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The CVARC club meeting is held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of the Month (except for December) at: The East County Sheriff Station 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

The East County Sheriff Station facility is just off the 23 freeway from the Olsen Road off-ramp, north, between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley.

| Trivia Corner |
|---|
| <p>What is the formal name for the antenna invented in 1926, named for its inventors, two Japanese engineers, and remains in use today as a favorite by hams? The Yagi-Uda array, commonly known as a Yagi is that antenna.</p> |

President’s Message
Zak Cohen, N6PK

THIS IS NOT A DRILL

We have a problem. This week we had a major fire in Ventura County. This was not an exercise, drill or test.

I made a call on BOZO asking for those ACS or volunteers who would be available to help if we were activated. This was the published plan. In the 2 meter script recited every Tuesday night and on the website we state:

“In the event of an emergency, ACS/ARES members will check in with the Area 2 net control station on this repeater at 147.885, minus offset, with a PL of 127.3 for instructions. All non-ACS members who have checked in during practice nets should monitor the net and a contact frequency will be assigned and monitored by ACS for community status inputs.”

ACS in Area 2 was not activated but ACS activated Area 3 and Ventura EOC. Newbury Park was in flames. This was an emergency. The fire was all over the news and we could smell the smoke. On that first BOZO call, I asked for anybody, ACS or not, to respond to me and/or to call me or send me an e-mail with their availability; two responses. I called an hour later - no additional responses.

I was called by Thousand Oaks that they activated their EOC and asked me about ACS activation. I went to the EOC to discuss the process. Thousand Oaks EOC had City personnel, Cal Fire, Red Cross, Facilities, Sheriff, pizza and soda. They had about thirty people in the EOC and many others in the field. I had a list of 4 volunteers (Rob, Tim, Loren and myself).

While there, I made two additional BOZO calls. Nothing. I was in contact with DCS-22 and logged into their net as a visitor so they would know I was monitoring.

We have about 130 ACS members with cards in this area. We have about 160 CVARC members who could be of great asset. We have many other hams in the community and CERT and

DART – **and I have 4 volunteers for a fire-** not a drill. During our regular Tuesday nights we have about 30 people call in for the drill. For a fire we have four. People at work could call me on the phone to ask what is happening. They knew of the fire. I sat by the phone like a spurned date waiting for the promised call for another date.

A year ago there was a problem with some ACS personnel that wanted us to be more community focused and activate in case of any emergency. A network was started and designed for the community to be used in case of emergency. I was completely in favor of the group and the concept and created provisions for interaction with ACS. It must have been a social group because no one that was active in the group or concept called me.

This Tuesday, May 14, we will not have an ORT – Instead I would like every ACS member, every CVARC member, and every ham to check in to show you have interest in helping your community. If you don't have equipment, come down to ECSS to help and show your support.

By Zak Cohen, N6PK

Joan McDonell - WA6QKC – Silent Key

Joan McDonell passed away peacefully at home on March 2, 2013, surrounded by family. She had been diagnosed just weeks prior with leukemia.

Joan and her husband Duncan, who passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1987, were active members of the Conejo Valley amateur radio community for

many years. Avid DX'ers, Joan and Duncan worked amateur radio stations throughout the world and became good friends with many of the hams that they met on the air. Their ham radio activities included a trip to New Zealand to visit some of the amateur radio operators with whom they had regularly QSOs. Joan remained active in amateur radio following Duncan's death, most recently talking with her, "girl friends" throughout California on a weekly 40 meter net.

Joan had been very active at Thousand Oaks Emmanuel Presbyterian Church since 1964, where she enjoyed singing in the choir and being involved with Faith Circle and many other church groups and activities.

Joan's family has donated her ham rig, a Kenwood TS-50S HF transceiver and Astron RS-35M power supply, to CVARC with the hope that the equipment will help new hams get on the air and enjoy the hobby that Joan and Duncan so loved.

Submitted by Ken Larson, KJ6RZ

CVARC Meeting and Discussion – May 16, 2013

CVARC has not had a general club meeting in a long time. The board needs to have your input on several issues. These include:

Meetings

- Speaker direction – What speakers/topics would be of interest to you? Multiple speakers/Panels?
- Raffle – Should we continue the raffle? Different Prizes?
- Refreshments – Should we continue with refreshments?

Events

- Field trips – Would you like field trips?

