

April
2009

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message Greg Lane, K7SDW

Wireless gone Wild!

Boy what a find! I found the ultimate Ham Radio! All wireless! It weighs about 0.5 pounds, covers all the bands and is just awesome with power! It does not cost much to operate as it is self generating and you don't need any instructions to tune it. Just speak the band, frequency, power, who you want to contact, like special DX stations, and it does the trick!

It's not too much to look at for a simple "box" but looks are not everything. Remember that's the key to ham radio, that antennas are our perfect 10. So why wouldn't a transceiver fall into the same category of being everything you ever dreamed of? All we ever needed was the ultimate lazy transceiver that does it all! I only have one grip. It does not do the logging. So in CW you have to be very quick, especially when connecting to the 45 wpm station. I found out I could only write about 30 wpm, so I am practicing with my typing now to improve.

President's Message, continued on page 2

April Club Meeting "Modern Radio Design"

Paul Raab, KF6CM will be the speaker. His presentation is titled -- What is the yotta-watt delta? --a presentation on "Modern radio design and when to use extra front end filters or not."

Paul Raab has been licensed since 1975. He is a senior electronic engineer at SystemWare in Camarillo. In the past, he has worked for Data Exchange, Demo Systems, Vitesse Semiconductor, and Power One as a electronic test engineer over the past 30 years. He is also the training officer for the East Valley Sheriff Station's Mountain Search and Rescue Team (another potentially interesting topic of discussion).

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

The East County Sheriff Station facility is just off of the 23 freeway between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. We look forward to seeing you there. The meetings are open to the public and interested parties who are not CVARC members are welcome to attend. Please extend an invitation to non-members with a technical or public service interest to join us!

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

I asked the manufacture if they had an interface board so I could connect it to my computer and they said that is another wireless feature that you have to speak to the "BOX" to activate it. Boy, what a dummy. They thought of everything and here I was complaining about features that all you have to do is think about them and the "box" does it for you. That's really great!

Now I can say I proudly got more QSL's confirmed than I ever dreamed of, from countries I never knew existed. I been busy looking them up on the globe and the internet just to see where they are and how they existed. Guess for an old timer I just got behind the curve of modern technology and had to dive in with the bucks for this magical transceiver "box" that makes Ham Radio a fools dream. That's right. April Fools! Dream on OM.

Ok, now for the real message! April is volunteer month and ACS personnel were recognized by the member's of the City of Thousand Oaks for ACS services. CVARC supports both the ARRL ARES and our local ACS (RACES) organization, for which our Area 2 Emergency Coordinator, Ken Larson (KJ6RZ) and his staff have been doing a great job. I hope that any member of CVARC can also contribute time and energy to serve ACS. Ken needs many more members to support the emergency activities for our area. If you are in another area (ACS Area's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8) please check the web site for the EC in your area so you can help support and build the team in our County.

Rob, W6RH, needs volunteers for our upcoming Field Day. Please sign up early so that the committee meetings needed are accomplished early and special issues or tasks can be accomplished.

I wish to thank Eric Peterson, WB6PYK, for taking on the Librarian job for CVARC. If you don't start checking out what we have to "check out" then we can make his job easy and raffle off what is in the Library, as no use having Eric moving books around if no one is interested? Maybe we should have a list on the web site to make it easy for your selection.

By the way, I hope some of you have registered with Bill on our mentor/Elmer program, if not stop by the raffle table and get a form. Best of Easter to you all.

73 de Greg, K7SDW.

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Event Calendar

April 5	Westlake Village Street Fair
April 11	ARDF Meet at Topanga Park
April 13	2nd Technician License Class Begins
April 16	CVARC Club Meeting
April 19	FCC License Exam
April 25	Arbor Day
April 25	TRW Swap Meet
May 9	Cruisin' the Conejo Bike Ride
May 16	Sea-to-Summit Bike Ride
May 14 - 16	Dayton Hamvention
May 21	CVARC Club Meeting
May 30	TRW Swap Meet
June 1	2nd Technician License Class Ends
June 14	FCC License Exam
June 16	Third Technician License Class Begins
June 18	CVARC Club Meeting
June 27 - 28	Field Day
June 27	TRW Swap Meet
July 3	Moorpark Fireworks
July 16	CVARC Club Meeting
July 25	TRW Swap Meet
August 4	Third Technician Class Ends
August 9	FCC License Exam
August 18	Fourth Technician License Class Begins
August 12	SB Section Hamfest, Santa Barbara
August 20	CVARC Club Meeting
August ___ (tentative)	CVARC Summer Picnic
August 29	TRW Swap Meet
September 17	CVARC Club Meeting
September 26	TRW Swap Meet
No Official Date (Yet)	ARRL SW Division Convention
October 6	Technician License Class Complete
October 11	FCC License Exam
October 15	CVARC Club Meeting
October 16 - 18	Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
October 20	Fifth Technician License Class Begins

