

# NEWS FROM CVARC

February  
2011

## President's Message Rob Hanson, W6RH

As your newly elected President, I would like to thank you for your confidence in my abilities, but I now have some doubts about your ability to make rational choices! I didn't seek the position, and I am more comfortable with a behind-the-scenes position. But rest assured, I will do my best to continue to make this club a group that promotes ham radio in a fun way, and one that we can all be proud to say we belong to.

We have some other new officers in the club. Loren Gmachl, KB6WXL, has taken on the task of Editor and Publisher of the newsletter. You are reading the result of her first efforts. We welcome her as a new ham and new club member that is willing to give up some of her time to help us out. If you have something that you think others in the club would like to see, send it to her. Will (Terry) Newman, AE6JR, is the new Vice President, and will be coordinating the presenters at our meetings. If you have suggestions for subjects or individuals, please contact Terry.

The next few months are the busiest of the year for activities that use our talents to enhance the events of other groups. For specifics, check our calendar. If you have never participated in an event, spend a couple of hours. It is fun, helps the

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## Brian Kruse, KG6WIK, Qualifies for VUCC-6 Meter Band Award

Pete Heins, N6ZE, an ARRL VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) Field Checker, recently completed checking the VUCC Application and QSL cards of Brian Kruse, KG6WIK, Nipomo, CA (Grid CM-95) for an initial 6 Meter VUCC. KG6WIK completed QSOs and received QSL cards for 103 different grids worked (\*).

All contacts were made from Nipomo, CA with a 100 watt transceiver and a medium sized yagi. Most QSOs were made on SSB, but Brian utilized PSK-31 for several contacts. Notable DX included British Columbia, Florida, and Vermont.

KG6WIK will receive a VUCC certificate from the American Radio Relay League. Congratulations to Brian, KG6WIK, on this achievement.

Volunteer VUCC Field Checkers, such as N6ZE, shall be members of an ARRL Special Service Club, such as CVARC.

(\*) A grid is a rectangle block of 1 degree of latitude by 2 degrees of longitude. Size of the blocks at mid-latitudes of North America and Europe is about 70 statute miles square.

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.

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

community, and will help build your operating skills. First timers and old timers alike are needed.

The best thing about this club is not the speakers, operating events, or parties; it is our members. We have people with amazing talents and interesting experiences. Take some time to talk with someone you don't know at the meeting. Come to the dinner before the meeting for a little informal chatting. If there is something you think I can do to make the club better, please let me know.

73, Rob, W6RH

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**Dinner with CVARC**  
**Diane Wainwood, KJ6JEJ**

Join your CVARC friends for dinner before our meeting on February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Buffet! All you can eat from 4 or 5 buffet tables for only \$11.99/person. Chinese entrees and dishes include everything you can think of. Not a Chinese food fan? Not to worry—they even have a station with pizza and pasta, and dessert. Easy to find, too:

- Exit Hwy. 101 at Moorpark Road
- Go South (away from the Janss Mall)
- Turn left at Rolling Oaks Drive
- Take the first driveway on the left
- The buffet is at the end of the driveway, with lots of parking.

The reservation is under "CVARC – Diane". My phone: 805-241-6967; Buffet phone: 805-777-8820. See you there!

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**Letter from the Editor**  
**Loren Gmachl, KB6WXL**

When I lived in Oklahoma, I worked for a state agency that trained emergency managers how to interpret weather data. It's been 5 years since I've been in that field, and I found that I missed it. My employer, Amgen, has an Emergency Response Team, and I thought that was a great way to help people and get back into the emergency management world. However, as I

progressed through the courses, I knew I wouldn't be comfortable with the sights that would present themselves in an emergency situation. The instructor asked if I had my ham license, and suggested communications would be a great way to help.

I checked out the Technician license manual from the library and started studying. My husband, Paul DeBerry, AG6AX, thought it would be fun to study with me. We spent the next few weeks studying each evening, and soon he wanted to study the next levels.