- Weekend projects – Would you participate in construction events?
- Mini-Field days – Would you like to participate in mini-field days?

Services

- Education – License Classes/Advanced Classes?
- Networks – Newbie Net/Special Issue Nets/Temporary Nets?
- HF usage – Equipment loans/Elmer and Station help?

We will also have Field Day updates and a discussion on emergency radio (ACS/ARES/Community) issues including communication of event status. Any other issues that you would like to discuss will be addressed.

It will also be a chance for everyone to talk to each other for longer than the couple of minutes before the meeting. Please attend so we can get to know each other.

Dinner before the meeting will be at “The Alamo” (see announcement) and we will have our raffle. See you.

Zak Cohen – N6PK

CVARC Dinner for May 16, 2013

Come join your CVARC friends for dinner prior to our May 16th meeting. This month we’re meeting at The Alamo, Newbury Park’s favorite Mexican Restaurant. Located at 2311 Borchard Rd., just take the Borchard Rd. exit from the 101 freeway; go south (toward the ocean). Turn right at Michael Drive, and you’ll see the restaurant.

It’s right next to the Newbury Park Branch library. Our reservation is for 5:30 p.m. as usual, under the name Diane/CVARC, as usual! **New feature:** We expect to have a reservation RSVP working on the CVARC Website this week to make it easier for you to RSVP, and give us a better idea of how many to expect. Our attendance has varied from 8-30 people at times! Restaurant phone no: 805-498-3115. My cell no: 805-630-7994. See you there!

Club Polo Shirts

Our polo shirts have arrived, and they look great! I’ll be distributing them at the club meeting on the 16th. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can call or e-mail me to make arrangements to pick up yours. Or, you can simply wait a month and get it at the June meeting, although I’d rather not store them for the month! Phone: 805-241-6967; e-mail: kj6iej@yahoo.com .

Field Day Food

Two things we love on Field Day are our radios and our food! We’ll be passing sign-up sheets for both the potluck and the BBQ and collecting money for the BBQ at the May meeting. We hope to have an on-line reservation system operational as well.

The potluck is always fun with a chance for hams (the radio kind, not the food!), their spouses and families to visit with each other after an afternoon of hard work setting up stations and antennas. The club provides burgers and dogs, fixin’s, beverages and paper goods, and you good people provide all the side dishes and desserts. The sign up will include a list of suggestions if you don’t have a specialty. Meat is grilled on site, so if you can bring a grill, play chef, or provide a few extra tables and chairs, many thanks (and of course there’s a place on the sign-up sheet for that too!)

The Saturday night BBQ is catered and **MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE**, preferably by check, to avoid accounting errors. Checks should be made out to CVARC. Upon payment, you will be issued a ticket to present for your food at the BBQ. Most restaurants require a final count at least one week prior to the event, so if you miss the May meeting, **FINAL DEADLINE for sign-ups**

and payments is FRIDAY, June 14.

If you pay and need to cancel, June 14 is also the final date for full refund.

Restaurants have raised their costs this year, so our cost has also gone up to \$19.00 per person, tax included. Your dinner includes chicken, baby back (pork) ribs, beef ribs (4-6 oz. serving per person); 2-3 sides, and rolls, as well as place settings, etc. See you all at the "banquet" tables!!

73 de Diane, KJ6JE

The Newbie Net

Join the Newbies and Elmers of CVARC and other neighboring hams on the BOZO Repeater, 147.885, neg.offset, PL127.3, on Sunday evenings, 7:00-7:45 pm.

Upcoming Net Control Hosts vary by week.

If you would like to host, come join the net on any Sunday evening and we'll add you on--- We're looking forward to hearing from those of you who pass your test this Sunday morning--tech, general or extra!! "See you on the air,"

de Diane, KJ6JE

CVARC VE Session Report – April 14, 2013

Nine candidates were served at CVARC's April 14 VE Session. Among those who earned new licenses or upgrades were:

| Name | Call | New License Class |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Curtis Adams | KI6ILX | Extra |
| David Bogumil | KK6DQR | Technician |
| Michael Ford | KB5YDR | General |
| Stephen Freeman | KK6DQT | General |
| Cameron Jones | KK6DQQ | Technician |
| David Mansel | AG6SX | Extra |
| Anthony Misewitch | KK6DQP | Technician |
| Chris Sasso | KK6DQS | General |

The next CVARC VE Session is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station.

