

May  
2008

# NEWS FROM CVARC

## President's Message by Greg Lane, K7SDW

Retirement is great. I get to travel to Dayton. By the time you read this I will probably be traveling on my way back. The "planned trip" was to visit Ann's relatives and have a mini family reunion, but I mentioned that the Dayton Ham Convention was just up the road, so I am fitting in a Friday and part of Saturday to attend.

I hope each of you will think about signing up for Field Day. Being that this is George's, KB1FPX, first time in the "bowl" we need to help support filling in any shoes left empty. The MUF and band is not expected to be all that great, so it is a good time to experiment, show the public why we set up and let them get a taste of Amateur Radio operation "in the raw."

The June meeting will be dedicated to FD and so will the arm twisting. We need set up crew for putting up the tent on Friday as well as help in getting it down, cleaned off, folded and put into, we hope, the new storage "trailer." Let's all give kudos to Steve Leong and Hugh Bosma for working on the "trailer project."

*President's Message, continued on page 2*

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## May Club Meeting "Field Day Strategies, Tactics and Logistics"

Marty Woll N6VI has been in Amateur Radio for over forty years. He holds an Extra Class license and is a Life Member of the ARRL. Last year Marty was elected Vice-Director of the ARRL for the Southwestern Division.

Marty is a founding member of the Southern California Contest Club has served as a member and chair of the ARRL's Contest Advisory Committee. In past years he has been President of the Southern California DX Club and chair of the Los Angeles Area Council of Radio Clubs. Currently he is Assistant District Emergency Coordinator and Training Director of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for the Northwest District of the Los Angeles Section.

He is also a member of and instructor for the Los Angeles Fire Department's Auxiliary Communication Service, an ARRL Volunteer Instructor, and a Volunteer Examiner with both ARRL and the Greater L. A. Amateur Radio Group (GLAARG). Marty has set up and operated amateur radio stations on five continents, and he is a frequent speaker at local radio clubs.

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

2101 East Olsen Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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

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

Back to MAY activities. A workshop is planned on the 31<sup>st</sup> on how to operate that hand held. Many of you may have the "modern" HT and still are baffled by the book. Bring your HT, operating book, 3X5 cards, paper and pen for note taking. If we are lucky some of the clone programs might be available to not only demo, but to load those 200 plus memory cells you haven't the slightest idea of how to use.

I'm still looking for a member to volunteer for Social Chair. We will even provide a chair to sit in! The next Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month of June, will be held at my QTH. Members are welcome, but I would appreciate an email, [k7sdw@verizon.net](mailto:k7sdw@verizon.net), or a call three days ahead so I can plan on chair arrangements.

Remember, FD FD FD...or better yet .. practice CQ FD CQ FD from AA6CV FD

73 de Greg, somewhere in Ky.

- Oct. 16..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Oct. 21..... 5<sup>th</sup> CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Oct.25..... TRW Swap Meet
- Nov. 20..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Nov. 29..... TRW Swap Meet
- Dec. 6 (tentative)..... CVARC Holiday Party
- Dec. 9..... 5<sup>th</sup> CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Dec. 14..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Dec 27..... TRW Swap Meet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to [af6cd@arrl.net](mailto:af6cd@arrl.net)

## K6AER Antenna Replacement Complete!

Fearless Vern Potter, W6NCT, and Kevin Shute, KG6BCL, scrambled back to the top of the mountain-top tower to replace the K6AER repeater antenna. The new antenna, a huge Telewave ANT150F6-2, has made a major difference in the performance. Tom Stough, W0UFC was commenting "I noticed this morning that its coverage into South Oxnard (where I work) is much improved already."



Bob Paull (the repeater trustee) sent a nice note to Tom Stough:

I wanted to you inform you that the antenna was put into service on Saturday, March 29 at about 15:30 hours. The antenna is not in the final position as we need to replace some rusted hardware over the next few weeks and will be pushed up an additional 6 feet when completed.

What I do see with the last 2 weeks of changes is that users are able to get into

## Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Event Calendar

- May 3..... Malibu Endurance Ride
- May 10..... Cruisin' the Conejo Bike Ride
- May 15..... CVARC Club Meeting
- May 16-18 ..... Dayton Hamvention
- May 17..... Sea-to-Summit Bike Climb
- May 31..... TRW Swap Meet
- Jun. 3..... 2<sup>nd</sup> CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Jun 8..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Jun. 17..... 3<sup>rd</sup> CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Jun. 19..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Jun. 28-29 ..... Field Day
- Jun 28..... TRW Swap Meet
- Jul 3..... Moorpark Fireworks Show
- Jul. 17..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Jul 26..... TRW Swap Meet
- Aug. 5..... 3<sup>rd</sup> CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Aug. 10..... FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Aug. 19..... 4<sup>th</sup> CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Aug. 21..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Aug. 23 (tentative)..... CVARC Summer Picnic
- Aug 30..... TRW Swap Meet
- Sep. 18..... CVARC Club Meeting
- Sep. 12-14..... ARRL SW Division Convention
- Sep 27..... TRW Swap Meet
- Oct. 7..... 4<sup>th</sup> CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Oct. 12..... FCC License Exam at CVARC

the machine again from Santa Barbara to the old Litton building in Woodland hills.