October 31	TRW Swap Meet
November 14	Malibu Endurance Ride
November 19	CVARC Club Meeting
November 28	TRW Swap Meet
December 5 (tentative)	CVARC Holiday Party
December 8	Fifth Technician Class Completes
December 13	FCC License Exam
December 26	TRW Swap Meet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to af6cd@arrl.net

Dinner with the Club Speaker Sue Hanson, N6OIZ

What food makes you think of the oncoming summer more than great BBQ??? In honor of spring, we will hit one of the best BBQ's in the Conejo valley for our pre-meeting dinner. None other than Bandits BBQ, located at 589 North Moorpark Road in Thousand Oaks. Directions and complete menu is available on-line at www.banditsbbq.com. Arrival at 5:30 assures plenty of time to visit, eat, and make it to the meeting on time. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Any suggestions for future dinner sites or questions, please call Sue at 805-376-9350 or email at robhanson@juno.com.

May and June Club Speaker Phil Bartlett, K6UJO

Adrian Popa, a very popular past speaker will be the speaker for May. His presentation is titled -- "A quick trip through the universe". It includes discussing dark energy and dark matter.

Our very own Rob Hanson and the field day committee members will be presenting on field day.

Westlake Village Street Fair Neil Waybright, AF6CD

The Westlake Village Street Fair was held this year on the 5th of April and CVARC members showed their support of local events by providing a crew to assist in organizing the activities before the street fair started. Roy Deschene, KE6UMW

took photos of many of the participants, including:

Greg Lane, K7SDW
Rob Hanson, W6RH
Sue Hanson, N6OIZ
Brad Ormsby, WA6GLE
Dave Morton, AA6DM
Mike D'Amore, N6MDA
Neil Waybright, AF6CD
Roy Deschene, KE6UMW
Patrick Newburn, K6PBN
Eric Peterson, WB6PYK



We manned a booth near the fire engines to inform the fair attendees about amateur radio and to demonstrate the radio arts and sciences using HF, VHF and UHF radios, including an interesting opportunity to look at D-STAR operations.



We hope to have a good turn out for all of the upcoming events on our calendar. Hope to see you there next time!

Neil

Cruisin' the Conejo
May 9th, 2009
Mike Bass N7WLC

Next month is the 25th edition of Cruisin the Conejo. This bike ride is one of the premier cycling events in Southern California. It brings recreational cyclists from all over California. But why do folks come out here to ride? Because we have some of the best cycling in the area. The Conejo Valley, the Santa Monica Mountains and the plains of Camarillo all provide a scenic area to ride. Maybe that is why some of the professional teams came out this Spring to train for the big Tour of California.

As I said, this is the 25th year that the Conejo Valley Cyclists have sponsored Cruisin the Conejo. The ride has grown from about 100 to now over 1,200 cyclists. That is a lot of bicycles. The riders get a choice of a lot of rides from an easy intro ride of 21 miles all the way up to the grand daddy of rides: the Century. (That's bicycle lingo for a 100 mile long ride.) The Century ride will take an average rider most of the day to complete. Luckily for the riders, there are plenty of stops along the way to grab a quick bite to eat and get some more water. The Boy Scouts help out at the rest stops and even offer to hold the bikes while the riders stop.

One of the things that makes Cruisin the Conejo famous, is the support that the riders receive. The SAG wagons (Support And Gear) help out a cyclist who has had a flat or has bitten off a little more ride than he can take. More importantly, the SAG wagons provide quick support in case of any injury. Sadly with so many cyclists on the road, accidents do happen. Hams have been involved for many years with SAG support and it has worked out pretty well. Last year, the Cruisin net covered the course by using 4 repeaters. Being frequency agile is an important skill! The wagons also had APRS on board providing up to the minute reports on where the SAG wagons

were. This not only provided better "situational awareness" for net control, but also kept the voice net open for health and welfare traffic.

