUNTY
(county RACES simplex) 147.57 no pl Simplex COUNTY

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 147.93- pl 127.3 WB6WEY AREA 1
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 147.15+ pl 127.3 WB6ZTQ AREA 3
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 146.97- pl 127.3 WB6YQN AREA 4
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 145.40- no pl N6FL AREA 5
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 147.975- pl 127.3 N6AHI AREA 6
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 146.985- pl 127.3 WB6ZTX AREA 7
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM VOICE 145.28- pl 100 WB2WIK AREA 8

Fun with 6 Meters Roy Deschene - KE6UMW

When I first got my Technician Class License in May of 1995, I never believed that there would ever be any QSL Cards decorating my radio shack wall. After all, 2 meter and 70 cm, are not exactly known as DX frequencies. I got an Alinco DX-70T from Radio Shack in November of 2000, and began to try my hand at 6 Meters. The local FM repeaters were quickly programmed in, but without a proper antenna to transmit on, the best I could do was to listen in on the occasional conversations that could



be heard.

Valerie Maslin; Roy Deschene

I began to loose some interest in 6 Meters and decided to try my hand at packet radio, which I still have set up.

In May of this year, 2001, I chose to enter the field day exercise, at the end of June, as the 6 meter SSB, band captain.

Not knowing what this task would require, I began to gather information about the 6 meter SSB frequency.

What I didn't know about 6 meters was plenty. But I soon learned.

First, What was the side band frequency allocation?

Second, What was the Calling Frequency?

Third, How did you go about calling other stations?

Forth, What kind of antenna was best for contesting on SSB?

The Side band frequency allocation is 50.125 through 50.300. The Calling Frequency is 50.125 and any frequency between that, and 50.300, if it's open during a contest, works.

Contacting someone consists of calling "CQ" along with your station Call Sign and waiting for a reply. During a contest, and, if the band is open, you don't have to wait long, just jump in when you hear some other station's Call Sign.

The antenna was my biggest problem, Where was I going to find one and how was it going to be tuned for the proper operating frequency? Although I had built a number of 2 meter and 70 cm antennas, I had no clue where to start with the 6 meter band.

Greg Lane, K7SDW had an ARRL Antenna Manual, which I borrowed. And spare elements and a boom from an old 20 meter antenna in his garage which he was willing to donate to my antenna building project.

During the week before field day I collected all the clamps Bolts, brackets and other hardware necessary to build the, three element, yagi antenna as depicted in the ARRL Antenna manual. The actual assembly time for the antenna was about 1 hour. The greatest amount of time required during the earlier part of the week was in the preparation, measuring and cutting of the boom and beam element tubing to the prescribed lengths. And fabricating the driven element connector bracket and phasing line.

Testing the antenna was accomplished utilizing Greg's recent acquisition, the MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer. Final trimming of the driven elements, brought the SWR for the SSB frequency range in to perfect balance.

My first contact on 6 meter SSB, that Saturday morning, was with a station that I'd heard as my radio was first turned on, an hour before the start of field day. I called out my CQ and call sign, fully expecting to be ignored. I was only operating at the 10 watt output capacity of my 6 meter transmitter. But, I was absolutely amazed when my call was answered, The other station returned with a 5-9 report from his home QTH in Silverton, Oregon and said my station was strong and loud. That report made me feel great. I really had a station that was going to be fun to work for field day.

Field Day started on schedule and Peter Hofmann, KE6HUI and I worked about 70 stations around the central part of the country with 2 hop and 3 hop skip, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Colorado. The band was open.

We terminated our operations for Saturday at about 10:00pm. I went to my tent, and Peter Went home. Sunday morning started slowly, with only local station duplication calls coming in. At 9:00am, the on air, radio Interview scheduled with the newspaper reporter at the Reagan Library Field Day site began. The Band never reopened.

At 11:00am the Field Day operation ended. The report sheets were turned in to the field day organizer. Our radio stations were dismantled, the antennas taken down and the equipment packed in our cars for the return to our homes.

Two weeks later, after Field Day, I decided to set up my 6 meter station at home. The pushup mast

was erected and clamped to the corner of my house roof. The yagi antenna was reassembled and mounted on the mast and pushed up to about 25 feet.

To try out the antenna I brought out my 12 volt battery, table and chair from the house and set it up, just as I had for field day. My first contact that afternoon was with a station in Kenmore, Washington. This was my very first personal 6 meter contact. The first entry in my station log. Also the first QSL Card I had ever sent out.

For the next two months the band was open pretty regularly and I was able to make twenty additional contacts, ranging from Southern California, Florida, Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma, Idaho, Washington, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and New York.

The band died between September and October and into the middle of November, at which time, while I was on vacation, I was able to contact Alaska, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, New Jersey and a contact from an Island DX station somewhere in the Bahamas.

I was even more surprised to contact and trade information with 2 Japanese operators during a brief afternoon opening on The 19th of November. The first was from Tokyo, and the second from Yokohama. I was so rattled that the Tokyo station answered my CQ call that I forgot to get his name during the exchange.

The most surprising thing, to me, was that each of the 39 contacts I made, when the 6 meter band was open, were achieved using only 10 watts of power into my home brew three element beam. Some of the stations I contacted reported that they were using in excess of 150 watts of power into some elaborate 6 to 15 element beams and that I was getting 5-8 and 5-9 reports consistently from them.

I have been very please that 6 meter has worked out so well for me. It feels great that I was able to have this much fun with the hobby and be able to build something that works as well as this project has.

As for the QSL cards, Well, I was wrong. I have begun to wallpaper my radio shack wall. The collection is small right now, only 26 cards, but more are coming in all the time.

CVARC - AA6CV

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