The next improvements will be to install the old repeater back on site in a new cabinet with much improved power supply/battery recharge capability.

I do want to thank you all and the club for the donation and hope I am able to continue the improvements to the location of the antenna over the next 6 months or so.

73's and see you on 146.85.

Bob Paull

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

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## Conejo Valley MS Run/Walk

Tom Stough, W0UFC

Westlake Village, CA, April 12th 2008 -- ACS/ARES and CVARC members were pleased to assist with the inaugural Conejo Valley Run/Walk MS, organized by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This 10km (6.2 mile) event raised over \$66,000 for MS research. We exchanged our ACS yellow shirts for MS volunteer orange and staffed various points along the unusual two-way route.



Roy Deschene, KE6UMW, led our operation from the WLV City Hall. We quickly found we needed relays by Bruce Elbert, K6ZB, to get around the "hole" Roy was in. All in all, a beautiful and uneventful day, a worthy cause

and great publicity for ham radio. Other participants: Chris Gould, AF6DZ; Jonathan Fox, KT6LA; Kevin Kinney, KI6LKF and Tom Stough, W0UFC.



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## Ventura County ACS Antenna "Party"

The word went out at the Ventura County ACS check-in net about a special "party", and many interested amateurs tuned into the county net on the Sulphur Mountain WA6ZZT repeater.

The plan was to build 2m J-Pole antennas and a few break-down portable Yagi antennas as well. Due to unforeseen family emergencies with the organizer, Rick Tate, KQ6NO, the Moorpark (Area 8) EC led the party and kept all of us on track. He brought all of the materials, tools and test equipment needed to construct and tune the antennas, then verify that the antennas were operating acceptably.

We met at the AAMCO transmission shop in Oxnard and the small group present (myself - AF6CD, John WA2OOB, Stuart KG6BAOV, Hovan KI6BQL, Quentin KF6FQN, Kim KI6NLI and Sue KI6NLJ, and of course our intrepid leader Rick, KQ6NO. We cut pipes, assembled and soldered the major pieces, finally installing and tuning the feeds before soldering them in their final position.

Everyone had a good time, learned some practical ham radio skills, and went home with a nicely functioning J-Pole antenna. If you

missed the “party” you don’t have to worry. The instructions we used to guide the construction were the ones on our very own CVARC web site:

<http://www.cvarc.org/tech/buildpole.html>

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

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### **Westlake Street Fair George Bryant KB1PFX**

The day started cool enough with Greg K7SDW, Roy KE6UMW, Leon N6VCL and Dave AA6DM as the first members to arrive for parking and vendor movement. George KB1PFX, Lenore KI6LKE and Neil AF6CD arrived soon afterward. This was my first time doing the fair and I was quite impressed with how well it was handled. Dave and Leon took quite a bit of flack from the vendors as they tried to enter before their scheduled time slots, however they stood their ground and everything worked like it was meant to. Everybody got to their assigned locations on time to provide refreshments, games and information. Oh yes - did I mention food, all kinds of food?

Well the radio communication van was set up at 10:30 with Greg, Roy, Leon and George handing out information and answering questions about Amateur Radio and the many facets of our operating capabilities. The radio was chirping a little on HF and I believe we heard a CW QSO between AL and AK, but we were unable to make any contacts ourselves.

As the day went on the temperature rose quite rapidly into the low 90s. There was quite a bit of water being given out. I also noticed that people were bringing their dogs to the fair. I know we love our pets but from what I was told by DART personnel there were 5 dogs that suffered from heat exposure. The temperature of the pavement had to have been very hot. That must have been painful to the paws. I know my feet were burning and I was wearing boots. Well enough of my ranting. Let’s give a warm thanks to Lenore Arab KI6LKE on her first assignment as a new member of CVARC.

In summary, the CVARC van was utilized for 10 hours for the fair and I believe caught the attention of several people who expressed an interest in what we do.

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### **Field Day is Approaching George Bryant KB1PFX**

Well here it is Field Day! YOOHOO! This year Field Day occurs on Saturday and Sunday June 28th and 29th, with setup on Friday June 27th. Much of the planning must be completed during the May CVARC General Meeting. The June meeting is only a few days before the Field Day event.

Again this year we have arranged with the City to hold Field Day at the Thousand Oaks Park and Recreation facility (old city hall) at 401 W. Hillcrest Dr., on the hill above the Oaks Mall.

Set up will begin at noon on Friday June 27th and continue into the evening. We will take a break from the set up in the early evening for a pot luck dinner; see below for what has been committed to so far. Make sure to see George KB1PFX at the meeting in May to add to the list.

Saturday evening dinner will be catered by Bandits BBQ. Everyone that I have spoken to had the highest regard for their spread. The cost is \$12.50 per person. Please see Roy Deschene at the May meeting with your funds. The earlier we have a count the better it is for Bandits to put the order together. Of course those that cannot make the May meeting can reserve their seat and make payment at the June meeting.

