

February
2007

NEWS FROM CVARC

Special VE Session on Saturday 24th February

Due to the timing of the FCC R&O removing the code requirement for General and Extra class Amateur Radio Licenses, CVARC will be holding an extra VE session at the East County Sheriff's Station (the usual site) on Saturday 24th February at 9:00am. VEs will be on hand to do paperwork-only upgrades for those having the necessary certificates, as well as to conduct exam sessions (minus the code test, of course!). For more details, see [Page 6](#).

President's Message Get Out and Do Something!

We are moving into the part of the year when most of our volunteer activities happen. We have our "old faithful" individuals like Mike Bass who has done the heavy lifting for Cruzin' the Conejo for as long as I have known him (at least six years). The same applies to other specific events (Westlake Street Fair, Crop Walk, Sea-to-Summit, etc.). While there are some practical reasons (Mike is an active member of both CVARC and the CVC Bike Club), another is that it is hard to find volunteers willing to help year after year.

I want to encourage you to look at the calendar in the newsletter this month and find the support activities like Cruzin', Westlake Street Fair, Arbor Day, CLU Crop Walk, Moorpark's July 3rd fireworks, etc. Pick out at least one you could participate in and contact the volunteer coordinator. We will be publishing short articles or notices about each upcoming event identifying the type of help most needed, and the party to contact to let them know you would like to help. There are at least a dozen good quotes on the topic of volunteering and service, but I'll give you just a few:

I'm only one. But still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE

Everyone has an opportunity to be great because everyone has an opportunity to serve.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

One of the primary reasons the amateur radio service exists at all is to be prepared to provide necessary communications support to government agencies and NGOs in times of crisis. Being prepared for that is not a

...see [MESSAGE](#) on page 2

February Speaker at CVARC

Our February speaker will be Kevin R. Nida, WD6AIS. Captain, Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Captain Nida will speak about emergency communications, Ham Radio, and his experiences in the rescue effort after the Katrina hurricane.

His involvement with both ham radio and the emergency services gives him a unique perspective.

Captain Nida has been with the LAFD for 26 years, and has been the President of the California State Firefighters' Association since 2004. He is currently assigned as a Battalion Captain in South L.A.

He is the Coordinator of the LAFD-ACS Ham Radio Program and is Communication Unit Leader for LAFD Interoperability and LAFD Urban Search & Rescue Team.

He was assigned to the Katrina incident as part of the LAFD's Urban Search & Rescue Team, and he served in Biloxi & Gulfport Mississippi.

You might recognize him as the Firefighter in the commercials against prop 87 before the last election.

Captain Nida is currently a member of The
...see [SPEAKER](#) on page 2

Inside this issue

Academy Award	2
FCC Drops Element 1	3
License Exam Results	3
2007 Event Calendar	4
Writing for the Newsletter	4
National Ham Societies	5
Magazine Survey	5
Special VE Session	6
Visalia DX Convention	6
Crossword Solution	6
ARES/RACES	7
2007 CVARC Officers	7
CVARC Online, Membership Rates	8

MESSAGE, continued from front page...

simple matter of just showing up when called. You need to be prepared for what you will face (environment) and practiced (at handling communications in a disciplined and organized fashion) to be of the greatest value.

I remember my first Cruzin' where I showed up with a hat, but failed to bring sunscreen since I was anticipating being in a SAG wagon where I would be out of the sun. It turns out that they had no need for me there, but they did need me at one of the warning stations, out on a hillside and exposed to the sun. If the person from the bike club who partnered with me hadn't had some sun screen I would have ended up a pretty crispy critter.

I did better next year. Each event that I work, I pick up a few more ideas for my "go-kit" of things to grab when I leave for an event. It is a Home Depot "Homer Bucket" that contains a bunch of items I have discovered that are very useful to have.

- Spare coax.
- Spare power cable.
- A good sun- and water-proof hat with a brim.
- A plastic rain poncho.
- Day-glow pink string.
- Duct tape.
- Sunscreen.
- Nutri-grain bars.
- Trash bags that fit the bucket.
- A roll of paper towels.
- A flashlight and spare batteries.
- An AM/FM portable radio that runs for many hours on a set of batteries.
- Mechanical pencils.
- A pad of graph paper.
- A few tools.
- I also have a few bottles of water.
- A note reminding me to grab my prescription medicine out of the kitchen cabinet before I go.
- Last but not least, toilet paper and waterless hand sanitizer.