If you would like to become part of this well oiled team, send me an email to n7wlc@roadrunner.com or call 805-750-6124 and join us on Saturday, May 9. Half the team is already assembled. But there is still a place for you. We are particularly looking for hams who have a mobile rig (preferably dual bander) in a vehicle that can transport three other people and a couple of bikes. There are also positions available at Start/Finish to help with net control. The ride runs all day. If you can only help out for half a day, we can use you too. If you can help out on Cruisin, you will also get treated to lunch.

See you at Cruisin on May 9!

73 de Mike, N7WLC

Do You Monitor Your Radio?
Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Do you listen to your radio when you are in your car and when you have the opportunity at home? Take a look at the article below titled "Hams Assist Injured Woman in Desert" and replay that story in your mind as to what would have happened if there had been nobody monitoring the frequency when they called for help.

Neil

Hams Assist Woman Injured in Desert
Neil Waybright, AF6CD

It was a sunny day, not a cloud in the sky, when Hal Whiting, KI2U, Todd Kluxdal, Kluxdal's father and Whiting's two sons decided to go out to the Poverty Mountain area in Arizona to search for airplane crash sites. Whiting, who lives in St George, Utah, and Kluxdal, who lives in Mesquite, Nevada, took two vehicles that day. According to Whiting, they always take two vehicles, just in case a problem pops up: "We always have two spare tires, extra gasoline and a tow rope. We take enough food and supplies to stay two or three days." In addition to the extra

equipment, Whiting took the one thing he never goes without -- his ham radio.

"It was a bit after lunch, about 73 miles into our trip," Whiting told the ARRL, "when we were flagged down by a man wanting to know if we had a satellite phone, since he couldn't get coverage on his cell phone." Whiting didn't have a satellite phone, but he asked the man if this was an emergency. Whiting said that the man told him that one of his friends had been injured when her ATV rolled on top of her. "I told him I could call for help on my ham radio," he said. The injured woman was knocked unconscious by the fall, but had regained consciousness and was speaking coherently, but was in pain.

"I picked up my mic and put out a call on the 146.910 repeater, one of four repeaters run by Dean Cox, NR7K," Whiting said. "I called for assistance a couple of times when Mac Magee, N6LRG, in the Arizona Cane Beds, answered."

"Mac lives about 50 miles away from the accident site," Whiting said. "It's funny -- it's usually Washington County hams who are on the repeaters, since that's the direction they're pointed in. But Mac lives in Mohave County. And the accident happened in Mohave County. We were lucky, since if the call was answered by a ham in Washington County, there would have been a delay in them getting the info to the proper authorities in Mohave County, but with Mac answering, all our information went right to the proper place."

That morning, Magee told the ARRL that he came into my shack "and for some reason, turned on the 2 meter rig and it happened to be on the 146.910 repeater. I usually have a problem with the repeater 'hearing' me, so I rarely use it. About 11:20 Arizona time, I heard someone call and say they had emergency traffic and needed help. I fully expected a bevy of hams to answer the call, since so many are in range of that machine, but after his second call, and no answer, I took it."

Magee said that the calling station had been flagged down by another motorist. "He told me there had been an accident in the vicinity of

Poverty Mountain," he said. "I really had no idea where that was, but I began to write down details. As soon as I had basic info, I called 911. The Mohave County Sheriff Office answered; I explained who I was and what the call was about."

The dispatcher asked Magee for the coordinates to the site, and Magee relayed the request to Whiting. "I looked at my GPS and gave Mac my coordinates, but he said the dispatcher wanted the coordinates from the accident site," Whiting said. "So I got in my 4-wheel drive and drove down the ridge to the site, about 5600 feet above sea level, and got the coordinates. I had to drive back to the ridge, another 1000 feet up, to call Mac back, because I couldn't get a signal down there."

Whiting told the ARRL that in addition to his ham radio, he also carries a set of FRS radios. "I gave one of the FRS radios to Todd and he drove his Jeep down the ridge to the accident site," he said. "I kept the other one and Todd was able to relay me information about the injured woman's condition and I was able to relay that information to Mac who in turn relayed it to the 911 dispatcher. Mac put the mic right up to the phone so the dispatcher could hear exactly what was going on."