In December I obtained my Technician license, while my husband went on to get all three levels that day. In early January, I passed my General exam. My dad, who has wanted to be a ham since his high school days, was finally able to take the time to get his Technician and General licenses in December. My interest in helping others inspired two people to become hams, which I think is quite exciting.

I found CVARC through a Google search about the same time I met Todd Kleopfer at Amgen, and at our first meeting attendance we were welcomed with open arms. Being in a club full of friendly, enthusiastic hams made us only more excited about joining!

I've had an interest at trying my hand at editing for some time now, and when this opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to jump. I hope that my efforts are well received. If you have topics you'd like to see, comments or suggestions, please email me at [kb6wxl@gmail.com](mailto:kb6wxl@gmail.com).

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**CVARC VE Session Report**  
**December 12, 2010**

The December CVARC VE session closed out the year by serving 19 candidates. Two candidates made the noteworthy accomplishment of going from no license to Extra at the well-attended session.

Name	Call	New License Class
Paul Beirle	KJ6LUD	General
Donald Brown Jr.	KJ6LXE	Technician
Bernard G. Combos	KJ6LXF	Technician
Paul B. DeBerry	AG6AX	Extra
Thomas A. DeBoisblanc	WA7TBL	General

William G. Givens, Jr.	KJ6LXG	General
Loren A. Gmachl	KJ6LXH	Technician
Stanley A. Lackey	KJ6KBV	Extra
Mark R. Merryman	KJ6LXI	Technician
Thomas A. Palmer	KJ6JDV	General
James A. Parker	KJ6LXJ	General
Kevin E. Scott	KJ6KUX	Extra
Kevin J. Sheldon	KI6YVF	General
David F. Singer	KI6YVI	General
Richard L. Slater	AG6AY	Extra
Joseph J. Sprissler	KJ6LXX	Technician
Raymond E. Underwood	KJ6LXL	Technician
Tsz W. Wan	KJ6LXM	Technician
James D. Whitaker	KJ6JEK	General

CVARC VE sessions are made possible by our team of Volunteer Examiners who give their time to help others become licensed. The December session was administered by Noel Van Slyke, K6NVS; Ken Sandberg, KS3I; Hugh Bosma, AE6YC; Greg Lane, K7SDW; and John Love, K6ARA. VE sessions are one of the components that help qualify CVARC for ARRL special service club designation.

As a year-end report to the club, in 2010, six CVARC VE sessions served 91 candidates. In a heroic effort, Greg Lane tabulated CVARC's VE sessions beginning in 1990; since that time to the present, the club has administered 2,433 exam elements for the ham community, generating 9 Novice licensees, 734 Technicians, 198 Generals, 40 Advanced, and 127 Extras. The next VE session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Sunday, February 13, 2011 at the East Valley station.

*Submitted by Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR, CVARC VE Session Coordinator*

## Sanyo's Eneloop Rechargeable AA Batteries

John Harper, AE5X

The summary first:

For QRP purposes, these batteries are great as a 10-cell pack. For internally installed AA batteries (such as in the KX1) that limit you to a smaller number of cells, the batteries of choice are non-rechargeable lithium batteries (if money is not a consideration) or non-rechargeable Panasonics Oxyrides (if it is).

## What makes Eneloops so special?

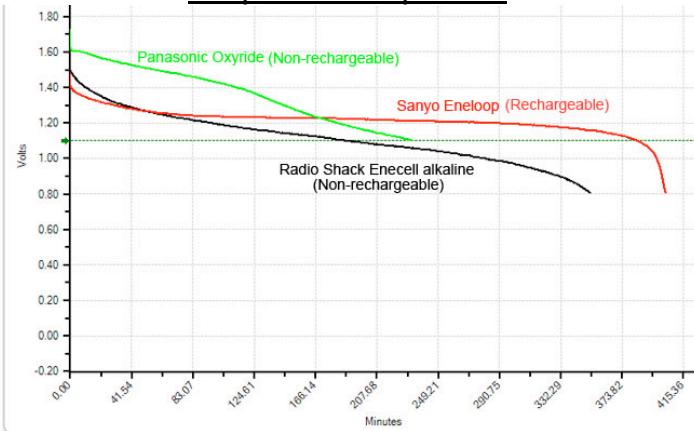
In a nutshell, Eneloops are NiMH batteries that retain their charge far, far longer than other NiMH batteries. In so doing, they offer the advantages of a rechargeable cell – economy – without the disadvantages normally associated with NiMH, i.e., a poor shelf life.