Putting the lid on the bucket allows me to use it as a seat. All in all, a mighty handy object to have around. I look at other folks go-kits at events looking for good ideas and frequently find ones that I hadn't thought of. I hope to do a more extensive article on go-kits later this year, but if someone more experienced than I wants to take that one I would love to see it as well. More opportunities to learn from others.

I have my favorite events, but I will try to help at all of the ones I can. I hope to see you there.

Neil K6BQEL

SPEAKER, continued from front page...

ARRL, The California Public Radio Association (Southern Chapter) and The Association of Public Communication Officers

Please join us in welcoming him at our meeting on Thursday, February 15th.

Rob Hanson, W6RH

Academy Award for K6PSP

Many of you will remember CVARC Member Alan Masson, K6PEP, who left the Conejo Valley and moved to Rochester NY in 2005. Alan visited Southern California briefly last week to accept an Academy Award for his part in the development of motion picture soundtrack technology.

Everybody is familiar with The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' awards for actors, producers, screenwriters, and so on. The Academy's technical awards attract much less publicity, but are also highly prestigious.

Alan was a member of the "Dye Tracks Committee". He worked with other members from Dolby, Deluxe, Kodak, The National Association of Theatre Owners, NT Audio and Technicolor. The six-year project involved persuading all the theatres in the world to convert their 35mm film projectors from white-light to red-light analog sound readers and persuading all the movie distributors to order their release prints from the labs with a transitional format of track called High Magenta, and then ultimately with the Cyan Dye format (once all the red readers were installed).

The analog tracks are principally used today to provide an automatic back-up when the digital tracks fail, as they can do from time to time due to print wear. The benefits of the Cyan tracks are principally environmental with the elimination of a lot of chemical and water use by the big labs.

Congratulations, Alan on your award!

The award was announced on the Academy's web site as follows:

Award of Commendation (Special Award)

To Ioan Allen, J. Wayne Anderson, Mary Ann Anderson, Ted Costas, Paul R. Goldberg, Shawn Jones, Thomas Kuhn, Dr. Alan Masson, Colin Mossman, Martin Richards, Frank Ricotta and Richard C. Sehlin for their contributions to the environmentally responsible industry conversion from silver-based to cyan dye analog soundtracks.

Steve Champion AE6NX

FCC Drops Element 1 Requirement for HF Operations

Effective February 23, Element 1 credit (Morse Code proficiency) will no longer be required to obtain Technician w/HF, General or Amateur Extra Class license privileges.

A subject of discussion in the Amateur Radio community for over 40 years, the FCC Report and Order puts an end to the debate as to whether or not Morse Code should remain as a requisite for access to the HF bands. Arguments in support of the code requirement included phrases such as "CW always gets through," "Every ham should be able to recognize and respond to a Morse distress call," and "Keeping the code will prevent undesirable operators from entering our ranks." Those who favored dropping the code element contended "Morse Code is no longer used by the Navy or commercial shipping," "It's become obsolete," "It's an impediment to otherwise qualified operators," "It's an unfair barrier to those with impaired hearing."

No matter if any of those phrases resonate with you, the FCC has spoken and hams will adjust to a new group of operators exploring the HF bands after February 23. But unlike the rush to no-code Technician licenses in the early 1990s, HF requires more than a trip to the ham store for a Handi-Talkie that could be purchased for less than \$200. HF gear is more costly, an "entry level" transceiver starts above \$700. Antenna restrictions in many communities will limit those who may desire getting on the HF bands, and the bands themselves are fickle, prone to the vagaries of atmospheric conditions and the sunspot cycle, which is currently at a low point (unfavorable to long-distance communications). Those familiar with the reliability of VHF and UHF repeaters will have to learn the many nuances of HF and its somewhat different operating techniques and traditions.

Despite the rule change, the use of CW is likely to remain a staple of HF operations. There are many code enthusiasts and some argue that since the requirement is going away, people will actually desire to learn it because they want to, not because they had to. The ability of Morse to get through under adverse conditions is another "selling point" as is the challenge of mastering a mode of communications that's older than radio itself. It would be an understatement to say there's a "Morse culture" in Amateur Radio.