CVARC VE Sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners who give their time and talent to help others become part of Amateur Radio. The April exam was administered by Noel Van Slyke, K6NVS; Jonathan Fox, KT6LA; Hugh Bosma, AE6YC and George Tamayo, WD6EJO. VE sessions are one of the components that help qualify CVARC for the ARRL's special service club designation.

Submitted by Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR, CVARC VE Session Coordinator



Field Day Update

Field Day will be with us just after the June meeting, starting Friday June 21st and ending Sunday June 23rd.

Last year's site next to the Conejo Valley Recreation and Parks Department off of Hillcrest Drive is available but we are still trying to secure a new site that may provide for better propagation.

At the May meeting, we will have a sign-up sheet, to give us an indication of when you may like to attend. All are welcome, experienced or not.

At the event, we will have experienced ham radio operators to provide guidance and help you get on the air to make some contacts. If you would like to try HF or sample the excitement of a contest, there is no better time. Contacts will be made across California, across the USA and maybe beyond.

We can always use extra hands to set up and strike the camp and any help will be much appreciated. Set-up starts around midday Friday. You also have an opportunity to learn about setting up a station and help check out the gear on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, and make some leisurely contacts before the contest kicks off at 11:00 PST Saturday.

The contest runs a full 24 hours, so there is plenty of opportunity to operate. The higher bands will be active during

the day, most activity moving to 20 meters and below after dark.

Friday afternoon June 21 setup is when we descend on our site and all the action starts. Any and all help is welcome, experienced or not - bring your tool box, gloves, spare coax, adapters, VSWR - DVM - FS meters, etc.

Motorhomes, trailers, and campers start arriving from noon on. We erect antennas, set up tables and tents, and checkout our stations. Band captains let us know your schedule and any special requirements you may have.

As for operating periods, June 22/23, please sign up when you would like to attend, as many periods as you would like. New operators welcome; we will get you on the air to make some contacts!

Sunday afternoon June 23 takedown, please help us strike the site. Any and all help is welcome.

Submitted by Adrian Jarrett, K6KY

N6ze2013sprintqua 10may13

SPRINTS: What Are They, What Purpose Do They Serve, & What Can Be Achieved?

By

Pete Heins, N6ZE

For the past several weeks, I have been sending postings to CVARC Discussion to announce the Sprint 2013 VHF/UHF Sprints, a series of five mini-operating events, or 'contests', if you will. The sequence of Sprints usually follows this format: 2 meters (144.2 +/- MHz USB/CW; 146.55 MHz FM) on a Monday evening; 135 Cm (222.1 +/- MHz USB/CW; 223.5 MHz FM) on Tuesday evening of the next week; 70 Cm (432.1 +/- MHz USB/CW; 446.0 MHz) on the Wednesday evening (8 days following the 222 MHz event); Microwave (902 MHz & up) on a subsequent Saturday Morning. Normally the 6 meter (50.125 – 50.200 MHz USB/CW; 52.525 MHz FM) Sprint is held between 4

PM & 8 PM Pacific Time on another Saturday. However I realized that few CVARC members are familiar with the concept of Sprint operating events and have never participated in one so I decided to submit a 'cookbook' to "QUA".

Designed for short duration, with only one band (*) to be used during each event, the Sprint events occur over about a five week period in the Spring and Fall. Although not currently sponsored by the ARRL, the Spring Sprints are sponsored by the Central States VHF Society, while the Fall version is managed by the Southeastern VHF Society .

Three types of entry are permitted for each of the five events: Single Operator Fixed Location, Rover, & Rookie.

I typically operate as Single Operator from a local hilltop, mountain, other location with a good radio horizon, or from my home QTH.

If I make contacts from more than one grid e.g. DM04 + DM03, I would enter in the Rover class.

Someone who has not previously participated in a VHF/UHF Sprint is in the new "Rookie" classification. Most members of CVARC would fall into this category, whether they were first licensed 30 years ago or 3 months ago. This category was created to stimulate more interest in this phase of the hobby and also serves as an operational training ground for gaining VHF/UHF operating experience without resorting to repeaters. Hint: a great way for a VHF/UHF 'newbie' to become familiar

with non-repeater operations and enhance their experience for use in ACS/RACES/ARES communications taskings.