Last year there was a salsa and guacamole contest. Will Mary be interested in running it again?

The Field Day logging software is a big hit and will be used again this year. The software belongs to CVARC and is licensed to the club call sign AA6CV. There is no limit to the number of

users, so each Band Captain can have his station connected via wireless local network into the logging software server. The software requires a laptop computer with an 801.11/G network interface. I will try to have it demonstrated at the June meeting.

At the May meeting we need to have a good idea of how many stations will be up and running, who the Band Captains will be and who will be participating. Your attendance at the May meeting is very important to facilitate these numbers.

Band Captains are responsible for setting up a station. Typically the group has operating 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters running CW, SSB or Digital. Usually a station operates on a single band and in a single mode. The Band Captain provides the station radio, antenna, batteries, a laptop computer for logging, and a table with chairs. The Band Captain is also responsible for assembling his team to keep his station on the air throughout the whole Field Day event. If you would like to be a Band Captain but have trouble supplying some equipment talk to one of the CVARC Board Members and tell them what you need. You can still be a Band Captain even if you do not have all of the equipment.

We need a lot of operators. If you want to be an operator join the fun and get in touch with one of the Band Captains and operate for a couple of hours or so. Come on, I know you want to have fun too.

#### BAND CAPTAINS

80 m – all mode still available

40 m Phone - Neil AF6CD  
40 m other modes – still available

20 m CW - Greg K7SDW CW  
20 m other modes – still available

15 m – all mode still available

10 m – all mode still available

6m Phone - Roy KE6UMW  
6m other modes – still available

2 m – all mode still available

70 cm – all mode still available

Satellite – all mode still available

GOTA m – all mode still available

PR Table \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER -- All Band CW Greg K7SDW, Tom W0UFC, Bruce K6ZB

Helpers for Friday June 27, Hugh AE6YC, Eric WB6PYK, George KB1PFX

For the pot luck, as usual the CVARC will provide burgers, hotdogs and buns, soft drinks and water. Please see the sign up sheet at the May meeting to let us know what you are bringing. Bringing just yourself is also ok as we will feed you for helping anyway. I only have 8 people signed up for the Saturday Dinner from Bandits BBQ. Normally there are around 40 to 50 at the dinner.

Should you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at the numbers below.

73 de KB1PFX George  
805-857-5278  
[nh13140@yahoo.com](mailto:nh13140@yahoo.com)

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### **International DX Convention** **Pete Heins, N6ZE**

25-25 April 2008, Visalia, CA. Several hams from Ventura County recently attended the 59th annual International DX Convention held in Visalia. Bruce, K6ZB; Eddie, KQ6K; Ray, WB6L; Pete, N6ZE; Kevin, KG6BCL; Herb, WW6HF; Mike, KI6PQA; and Peter, KB1CVH attended the Convention.



The DX convention attracted many well known long time antenna designers and manufacturers. Joe Reiser, W1JR; Mike Stahl, K6MYC; and Clay Curtiss, W7CE. At various times, members of the pictured trio have been affiliated with Cushcraft, SteppIR, and M Square, among others.

Approximately 40 exhibitors were present, including SteppIR, M-Square, Elecraft, Hi-Q Antennas, and US Tower.



Gary, KB8RQ, recently became the first person to have worked 200 different countries on 2 meters by means of Moon-Bounce. Joe, W1JR, is a retired electrical Engineer and has held many records from superior design & operating of 1.8 MHZ to 10 GHZ stations. Matt Stahl and Jeremy, K16JIC, are the daily managers of M Square Antennas. Conjo Valley resident Pete, N6ZE, mooches cups of coffee and is trying to work VUCC on 474THZ.

US Tower, Elecraft, and SteppIR teamed together to have a demo station featuring a very tall US Tower Crank-up tower, Elecraft K-3, and SteppIR's new "Dream Beam 36 " 4 element trombone yagi: Very impressive!

Several seminars were held on Saturday. Presentations included "Getting the most out of HF operations from a small house lot," debriefs

of DX-Peditions to Scarborough Reef & Clipperton, and "Low band receiving loops design optimization".

ARRL representatives checked QSL cards for DXCC, WAS, and other awards. Ray, WB6L, was certified for 5Band DXCC: at least 100 different countries confirmed on each of 5 HF bands: a true achievement from a QTH within the city limits!



Ellen White, W1YL, traveled from Tampa, FL to the DX Convention. A retired long time staffer at ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT, Ellen also conducted "QST's" monthly "How's DX" column for many years. It was a special treat for Pete, N6ZE, to visit with her because they were previously neighbors for many years.

bt 73

Pete, N6ZE

## Ventura County ACS/ARES Times & Frequencies

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



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

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

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

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

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

### 2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	Greg Lane .....	K7SDW .....	(805) 498-0454 .....	k7sdw@verizon.net
Vice President.....	Tom Stough.....	WØUFC.....	(805) 373-6836 .....	w0ufc@arrl.net
Secretary .....	Mary Ho.....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241 .....	abele7213@mypacks.net
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Social.....	open .....	open .....	open .....	open
Member at Large .....	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987 .....	hrbcrb@aol.com
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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.