Existing Technician Class licensees will automatically gain HF privileges that were previously reserved for Technicians with Element 1 credit (Tech Plus or Tech w/HF). To gain General or Amateur Extra class privileges a Novice or Technician Class licensee must only pass the ascending written license class elements - Element 2 (Technician); Element 3 (General) and optionally, Element 4 (Amateur Extra).

The General and Amateur Extra license classes bring additional HF band access. It is possible for those currently holding Technician Class licenses to upgrade to General or Extra, provided they have CSCE certificates

for those test elements that are less than one year old, but they **MUST** upgrade their license class at a VE session. It is not permissible for a Technician licensee to simply begin using HF privileges General or Extra frequencies without having processed their paperwork into a General or Extra Class upgrade.

The passing of an era was marked when CVARC held its last Element 1 (Morse Code) license test at its regularly scheduled VE session on Sunday February 11.

Please see page 6 for important information related to the "special" VE session on Saturday February 24.

Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR

Results from the February 11, 2007 CVARC VE Session



The last CVARC VE session that included testing for the Morse Code element saw 13 candidates attempt 22 test elements. Congratulations to all, including Dennis Kent, shown above, who passed elements 1, 2 and 3, making him the last person to pass the code test at a CVARC exam session.

Name	Callsign	New Class
Roger A. Beard.....	Pending.....	Technician
Jack M. Thompson	Pending.....	Technician
Mark E. Mountain	KI6HBA ...	Element 3 Credit
Edward L. Barry Jr.....	Pending.....	Technician
Jack Caldwell.....	KI6BCS ...	Element 3 Credit
Shea Gasbarri.....	Pending.....	Technician
Paula Larson.....	KG6FUM ..	Element 3 Credit
Dennis J. Kent	Pending.....	General
David J. Frederick.....	N5PPW	General
Joseph S. Biniskiewicz ..	KD6ECF	General
Diane K. Starzak.....	Pending.....	Technician

Special thanks to all the VEs who help to make the CVARC Exam sessions possible. The next CVARC VE sessions are scheduled for Saturday February 24th and Sunday April 15th. Note that the latter date is one week later than usual, due to the Easter holiday.

Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR

2007 Event Calendar

Feb 15	CVARC Meeting
Feb 23-25	Coyote 4-Play Event
Feb 24	Special VE Session at CVARC
Feb 24	Amgen Bike Race Comms
Feb 24	TRW Swapmeet
Mar 11	CROP Walk Comms
Mar 15	CVARC Meeting
Mar 25	Westlake Street Fair Comms
Mar 31	TRW Swapmeet
Apr 8	<u>No License Exam</u> at CVARC (Easter)
Apr 10	CVARC License Classes End
Apr 15	Delayed FCC License Exam at CVARC
Apr 17	CVARC License Classes Begin
Apr 19	CVARC Meeting
Apr 21	Arbor Day Demo
Apr 27-29	Visalia International DX Convention
Apr 28	TRW Swapmeet
May 12	Cruisin' the Conejo Comms
May 17	CVARC Meeting
May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention
May 26	TRW Swapmeet
Jun 5	CVARC License Classes End
Jun 10	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Jun 12	CVARC License Classes Begin
Jun 21	CVARC Meeting
Jun 23-24	ARRL Field Day
Jun 30	TRW Swapmeet
Jul 3	Moorpark Fireworks Comms
Jul 19	CVARC Meeting
Jul 28	TRW Swapmeet
Aug 7	CVARC License Classes End
Aug 12	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Aug 14	CVARC License Classes Begin
Aug 16	CVARC Meeting
Aug 25	TRW Swapmeet
Aug 25	CVARC Summer Picnic
Sep 7-9	ARRL SW Div. Convention, Torrance
Sep 20	CVARC Meeting
Sep 29	TRW Swapmeet
Oct 9	CVARC License Classes Begin
Oct 14	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Oct 16	CVARC License Classes Begin
Oct 18	CVARC Meeting
Oct 27	TRW Swapmeet
Nov 15	CVARC Meeting
Nov 24	TRW Swapmeet
Dec 4	CVARC License Classes End
Dec 8	(Tentative) CVARC Holiday Party
Dec 9	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Dec 29	TRW Swapmeet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to be included in the calendar to:
steve@stevechampion.com

Writing for the CVARC Newsletter



In order to try to make the "News from CVARC" more useful and interesting, I'd like to encourage all CVARC members to consider writing for the newsletter. Our membership has a wide range of

interests, so we can use articles on all sorts of subjects, pitched at any level. Ham Radio is such a wide-ranging hobby that even people who have been active for a long time will be complete beginners as far as certain topics are concerned.