Magee said the 911 dispatcher requested more information: "While Hal was replying, I held the phone up to my radio speaker. When he finished with the details, I asked them if they copied that. The dispatcher said he did, and they held me on the line. Hal and I talked a while as he gave more data. When the dispatcher returned, they said a chopper was being dispatched from Phoenix! Well, we finished that call after they had the actual accident site GPS coordinates that Hal had passed on."

With emergency help on the way, Kluxdal returned to the ridge and he and Whiting and his group went on their way to go check out an airplane crash site, the original intent of their trip. "The family members told us to go on and get on with our trip, so we did, after making sure they were all okay," Whiting said. "So we left to go to the crash site, about 3-4 miles away. As we were getting ready to return, we saw the helicopter

overhead, taking the injured woman to the hospital in Las Vegas. We returned to the top of the ridge and a sheriff's deputy was there and he told us that our GPS coordinates were off, but only by 20 feet! He said that the helicopter crew was real happy that they were so on-target."

Whiting said they were glad to have been able to help. "This is a remote area," he said. "There's only one way in, one way out with no shortcuts to get in and out. There are only dirt roads, and it can get very muddy when it rains a lot. I was out that way two weeks ago and got stuck in the mud there, but it was all dry this past weekend."

Whiting said he learned a few things after this trip: "I am glad I had my radio equipment with me, and I am glad there was someone listening on the repeater to take the emergency call. Having the spare FRS radios created an efficient means for relay with a non-ham person, and having the GPS equipment provided a very effective means for the helicopter rescue team to locate the accident, since they did not want the road designation information but the exact patient coordinates. It would have been useless to have my equipment if there had not been someone listening. This proves that there is a good reason to keep your radios with you and in good operating condition."

Whiting, who was first licensed in 1976, is the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Washington County. A CAD Manager and Aerial Photographer for Bulloch Brothers in Mesquite, Nevada (he and Kluxdal are co-workers), he is currently teaching an Amateur Radio licensing class to 13 prospective hams at the Dixie Regional Medical Center in St George.

Magee said that before this incident he had never been involved in an actual emergency. "I have established emergency communications networks, in particular for the LDS Church in Newbury Park, California, where I was the State Emergency Communications Coordinator." He told the ARRL: "Our communications group won the first worldwide test of the system back in the late 1980s. This is like ARRL Field Day, but involved mostly LDS members and facilities, then under the name of Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA) <<http://www.mara.net/>>. I feel very pleased in knowing that I had the opportunity to serve in this rescue incident and that every penny I spent on my system, radio and antenna was certainly worth it. In these days of extensive cell phone service and coverage, isn't it satisfying to know that ham radio can still be of use for public service?"

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Name: _____	New Renewal
Call Sign: _____	Single Membership - \$25 _____
Class: _____	Multi-year ____ years @ \$20 = _____
Address: _____	New Ham, New Member - \$10 _____
City, ST Zip _____	Single Membership, Full-Time Student \$10 _____
Tel: (____) _____ - _____	Family Membership - \$30 _____
E-Mail: _____	ARRL Membership Renewal (include ARRL form) \$ _____
ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label)	AD Space (2x3) One Year (member) - \$35 _____
ACS # _____ ARES# _____	AD Space (2x3) One Year (non-Member) - \$75 _____
Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____	Total Enclosed \$ _____
Family Membership: Names/Calls	Cash Check Number
Send Information/Application to:	Interested in License Upgrades? _____
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club	Joining ARES/ACS? _____
P.O. Box 2093	Disaster Action Team? _____
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093	Obtain a HAM License? _____

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	146.970	-	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	145.650	None	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.

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>.

ACS members should remember that their ACS card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jerry B. Goldman KC6JSO (805) 405-8213 or (805) 493-0076 Office. Jerry works with OES on a regular basis and will track your renewal to ensure that you receive your new badge in the shortest possible time. You will need to complete a Volunteer Update form for your renewal. Jerry will email this form to you 45 days prior to your ACS card expiration date. Please make sure that Jerry has your correct email address at all times.

2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805) 498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
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Member at Large	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA	(805) 496-1073	mike.damore@roadrunner.com



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.