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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

What, besides the FCC and ARRL, constitutes codes for amateur radio? It is the National Electrical Code, updated every three years.

## The President's Message

Zak, N6PK

The Santa Barbara Division Convention was held in Buellton on September 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and a contingency of CVARC members attended. The event was a chance to meet other hams that we have heard about, have talked to, or e-mailed. It was also a chance to re-visit old friends. Everyone had fun.

Tim, Adrian and I have discussed the next step in operating fun. We have a yearly Field Day and a yearly Mini-Field day in January. The next logical step is Micro-Field days. Take our portable gear, a picnic lunch and operate on a site. We will be doing several of these from various locations. If you are interested – e-mail me. This is better than a Pico-Field day of one operator.

This month I will start an ACS Area 2 Twitter Account. This will be an easy way of notification of emergency action. This account can be monitored by smart phones and computers. This technology can be set up to be automatically received rather than a phone call or e-mail that may or may not be heard or checked. Twitters are not spam to be caught by spam filters. Messages will be transmitted once a week for a test unless there is an emergency. Also, if we are on alert, an announcement will be made on BOZO every hour on the hour for Area 2. If we are on standby, information announcement will be made every 20 minutes (on the hour, 20 minutes after the hour and 20 minutes before the hour). If activated, we will have continuous information on BOZO. If you are not in the range of BOZO then you are probably not in the area and would not be able to participate in emergency operation.

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## CVARC Meeting and Discussion – Sept. 19, 2013

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the ECSS will have another exciting panel discussion. The panel will be discussing digital communications.

Several of our members will present discussions and answer questions on various packet technologies including Winlink and

Winmor, FLdigi, Echo link and various emergency location technologies.

There are many of us who desire to use digital modes for fun and to be able use these modes in case of emergencies. All these areas will be addressed. Please bring your questions.

Please join us at pre-meeting dinner at 5:30. The location is on the CVARC website.

**Zak Cohen – N6PK**

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## **Dinner with your friendly ham buddies!!**

Come join your fellow CVARC hams for a pre-meeting dinner this month (Sept. 19) at the *Szechwan Garden Chinese Restaurant* in Simi Valley. **Time:** 5:30 p.m. **Address:** 1407 E. Los Angeles Ave. **#E Phone:** 805-577-1009 **Directions:** In the Simi Valley Plaza at the corner of First St. and Los Angeles Ave., between *Gold's Gym* and *Simi 10 Cinema*. Take the First St. Exit from Hwy. 118 if you're coming by freeway. Good food, reasonable prices! See you there. **73's de Diane KJ6JEJ**

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## **CVARC's VE Sessions – A History of Service**

Some “old timers” might remember the days of licensing tests conducted by the FCC at their various field offices. Recollections of those days include rigid dates for exams that were conducted during business hours, stern examiners and if the candidate passed, waiting weeks – or even months – for a license to arrive in the mail.

But for the past few decades, license exams have fallen under the supervision of Volunteer Examination Coordinators (VECs), each of which were able to set up teams of qualified examiners to conduct individual test sessions, practically anytime, anywhere. The ARRL is one of several VECs, and CVARC has been affiliated with the ARRL program going back to 1990. Conducting exam sessions is one of the activities that qualify a club for the ARRL designation as a “Special Services Club.”

CVARC has been fortunate to be served by a large and dedicated group of Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who donate their time to conducting test sessions. Through the years, CVARC VEs have established a solid record of integrity and professionalism in their approach to serving test candidates.

Through the decades, the scheduling for CVARC sessions has varied but for the last several years, the club has settled into a pattern of offering exams on the second Sunday of each even-numbered month. Sessions are publicized on the CVARC and ARRL websites; other clubs also publish the availability of CVARC sessions.

### **Details, Details**

Each VE session generates a lot of paperwork, all of which must be accurately processed for each candidate. Each VE is equally accountable for the test session, so having “many sets of eyes” is important.

A minimum of three VEs is required for each exam, but CVARC often has twice that many present. Those extra hands help keep track of the paperwork, provide redundancy in case a scheduled VE cannot make the session at the last minute, and they help monitor the session.

By only recruiting Extra Class VEs, CVARC session can offer tests for every license class. This was more important when there were three different Morse Code Exams (5, 13 and 20 wpm), and written tests for Novice, Technician, Tech Plus, General Advanced and Extra Class licenses. With the elimination of code testing and other license classes, only three written tests are currently administered, Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

## The Numbers

CVARC has VE records dating back to July 1990. Here's a compilation drawn from those archives:

Number of test sessions conducted: 137  
(through August 2013)

Candidates served:	1,698
Licenses earned:	1,234
Novice:	15
Technician:	744
Tech Plus:	64
General:	225
Advanced:	45
Extra:	141

Candidates who did not earn a license or upgrade at a test session: 463

Total number of exam elements administered: 2,620

Number of failed elements: 826 (31%)

When looking at the numbers, it should be remembered that many candidates take multiple elements at the same session. This was more prevalent when multiple test elements were required for certain licenses, including Morse code tests.