We can use articles of pretty much any length. Even articles as brief as 200 or 250 words (about half to three quarters of a page) are welcome. As a rough guide, a 700 or 800 word article would be a whole page - more if there are illustrations. Your word processor can count words for you.

If you are looking for some inspiration as far as topic is concerned, please think about the following areas:

Technical articles are what comes to mind first for many people. This sort of article is certainly very welcome. Sometimes a few well thought out paragraphs on a topic can help to introduce someone a whole new aspect of the hobby. However, don't limit yourself to thinking only about highly technical articles.



Operating. This could include such things as what you have learned about the characteristics of a particular band or mode, contesting, digital modes, QRP and/or portable operation, planning a DX-pedition, chasing awards, operating overseas, etiquette, and so on.



Reviews. The big magazines do a good job of keeping manufacturers honest regarding technical specifications. However, readers are also interested in issues such as usability, value for money, warranty and/or service experiences, and so on. In

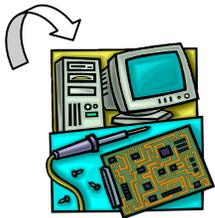
addition to rigs, there would be interest in reviews on antennas, kits, tools, software, and test equipment. Don't forget services such as repairs or installation.

Emergency-related issues are always of interest. That could be anything from a description of how ARES and RACES are organized, to Family Emergency Preparedness, how to go about applying for your Disaster Worker Identification, "Go Kit" design, what to expect on your first emergency deployment, and so on.



Historical perspectives. You could share your knowledge about some aspect of radio history, either first hand knowledge or something that you have read about.

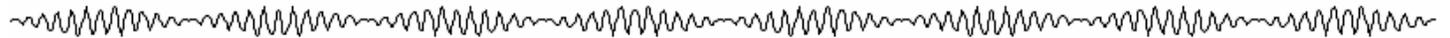




Tips and tricks are useful. Whether it be techniques for a neat mobile installation, ways of studying to upgrade your license, how to assemble a particularly fiddly connector, battery care, or whatever. It is good to pass on things learned along the way.

I have listed a few things that readily come to mind, but there are many, many things that would be of interest to our readers. Please think whether there is something that you could write about and help to make our newsletter an outstanding one.

Steve Champion, AE6NX



Results of “Quickie” Magazine Survey

To determine what ham radio & other technical publications are read by local hams, I recently did an informal poll of the membership of the two amateur radio clubs which serve Thousand Oaks and surrounding areas. In early November, the members of both The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) and The Ventura County Amateur Radio Society (VCARS) were queried by email.

27 people ultimately responded to the survey, six of whom belong to both clubs. Just over 50% of the VCARS members responded, primarily by e-mail. (VCARS has about 19 members). Only one CVARC member answered the e-mail request; but another 18 responded during the monthly CVARC meeting. (CVARC has approximately 80 members).

Educational level ranged from high school (1) through PhD (2+). Job titles of respondents included one high school student, several retirees, about 4 engineers, super technicians, a college librarian, a pilot, and a public service dispatcher

All but 1 respondent read QST.
6 people read CQ.
1 reads QEX

About a dozen people read sample copies of Radio-World (Sacramento, CA)

A few people read other magazines such as IEEE's Spectrum, CQ-DL, Nuts & Volts, Broadcast Engineer, ECN Electronic Component News, Mobile Radio Technology, Aviation Week & Space Technology, & others.

Many have access to e-publications including ARRL-Letter, ARRL- EmComm Letter, CVARC News Letter, Western States Weak Signal Society Newsletter, Ventura Co. RACES News Letter, K9YA's Telegraph, to name a few.

