

August
2008

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message by Greg Lane, K7SDW

Call for volunteers! What do Amateur's do best? They volunteer! CVARC needs you! Why you ask? With only occasionally getting on the repeaters in the county and monthly meetings provides little time for "members" to interact or socialize outside of aforementioned. CVARC, as a club, has served the community for many years. The need for filling the Technical Chair and Social Chair are just as critical to our club as any other chair position. Think about what you can contribute and volunteer.

The nomination committee is looking to create a roster for 2009. Asking for volunteers early is needed as CVARC will be almost void of past board positions due to the many years of service your present board members have served. All positions are open and the following positions known to me that will be open due to various personal commitments each of the board members has expressed.

President: I will not be running as next year and will be spending more time with family and traveling; therefore, a member with Extra Class license is also required to administer AA6CV call.

President's Message, continued on page 2

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August Club Meeting "Tower and Antenna Installation"

Do you have questions about tower and antenna installation and wish you had a chance to talk to a professional installer?

Harold "Skip" Bolnick will host a presentation on tower and antenna installation.

Skip's profession is Amateur Radio Tower and Antennas, intallation and repair. He is a past president of the Southern California DX Club and operates all HF, VHF and UHF bands. He has been a member of several IOTA expeditions to Catalina Island, NA-066 and to Santa Rosa Island, NA-144. He has also been part of efforts on Prince Edward Island, NA-029 for work on the VY2TT super station and operated as VY2/KJ6Y.

Join us for a stimulating session Thursday August 21st at CVARC's regularly scheduled meeting to learn more about the fascinating topic.

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 free-way between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

VP: Tom will be spending more dedicated time with his family; therefore, we need someone to work with him this year to learn the ropes on obtaining programs for CVARC.

Secretary: Mary has not indicated whether she will continue.

Treasurer: Dave Morton has volunteered to run for this position for 2009.

Public Relations: Jeff indicated he needs to pay more attention to his ARRL commitment in PR for all the clubs and will vacate this position.

Technical: Presently open now

Operations: George is moving out of state and can not fill this position next year.

Newsletter Editor: Neil is willing to run for this position again next year, but is looking for contributors to help with articles and photos.

Education: Open in 2009. Karl has done a marvelous job but will not be able to continue next year and is willing to assist anyone now who may accept nomination as to what he does and the materials he uses.

Social: Presently open.

Member at Large: Hugh has been an anchor for this club and has provided hours and hours of dedication as well as office positions in the past. His family responsibilities may cause him to be less active in 2009; therefore, we need members to step up to the task to volunteer.
Member at Large: Dave has done an excellent job of keeping tabs with the membership and relating to the CVARC needs and improvements. I hope he will continue in some officer position.

This all may sound like "Doomsday", but let me assure you when I joined CVARC in 19887 we had a 16 year old Treasurer, a President who served for over 6 years and a membership of

about 30. If the Club downsizes the Board back to a 6 member board like back in the 80's or continues with the 12 slots remains to be seen.

CVARC is a non-profit with an abundance of membership talent out there as well as a strong presence in the community as well as receiving Grant monies to fund the club projects. It would be a sad day that the "takers" loose out from the "givers" who have given 200% to the club and no one to take their place. That leaves nothing to "take" or "give." Please search your heart and soul to give to CVARC the leadership it well deserves. Check the by-laws which describe the duties of each position. Anyone can do it! It is not hard or time consuming as you would think.

73 de Greg

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Event Calendar

- Aug. 5.....3rd CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Aug. 10.....FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Aug. 19.....4th 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.....4th CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Oct. 12.....FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Oct. 16.....CVARC Club Meeting
- Oct. 18-19.....JOTA (<http://home.tiscali.nl/worldscout/>)
- Oct. 21.....5th 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.....5th 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

Openings on the Board Neil Waybright, AF6CD

The positions of Technical Chair and Operations Chair are open for un-related reasons. CVARC needs to find good candidates for these roles for the rest of the year. Rick Bar-

rett continues to have a school conflict with the Thursday nights where both the board and club meetings fall. He enjoys the technical chair role, but is not available when many of the members need him.

George Bryant has received a wonderful opportunity for a new role inside his company that includes a nice promotion, but it entails moving back to the east coast. This will be his last meeting with the club before his move.

Consider carefully whether you might be able to fill either one of these positions. The technical chair role is best filled by someone with a good technical background. The operations role is best filled by someone who has a flare for organizing and recruiting teams. Since George has completed the major event of the year for which the operations chair is responsible, the job is one where you will have a chance to grow into it.

If you are interested, please contact Greg Lane, or any of the members of the board at the July meeting.

August ARRL UHF Contest

Pete Heins, N6ZE

I operated a hilltop QRP station on 70 CM during the recent August 2008 ARRL UHF Contest. Although I operated from two different grids (CN87 & CN88) to the north of Seattle, WA, my techniques also are effective in Southern California and other parts of the country. .With 2 watts and an 11 element Yagi, I made 18 QSOs in 6 grids. One contact, my best DX at 170 statute miles, was on CW and one local QSO was on FM. All other contacts were on SSB. I operated from three hilltops ranging from 200 to 900 feet above the Puget Sound. I worked many home stations and a few Rovers also.

If I had operated from my preferred hilltop location in Thousand Oaks, I probably would have done almost as well, even though Thousand Oaks is surrounded by higher hills and mountains. A perch atop a peak in the Santa Monica

Mts. might have proved to yield a higher score. Although I did not have equipment for 222 MHZ and the bands above 70 CM, I did have fun in the contest. If CCRs and apartment dwelling restrict you to a handheld or mobile operation, you might try QRP hill topping. "Try it! You'll like it!"