During one of the 2013 Spring Sprints, I made contacts as far North as Friant, CA on 222 MHz, and had one 1296 MHz a QSO some 75 miles East of my operating site in the Santa Monica Mts. On VHF frequencies I used a 7 or 9 element yagi and 100 watts of SSB. On 70 Cm, I used 75 watts + 17 element yagi to make 27 QSOs in 4 Grids. On 1296 MHz, I used just 10 watts with a modest yagi. I operated the 70 Cm & 23 Cm Sprints from a roadside park near Stunt Rd. in the Santa Monica Mts; for the 2 meter and 222 MHz Sprints, I used a favorite hilltop location not far from T.O's. Redwood Middle School.

During the 6 meter Sprint, N6ZE completed a several local QSOs, 1 contact near Seattle, WA, and 1 contact near Albuquerque, MN. CVARCers Rick, AG6AY; Todd, KD6RCM; & Will, AE6JR were all noted to be active during the 6 meter Sprint.

Each of the five Sprint events serves several purposes:

1. Encourage more utilization of our VHF/UHF/Microwave amateur bands. Industry and Education interests are continually lined up in Washington to bid huge amounts of money to obtain spectrum.
2. Broaden your hands-on and knowledge 'toolkit' of VHF/UHF communications techniques by learning more about propagation, transmission modes, antennas, operating sites. Possibly make transcontinental 6 meter QSOs or work to Hawaii on 2 meters or 70 cm by means of the Pacific Tropo Duct which appears during warm weather months, but then again making a VHF/UHF QSO to Bakersfield, CA is a challenge too!
3. Try out new equipment and antennas and discover new operating locations (some of which might enhance your results or ????)

4. Practice communicating under less than ideal conditions.
5. Enjoy the outdoors and great views from various places in SoCal.
6. Meet other hams who utilize the frequencies above 50 MHz for extended range communications WITHOUT the use of repeaters.
2. Fall Sprint Rules: >>>><http://svhfs.org/sprints.html><<<<
3. To determine your 6 digit Grid Locator, use >>>><http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php?locator=DM04><<<<. For example, if you live near the intersection of Janss Rd/Moorpark Rd in Thousand Oaks, CA, your grid is "DM04ne". If you live near Borchard Rd/Wendy Dr in Thousand Oaks, CA, your grid is "DM04me"

What sort of equipment do I need to participate?

1. An FM hand-held radio & whip at an absolute minimum.
2. 1000 watts of SSB/CW/FM & stacked large yagis (maximum?)
3. Reality: An HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode rig such as FT-100/FT857,IC706/FT897/FT817 & similar to cover 6 m, 2m, 70 cm + a small yagi will do nicely. Many SoCal QSOs can be made on 135 Cm (223.5 MHz FM) with just an FM transceiver for that band.

4. To determine distance in Km & bearing from one Grid Locator to another, use >>>><http://www.chris.org/cgi-bin/finddis><<<<
5. >>>>www.arrl.org<<<<
6. >>>>pnwvhfs.org<<<<

I hope to have QSOs with some CVARC members during the 08-09 June ARRL VHF Contest; 03-04 August UHF Contest; 17-18 August & 21-22 September 10 HGZ (& up) Contest; or the 14-16 September VHF Contest.

bt73Pete, N6ZE

[Please see the CVARC Discussion Forum on Yahoo for pictures related to Pete's article - -Ed.]

Handy urls help greatly:

1. Spring Sprint Rules: >>>>
<https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2013-announcement-rules><<<<

The Unusual Raffle

By Loren Gmachl, KB6WXL

At the April CVARC meeting a unique raffle prize made it to the table: Jim Feldman, W6CWM, donated 18 fresh eggs from his *Happy Pet Chickens*. Given how many eggs my husband and I eat in a week, I knew I had to buy a raffle ticket or two. Now, I'm not one to buy raffle tickets, especially knowing the odds were not in my favor when Charley, KG6CLT, walked in, but I put in my 7 tickets and hoped for the best.

I waited (with as much patience as I could muster) for the raffle to begin. When Tom's call sign, W0UFC, was picked first, I was relieved that he passed on the eggs. He later told me he considered them, and that his wife was disappointed he didn't pick them. The next ticket was pulled from the bin – imagine my surprise when Rob read my call sign! I happily stepped up to claim my prize, the much hoped for carton of eggs.

