

President's Message by Greg Lane, K7SDW

November is a time for Thanksgiving. Let's be thankful for those who are taking time out of their busy life to give back to the CVARC membership and activities. I am positive that each of the members will enjoy another fantastic year in 2009.

I made a visit to ARRL for a recap of Field Day 2008 results and they are very interesting. This year we ranked (tied) 148 in the nation and number 8 in scoring for 6'land. Thanks everyone for a very good job and making it better than last year, considering over 2400 entries were submitted.

By the time you get this Golden Guardian Drill will be over, so I hope we all have learned from that effort and are thankful our earthquake kits and radios are in working order.

I have enjoyed being your President for 2008 and look forward to serve next year. I will be twisting arms in 2009 for a President for 2010 as I can only serve two consecutive terms. So, don't be bashful; sign up! Another interesting tid bit is that within 50 miles the ARRL shows 26 clubs exist.

President's Message, continued on page 2

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November Club Meeting "Election of Officers"

This month, the general membership of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) will be electing a slate of officers to run the club for 2009. Article VII, section 1 of the by-laws of the club require this election take place at the regular general meeting in November.

The complete slate of potential officers nominated so far will be presented, and a call for additional nominations from the floor will be made. Once that is completed, a simple election will follow.

Once the elections are complete, we will have a round-robin "brag session" to share what we have been doing in ham radio this year.

Join us for this important session Thursday November 20th at CVARC's regularly scheduled meeting.

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...

When you read about how the east coast clubs joined together to set up a massive FD exercise, one would think that the time is right for the West Coast clubs and operators to team up and show we are just as capable of putting up 23 high performance stations.

I think we are still having our Holiday Party auction on December 6th, so look for some of the white, pink, and other boat anchors that might be a treasure for another member. See you at the November meeting. Make sure you can fill in any open position by nominating yourself; we can use all the help and talent out there to make next year our best.

73 de Greg

P.S. I missed ARRL SS CW, but SSB is around the corner!

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Event Calendar

- Nov. 20 CVARC Club Meeting
- Nov. 29 TRW Swap Meet
- Dec. 6 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@arrrl.net

[Editor's note: I'll be publishing a tentative calendar for 2009 on the website by the end of November. It won't be finalized until the December board meeting, but it will be in its final form in the January meeting. I'll have it in the December newsletter if it is approved before printing.]

Nominating Committee Report Tom Stough, W0UFC

This is the slate the Nominating Committee presented at the October meeting:

- President: Greg Lane, K7SDW
- Vice-President: Phil Bartlett, K6UJO
- Treasurer: Dave Morton, AA6DM
- Secretary: Mary Ho, KI6COG
- Publisher: Neil Waybright, AF6CD
- Technical: Bruce Elbert, K6ZB
- Operations: open

- Social: open
- Education: Karl Moody, AE6TO
- Public Relations: Brad Ormsby, WA6GLE
- Member-At-Large I: Hugh Bosma, AE6YC
- Member-At-Large II: Mike D'Amore, N6MDA

Nominations from the floor will be taken at the November 20 meeting. After nominations cease on November 20, we will vote in our 2009 Board. Please consider, especially, running for Operations Chair or Social Chair. Also: if you have a yen for teaching and mentoring our newest amateurs, Karl Moody would like to speak with you. After many years of yeoman service as Education Chair and licensing class teacher, Karl will be leaving our area during 2009. He will be glad to "groom" you to succeed him in this very important role. Bringing new hams into the hobby is a big part of CVARC's educational mission.

73 de Tom

Report on Golden Guardian Earthquake Drill Ken Larson, KJ6RZ

The long awaited massive Golden Guardian Earthquake exercise occurred last Thursday November 13th. Our Auxiliary Communication Services (ACS) teams County wide were very busy handling voice and packet communications for the event. With in ACS Area 2 (Thousand Oaks and Conejo Valley) we had nearly 50 members participating covering 11 different sites here in Area 2 plus additional sites County wide. While we are still evaluating our test results, it appears that all of our served agencies (law enforcement, cities, hospitals, schools, etc.) were all extremely happy with the services that we provided them.

One of the really fun things that happened involved HF communications. The day before the event, Los Robles Hospital asked us if we could establish radio communications during the drill with their hospital corporate headquarters (HCS) back in Nashville, TN. Bruce Elbert, K6ZB, initiated a series of email conversations with the amateur radio operators back at HCA to coordinate the test. In the middle of

the Golden Guardian drill, Bruce made contact with HCA on 20 meter SSB and passed critical information to them on the status of their hospital here in Thousand Oaks. This HF communications test was more important than it may at first seem. During the Katrina and following hurricanes, HCA dispatched its corporate jet to its member hospitals in the stricken areas carrying medicines and other hospital supplies. They are prepared to do the same if Los Robles Hospital were severely hit. If this were to happen, our HF operators would have to work hand in hand with our VHF/UHF teams to route the corporate jet to the closest surviving airport (Camarillo, Oxnard, ??) and find passable roads from the air field to the hospital.

Our Info-Net service turned out to be highly successful. As you remember from previous articles, the purpose of Info-Net is to provide a net that all amateur radio operators can check into to obtain information on the extent of the disaster, learn about evacuation routes, and other information that they need to protect the health and safety of their families. The Info-Net concept is being adopted County wide and will become one of our permanent ACS services.