Eneloops can be charged, put away for 6 months and then used with an almost full effect. With other NiMH cells, you must charge before use or suffer the consequences of diminished capacity.

My reason for buying these batteries is due to many wasted alkaline AA batteries I use in my camera flashes. Typically, I'll use two or three small flashes during a photo session. One flash may fire at near full power, another at some fraction of that. An hour later, the batteries are nearly dead...or not, depending on many things. But not wanting to start my next shoot with used batteries, I throw this set away. Those in the secondary and tertiary flash probably have a lot of life in them but not enough to use for another session, so they get tossed out.

A number of threads on various photography websites mention the Eneloops – all favorably – so I decided to get a 12-pack of my own for use in my flashes.

### Graphical Comparison



70F/21C, constant 300 mA discharge rate

There are other NiMH rechargeable batteries that have much more capacity than Eneloops, however they are required to have been recently

charged to have retained that capacity prior to their use.

A 10-cell pack of Eneloops would make a great battery for QRP afield use; and an economical one too, without the need to consider whether they were charged two days or two months ago.

I'll report on this last "charge retention" point in three months...

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## NASA Seeks Amateur Radio Operators' Aid to Listen for NanoSail-D

On Wednesday, January 19 at 11:30 a.m. EST, engineers at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, confirmed that the NanoSail-D nanosatellite ejected from Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology Satellite, FASTSAT. The ejection event occurred spontaneously and was identified this morning when engineers at the center analyzed onboard FASTSAT telemetry. The ejection of NanoSail-D also has been confirmed by ground-based satellite tracking assets.

Amateur ham operators are asked to listen for the signal to verify NanoSail-D is operating. This information should be sent to the NanoSail-D dashboard at:

<http://nanosaild.engr.scu.edu/dashboard.htm>.

The NanoSail-D beacon signal can be found at 437.270 MHz.

The NanoSail-D science team is hopeful the nanosatellite is healthy and can complete its solar sail mission. After ejection, a timer within NanoSail-D begins a three-day countdown as the satellite orbits the Earth. Once the timer reaches zero, four booms will quickly deploy and the NanoSail-D sail will start to unfold to a 100-square-foot polymer sail. Within five seconds the sail fully unfurls.

"This is great news for our team. We're anxious to hear the beacon which tells us that NanoSail-D is healthy and operating as planned," said Dean Alhorn, NanoSail-D principal investigator and aerospace engineer at the Marshall Center. "The science team is hopeful to

see that NanoSail-D is operational and will be able to unfurl its solar sail."

On December 6, 2010, NASA triggered the planned ejection of NanoSail-D from FASTSAT. At that time, the team confirmed that the door successfully opened and data indicated a successful ejection. Upon further analysis, no evidence of NanoSail-D was identified in low-Earth orbit, leading the team to believe NanoSail-D remained inside FASTSAT.

The FASTSAT mission has continued to operate as planned with the five other scientific experiments operating nominally.

"We knew that the door opened and it was possible that NanoSail-D could eject on its own," said Mark Boudreaux, FASTSAT project manager at the Marshall Center. "What a pleasant surprise this morning when our flight operations team confirmed that NanoSail-D is now a free flyer."