Complete QRP 70 CM Contest Setup

I used part of the trunk area of a small vehicle as an operating 'shack'. My rig is Yaesu FT817, an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode QRP 2 watt rig. The rest of the station consisted of a motorcycle battery, an early morning cup of coffee, clipboard for log, and a circa 1960 folding stool. I always use an outboard power source with the FT817 because the internal "AA" 8 battery supply only lasts a 15 or 20 minutes before depletion!! (I once operated a 2 meter "Sprint Contest" from the 86th floor of the NYC's Empire State Building & used 5 sets of batteries in a couple of hours! Set #5 was darned expensive because I had to buy them from the 86th floor gift/photo shop....but I did want to make some more QSOs though!)

Utilizing the car's 12 volt socket is not a good power source either. Most cigarette lighter

sockets are not powered unless the ignition switch is ‘on’ and sometimes the ignition noise is quite loud. I use a small inexpensive tote bag purchased from the Camarillo T-shirt store to transport the FT817, microphone, 2 BNC to UHF and BNC to Type N adapters, a roll of electrical tape, a couple of pens & pencils, some paper, a grid locator chart, and a photocopy of the full FT817 Owner’s Manual. This time, I did need to activate the internal CW keyer and microphone ‘cw key’. My best VHF/UHF DX distances with this rig include 6 meter double hop “sporadic E” from Miami, FL to NW Colorado, 150 miles on 2 meters, & 170 statute miles on 70 CM.



Detail of Yagi boom and attachment to mast.

To easily mount a small Yagi on a portable mast assembly, I believe in KISS: Keep It Simple Stupid. Wing nuts instead of nuts eliminate the need for a socket wrench and make assembly go much faster. Make sure that you tape the coax to the boom a short distance from the coax attachment to the driven element. This prevents extra flexing and bending of the cable at the connectors. I do use LMR-400 for most portable operations to minimize feedline loss.



View of full station

If particular importance for any portable operation is a means to support the antenna, whether it be an 80 meter dipole or a UHF yagi. I currently use a surplus tripod which was originally used for temporary roadway signage (thanks to KN6NO!) When collapsed, it is about 3.5 feet long. When opened up, it has a wide ‘footprint’ and does not tip over! This one happens to have two mast sections to permit raising the yag i up about 11 ft above the ground. I can easily loosen the lower bolt on the first mast section so that I can turn the Yagi. A rotor would be nice, but KISS is mandatory for quick portable operations.

bt 73 Pete, N6ZE

All photos by N6ZE

Yes, YOU Can Work DX From Thousand Oaks! **Pete Heins, N6ZE**

Pete, N6ZE, recently made several QSOs with VP6DX, a DXpedition group which recently traveled to Ducie Island for a 10 day period of operating. Where’s Ducie Island? It is about 300 miles East of Pitcairn Island, approximately 4000 statute miles South of the Conejo Valley.

Pete made eight contacts on five bands with this rare station. Relatively simple gear was

used at Pete's Thousand Oaks QTH. A 25 year old Kenwood TS430 was used for most QSOs. The 40 meter contact used only a roof-mounted dipole aimed East/West at just 18 feet above ground level. All other contacts were made with a Cushcraft R-5 vertical.

VP6DX set a new DXpedition record with 182,467 QSOs made during the 10 day operation and almost 39,000 individual hams worked by the group. VP6DX's 40 meter SSB/CW operators made over 219,000 QSOs. All bands 160 meters through 6 meters activated, although no 6 meter QSOs were made.

de N6ZE

Look For the September QST in Your Mailbox!

Neil AF6CD

The September issue of QST -- our annual Emergency Communications issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs, with a special focus on Public Service. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, provides details on how hams can use APRS and GPS in Emergency Communications (and other applications) for more than simply tracking the position of another user in his article "Maximizing the Mobile Motorist Mission." William McMurray, K4SG, takes a look back at some resourceful young amateurs' radio EmComm and home-brewing adventures in his article "World War II Emergency Radio." Mike Kionka, KI0GO, tells about "Project 25 for Amateur Radio," an open digital standard used by many public service agencies.

ARRL Contributing Editor Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, reviews ICOM's IC-92AD dual band handheld transceiver. According to Pearce, "The IC-92AD is a very capable radio for analog and D-STAR digital VHF/UHF operation. It's expensive compared to analog-only dual-banders, and you'll need to spend some time learning the digital features. In return, D-STAR

offers many capabilities not available in the analog world."

Contest season is right around the corner, so ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at his mailbag and answers a few questions he has received in "This Month in Contesting." The results of the 2008 ARRL DX Phone Contest are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

Of course, there are all the columns and features you know and love in September QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Technical Correspondence, ARRL VEC and Emergency Communications Honor Rolls, Hamspeak and more. Look for your September issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/join>>.

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FCC Raising Vanity Call Sign Fees

Neil Waybright AQF6CD

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachm/attach/FCC-08-182A1.pdf>. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register <<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>>; no date has yet been set for publication. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$50. The FCC said it antic-

ipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" -- or applications -- during Fiscal Year 2009, collecting \$184,734 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

Those holding "personalized" call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>. There is additional information on the "ARRL

VEC's FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the "ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ" Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.html>.

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Come to the Meeting! Neil Waybright AF6CD

This month we will have fold-out sheets with the first names and call-signs of the club members for those that like to remember the CVARC members when they are making local contacts.

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>-</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>-</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>-</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, KI6DJV 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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Operations	open	open	open	open
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Member at Large	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987.....	hrbcrb@aol.com
Member at Large	Dave Morton.....	AA6DM	(805) 495-3920	aa6dm@arrl.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 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.