It didn't take my husband and I long to eat all those wonderful eggs. I strongly encourage others in the club to bring an interesting item to the raffle – you just might see a jar of homemade jam from my kitchen on the raffle table sometime soon!

Submitted by Loren Gmachl, KB6WXL

Amateur Radio Exam and Study Guide Websites

<http://www.qrz.com>

On the right column under “Ham Study”, go to “Practice Tests”

<http://www.eham.net>

On the left column under “Resources”, go to “Ham Exams”

<http://www.KB0MGA.net>

Log in is required

<http://www.radioexam.org>

Practice Exams

Tax Deductible Donations to CVARC

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 and wish to donate to the club, please contact one of the board members and we will be happy to talk to you about the process. Many companies will either grant or match employee’s gifts to non-profit organizations like CVARC.

Please determine if your company is among these and contact a board member so we may help fund and grow CVARC. 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 up, or any other board member, at one of the meetings or contact us via email (our addresses are on page 10 of the newsletter).



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

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times and 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.

Please note that the detailed list of ACS/ARES frequencies, repeaters, off-sets, etc. is available on the internet. The official frequency list was released last December and is available at: <http://vc-ares.org> per Jim Fortney, K6IYK.

For quick reference, you may wish to pick a local repeater, shown courtesy of Zak Cohen, with their offsets/PL from the abbreviated list below:

146.805 – 127.3 Simi Valley AD6SV
147.885 - 127.3 Thousand Oaks - BOZO N6JMI
147.915 - 127.3 Camarillo WB6ZTQ
146.970 - 127.3 Oxnard W66YQN
145.400 - NIL Ojai Valley N6FL
147.975 - 127.3 Ventura N6VUY
146.385 + 127.3 Santa Paula & County Wide SOUTH MOUNTAIN WB6ZSN
145.460 - 127.3 Moorpark K6ERN
146.880 - 127.3 Red Mt / County / SMRA County Wide WA6ZTT
146.850 - 94.8 Thousand Oaks - Grissom N6EVC
224.700 - 156.7 Thousand Oaks – Grissom K6HB
223.960 - 141.3 Thousand Oaks - Rasnow Peak N6CFC
445.580 - 100.0 Simi Valley K6ERN
449.440 - 131.8 Thousand Oaks (AMGEN) W6AMG
447.000 - 103.5 Camarillo Springs K6ERN
147.150+ 127.3 KOAKS

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please call Zak Cohen or go to the ACS/ARES section of the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

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 Zak Cohen, whose info is listed below, to arrange it.

2012 CVARC Officers

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| President..... | Zak Cohen..... | N6PK..... | (818) 991-2913..... | zcohen@ieee.org |
| Vice President..... | (currently vacant) | | | |
| Secretary..... | Eric Peterson..... | WB6PYK..... | (805) 479-9953..... | erxpeter@gmail.com |
| Treasurer..... | Ken Segedie..... | WD9DPK..... | (818) 489-6990..... | ken806@earthlink.net |
| Public Relations..... | Dave Singer..... | KI6YVI..... | (805) 492-6667..... | singers3@verizon.net |
| Technical..... | Bill Willcox..... | KF6JQO..... | (805) 526-0351..... | kf6jqo@yahoo.com |
| Operations..... | Adrian Jarrett..... | K6KY..... | (805) 915-7562..... | g4frz@hotmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor..... | Mike Slate..... | N6TEA..... | (805) 498-9590..... | n6tea@arrl.net |
| Education..... | Tim Wheeler..... | K6POI..... | (818) 541-0321..... | k6poi@arrl.net |
| Social..... | Diane Wainwood..... | KJ6JEJ..... | (805) 241-6967..... | kj6jej@yahoo.com |
| Member at Large..... | Todd Kleopfer..... | KD6RCM..... | (805) 844-8708..... | kd6rcm@arrl.net |
| Member at Large..... | Andy Ludlum..... | KI6NON..... | (818) 370-3402..... | ki6non@arrl.net |
| Member at Large..... | Charles Pember..... | KG6CLT..... | (805) 495-6701..... | crpember@aol.com |



Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2093
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Address Correction Requested



– FIRST – CLASS – MAIL –



CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the website, 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.

“QUA 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 e-mailed to the Treasurer. Current annual rates are: Regular Membership \$25. Family Membership \$30. Special discounts are available for new members (licensed in the last 12 months) \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year. Family members renewing for multiple years \$25/year.