If the deployment is successful, NanoSail-D will stay in low-Earth orbit between 70 and 120 days, depending on atmospheric conditions. NanoSail-D is designed to demonstrate deployment of a compact solar sail boom system that could lead to further development of this alternative solar sail propulsion technology and FASTSAT's ability to eject a nano-satellite from a micro-satellite - while avoiding re-contact with the FASTSAT satellite bus.

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## News and Notes

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18).

The new bill, which was introduced on January 5, has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill – HR 2160 – in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A

similar bill introduced in the Senate – S 1755 – made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill, which is supported by the ARRL, is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

"We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

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## Upcoming Gatherings and Conventions

The 13th annual ham radio gathering at M2 Antenna Systems is now set for Saturday, March 19th at the M2 factory in Fresno, California. Exact plans for this year's event will be revealed shortly. Keep an eye on <http://www.m2inc.com> for the latest details.

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The 62nd Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held at The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California from April 15 – 17, 2011.

If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar call signs with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

Learn the secrets for big signals on top band, how to have fun adventures chasing IOTA, attend the contest forum, antenna forum, DX forum, or Contest Academy. There are seminars for everyone, from the seasoned pro to the

beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment. There will be great raffle prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. We're even planning to have an old-fashioned Swap Meet! And don't forget the YL's — we will have something special for them as well.

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## For Sale!

Hallicrafters SX-71 receiver  
Good to excellent condition  
It has not been restored  
It is in good working condition, however you will purchase it "as is"  
\$180 USD cash and carry  
Contact David Arata, KA9WMI at 815-990-0192



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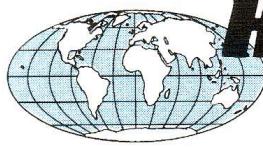
## Tax Deductable Donations to CVARC

**Neil Waybright, AF6CD**

CVARC is an IRS-certified 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are deductible pursuant to the IRS rules. If you have working radio equipment and ancillary equipment that you can donate for the Christmas party and auction, please contact one of the board members and we will be happy to talk to you about the process.

We cannot accept certain donations, and have to place some restrictions around them (no hazardous materials, nothing we could not sell, etc.). If you are interested, look me, or any other board member up at one of the meetings, or contact us via email (our addresses are on page 7 of the newsletter).

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Update Roster Only? \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership: Names/Calls

You will automatically receive the newsletter via email. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, check here: \_\_\_\_\_

New Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Membership - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Multi-year \_\_\_\_ years @ \$20/year = \_\_\_\_\_  
New Ham (licensed in last 12 months) - \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Membership, Full-Time Student \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ (Multi-year \$25/year)  
ARRL Membership Renewal (include ARRL form) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
AD Space (2x3) One Year (member) - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
AD Space (2x3) One Year (non-member) - \$75 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in:  
License Upgrades? \_\_\_\_\_  
Joining ARES/ACS? \_\_\_\_\_  
Disaster Action Team? \_\_\_\_\_  
Obtaining a HAM License? \_\_\_\_\_

Send information/application to:  
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2093  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

## Ventura County ACS/ARES Times & Frequencies

Area 2 ACS/ARES members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. 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>N6EVC/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	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	146.385	+	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 7:00 p.m.

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, Jerry Goldman, KC6JSO at (805) 405-8213 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, at (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.

## 2011 CVARC Officers

President.....	Rob Hanson .....	W6RH .....	(805) 376-9350 .....	rob@w6rh.com
Vice President.....	Will (Terry) Newman.....	AE6JR.....	(____) ____ - _____	
Secretary.....	Eric Peterson.....	WB6PYK.....	(805) 479-9953 .....	erxpeterson@gmail.com
Treasurer.....	Dave Morton.....	W7DMM .....	(805) 495-3920 .....	dmorton@rain.org
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Member at Large.....	David Singer.....	KI6YVI .....	(805) 492-6667 .....	singers3@verizon.net
Member at Large.....	Andy Ludlum .....	KI6NON .....	(818) 370-3402 .....	ki6non@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 (licensed in last 12 months): \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year, family members renewing for multiple years is \$25.00/year.