Pete Heins, N6ZE

Thank You

“News from CVARC” is brought to you with the assistance of Kate Champion, KG6TWK, who has agreed to handle the folding, addressing, stamping, and sealing of newsletters for me during my tenure as Newsletter Editor. Thanks, Kate!

Steve Champion, AE6NX

National Ham Societies

A couple of years ago, I joined the Radio Society of Great Britain in order to get “RadCom”, their monthly magazine. Then, last year I started to subscribe to “CQ-DL”, the monthly magazine of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club. It is very interesting to read ham magazines from other countries, but it can be a bit expensive. With that in mind, I thought it might be interesting to compare the cost of membership of the national organization in various countries.

The organizations also vary a great deal in the services that they offer to their members, so it is not really an “apples to apples” comparison, but it is interesting none the less.

This first table ranks the cost for an Amateur joining their “home” organization. All prices have been converted to US dollars.

Germany	DARC	\$83
UK	RSGB	\$82
Australia	WIA	\$56
Canada	RAC	\$40
USA	ARRL	\$39

This second table ranks the cost for an overseas ham to join. Again, all prices have been converted to US dollars

UK	RSGB	\$82
Australia	WIA	\$64
Germany	DARC	\$63
USA	ARRL	\$62
Canada	RAC	\$53

I'll let you draw your own conclusions – but suffice it to say that the ARRL is a relatively inexpensive organization to belong to.

Steve Champion, AE6NX

Ventura County ARES/RACES Times & Frequencies

Area 2 ARES/RACES 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	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	147.930	—	127.3	AD6SV
Area 2	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.850	—	94.8	K6AER Grissom
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	51.940	—	82.5	WB6RHQ
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	224.700	—	156.7	K6HB
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	449.440	—	131.8	KE6SWS Amgen
Area 2	(Simplex)	Voice	147.555		None	Simplex
Area 2	(Backup Repeater)	Voice	147.885	—	127.3	N6JMI Bozo
Area 3	7:15-7:30pm	Voice	147.915	—	127.3	WB6ZTQ
Area 4	7:15-7:30pm	Voice	146.970	—	127.3	WB6YQN
Area 5	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	145.400	—	None	N6FL
Area 6	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	147.765	—	127.3	None
Area 7	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.985	—	127.3	WB6ZTX
Area 8	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.535		None	Simplex
County	7:30-8:00pm	Voice	146.880	—	127.3	WA6ZTT
County	6:45-7:00pm	Voice	52.980	—	82.5	K6SMR
County	7:30-8:00pm	Voice	224.020	—	127.3	WB6ZTR
County	Before 6:30pm	Packet	145.710		None	Hospital Net
County	(RACES Simplex)	Voice	147.570		None	Simplex

Net Control operations for the weekly ARES/RACES Area 2 check-in are run from the ARES/RACES 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 the Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Jerry Goldman, KC6JSO at (805) 241-9187 if you would like to attend.

RACES members should remember that their RACES 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) 646-2551, to renew it.

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

2007 CVARC Officers

President.....	Neil Waybright.....	KG6QEL.....	(805) 517-2962.....	kg6qel@yahoo.com
Vice President.....	Rob Hanson.....	W6RH.....	(805) 376-9350.....	w6rh@verizon.net
Secretary.....	Ben Champion.....	AE6NY.....	(805) 493-2564.....	ben@benchampion.com
Treasurer.....	Roy Deschene.....	KE6UMW.....	(818) 887-4039.....	RoyD@aol.com
Public Relations.....	Jeff Reinhardt.....	AA6JR.....	(818) 706-3853.....	aa6jr@pacbell.net
Technical.....	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987.....	hrbcrb@aol.com
Operations.....	Ken Larson.....	KJ6RZ.....	(805) 495-9435.....	kj6rz@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor.....	Steve Champion.....	AE6NX.....	(805) 493-2564.....	steve@stevechampion.com
Education.....	Karl Moody.....	AE6TO.....	(805) 523-0622.....	ke6wvz@aol.com
Social.....	Mary Ho.....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241.....	abele7213@mypacks.net
Member at Large.....	Jonathan Fox.....	KT6LA.....	(818) 889-1156.....	kt6la@arrl.net
Member at Large.....	Rick Barrett.....	KE6DKF.....	n/a.....	ke6dkf@verizon.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 7:00 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 callsign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, Callsign, 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.