Our non-ham ACS members were outstanding, serving as message handlers and the interface between our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) customers and our radio operators. As has happened before, strong bonds were formed between our customers and our message handlers, giving our customers an excellent feeling of well being while allowing our radio operators to concentrate on the task of radio communications.

During Golden Guardian, we had only one shift to staff. It was painfully clear that we do not have enough ACS members to staff all of our assigned locations if this were a real emergency requiring 24 hour a day operation for several days, a week, or more.

The bottom line is this, if you are not already an ACS member, we desperately need your help. We also desperately need many more

non-ham members. Please consider joining our ACS team.

Thanks

Ken Larson
ACS Area 2
Emergency Coordinator

Holiday Party Raffle **Hugh Bosma, AE6YC**

You don't want to miss out on this years White ticket prizes. Grand prize - The Yaesu FT-857D is the world's smallest HF/VHF/UHF multimode amateur transceiver. It is the successor to the earlier FT-857. But the new D version adds the 60 meter ham band and includes the formerly optional DSP-2 Digital Signal Processing Unit. Second prize - The Alinco DR-235 features a full-featured 220 MHz 25 watt FM transceiver with an alphanumeric display with 100 memory channels, CTCSS encode and decode are standard. I'm sure our president has a few other surprises to throw in as well.

Red ticket prize is a new 2 meter mobile donated by our very own AA6JR, many thanks Jeff.

Remember you must be present to win the Red ticket prize. The lucky winners of a White ticket prize need not be present. White tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 7 for \$50, and a crisp Ben Franklin will buy 15 chances.

Bozo Repeater **Hugh Bosma, AE6YC**

You may have noticed the 147.885 on Rasnow ridge is sounding much better these days. Like many of us, old age and a few component failures had Bozo gasping for fresh electrons. Dave Norman, N6JMI has a full plate and has turned the reins over to KQ6K. Eddy's team has been hard at work. The repeater has been replaced with a dual mode Motorola Quantar. They also identified and replaced a bad feed line jumper at the antenna, and have the duplexer performing to factory specifications.

Things are a bit spread out at the repeater site but the coverage is vastly improved. The team is busy getting the system packaged and fine tuning. Please give Bozo a try and let us know how well we are doing. Eddy or one of the team is usually monitoring. If you miss us on the air please drop Eddy a note at KQ6K@pacbell.net.

The next session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Sunday, December 14, 2008 at the East Valley station.

Ohio Hams Discover and Fix "Ditters" on 40 Meters

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/> on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I

ARRL Exam Fee Increases to \$15 January 1st, 2008 Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR

The ARRL has announced FCC Exam Fees for all Amateur Radio license classes will increase to \$15 in 2009. CVARC has been affiliated with the ARRL VEC since the inception of the Volunteer Examination program. The ARRL provides CVARC and other examination groups with exam booklets, FCC license applications, standardized answer sheets and Certificates of Successful Completion for candidates. The League also pays for shipping exam materials to and from its Connecticut headquarters. Following an exam, ARRL personnel process each exam package and electronically post the results to the FCC database.

CVARC VE Session Report October 12, 2008 Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR

The CVARC VE session of October 12 served ten candidates. Among those who passed elements were:

Name	Call	New Lic. Class
Gary M. Bell	KI6TPY	Technician
Christopher R. Elliott	AF6MI	Extra
Charles W. Geiger	KI6BCP	General
Ira M. Lichtman	KI6TPX	Technician
Alan R. McDaniel	KD6ARM	General
Clarence B. Odle	KI6TPW	Technician
George M. Williams	KI6TPV	Technician
Kenneth M. Wilson	KF6TZO	General
Ron Yorke	KI6TPU	Technician

Thanks to the VEs who gave their time to make this CVARC session possible, George Tamayo WD6EJO; Noel Van Slyke K6NVS and Ken Larson KJ6RZ.

assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licenses in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the

neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."

When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and OOs to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The DFing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work on the case at this time."

Calling this a "splendid example of cooperation," ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, echoed Skolaut's praise: "I believe the response to the situation was as fine an example of symbiotic relationship between member-staff-FCC-staff-field organization as one might find. Extremely well done by all hands."

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 27, #45 of November 14th, 2008, Reprinted by permission)

World Radio Ceases Publication

In a joint statement, WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced that WorldRadio magazine will no longer be published as a print magazine. According to the announcement, CQ Communications Inc has acquired WorldRadio and plans to continue it as an online publication on CQ's Web site. WorldRadio subscribers will have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

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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>
Area 2	7:10-7:30 pm	Voice	224.700	-	156.7	K6HB
<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
Treasurer	Roy Deschene.....	KE6UMW.....	(818) 887-4039	RoyfD@aol.com
Public Relations	Jeff Reinhardt.....	AA6JR.....	(818) 706-3853	aa6jr@pacbell.net
Technical	open	open	open	open
Operations	open	open	open	open
Newsletter Editor	Neil Waybright.....	AF6CD.....	(805) 517-2962	af6cd@arrl.net
Education.....	Karl Moody	AE6TO.....	(805) 523-0622	ke6wvz@aol.com
Social	open	open	open	open
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.