Today, a candidate only needs to have passed written element 2 to obtain a Technician license, and then successive supporting elements to upgrade to General and then Extra. "Back in the day," when code was required, many a candidate could pass the written requirement for a given license but several fell short, or required multiple attempts, when taking tests for 5, 13, or 20 word-per-minute code tests. Since the code requirement was dropped, most exam sessions are shorter in duration.

## Ready to Upgrade?

CVARC's schedule of local VE sessions offers a convenient way for anyone to prepare for

an exam, through study and practice and by taking sample exams at any number of online "coaching" websites. Printed study guides are available through several sources, including ham radio stores, the ARRL or online vendors.

Why not plan to take your operating privileges to the next level? CVARC's VEs are ready to serve you at the next session. Be sure to review what you'll need to bring to the exam by viewing the information available at the club's website, [www.CVARC.org](http://www.CVARC.org).

## CVARC VE Session Report – August 11, 2013

The August CVARC VE session served nine candidates; among those who earned new licenses or upgrades were:

Name	Call	New License Class
Michael W. Ayers	KK6GEX	Technician
David E. Carlile	KK6GEY	General
Robert H. Fullerton	KK6GEZ	Technician
Young J. Lim	KJ6ZUO	Extra
Stephen Watson	KK6GFA	Technician
John L. Miller	KK6GFB	Technician
James L. Williams	KK6GFC	Technician
Jack S. Reyes	KK6GFD	Technician

The next CVARC VE session will be held Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Participating Volunteer Examiners at the August session included Greg Lane, K7SDW; Andy Ludlum, KI6NON; Noel Van Slyke, K6NVS; Hugh Bosma, AE6YC; Zach Cohen, N6PK; and Tim Wheeler, K6POI. For over 20 years, CVARC Volunteer Examiners have donated their time to help advance Amateur Radio; their assistance is greatly appreciated.

VE sessions are one of the components that help CVARC qualify for the ARRL's special service club designation.

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

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### **CVARC Forms a 40Meter HF Net**

Under the direction of Adrian Jarrett, K6KY, our club has a new high frequency net that begins at approximately 7:30 PM every Wednesday night, on 7.380 or 7.390 MHz. While there are at least two other nets dedicated to CVARC members (the "Newbie Net" and the "General" net), they are both on the Bozo repeater on VHF. Several club members have had to overcome some considerable challenges to install a working HF antenna at their homes or apartments, in no small part due to the restrictive HOA's facing most of us in the Conejo and Simi Valleys.

Adrian helped several members install a working antenna at their residences, be it stealth or a wire, and we are on the air! Three of us are running barefoot using the MFJ magnetic loop antennas that cover 40 – 15 meters but are limited to 150 watts but all were heard.

What makes the HF net fun is that other hams who are not CVARC members, sign in from all over California, Nevada, etc.

The night of our net, we follow another that consists of former U. S. Navy cryptographers, operators and repairmen, concentrated in northern and central California.

If you are interested in getting on the air on HF, this is a great place to start.

***By Mike Slate, N6TEA, Editor***

## **THE CONEJO VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Presents:**

In Cooperation With  
The City of Thousand Oaks

### **A TWO-DAY COURSE To Prepare You For THE FCC TECHNICIAN LICENSE**

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 29TH  
and  
Saturday, OCTOBER 5TH  
9a to 5p

In  
THE OAK ROOM  
THOUSAND OAKS CITY HALL

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION - \$10  
(Refundable when you pass the exam)

STUDY MANUAL - \$18  
(Discounted price)

FCC EXAM BY THE CVARC VE TEAM - \$15  
OCTOBER 13th  
(Details in class)

To purchase your study manual  
and to reserve your seat in the class  
Contact - Tim Wheeler  
[k6poi@yahoo.com](mailto:k6poi@yahoo.com)  
(805) 222-0023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label): \_\_\_\_\_  
ACS#: \_\_\_\_\_ ARES# \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Update Roster Only? \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership: Names/Calls \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
You will automatically receive the newsletter via E-Mail. If you wish  
To receive a paper copy by mail, check here: \_\_\_\_\_

New or Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Multi-year \_\_\_\_\_ years @ \$20/year = \_\_\_\_\_  
New Ham (licensed in last 12 months) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Membership & full-time student \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Membership Renewal (incl. 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Earning a ham license \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

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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

## 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 7 of the newsletter).

### 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.....	<a href="mailto:zcohen@ieee.org">zcohen@ieee.org</a>
Vice President.....	(currently vacant)			
Secretary.....	Eric Peterson.....	WB6PYK.....	(805) 479-9953.....	<a href="mailto:erxpeter@gmail.com">erxpeter@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Ken Segedie.....	WD9DPK.....	(818) 489-6990.....	<a href="mailto:ken806@earthlink.net">ken806@earthlink.net</a>
Public Relations.....	Dave Singer.....	KI6YVI.....	(805) 377-2459.....	<a href="mailto:david.f.singer@gmail.com">david.f.singer@gmail.com</a>
Technical.....	Bill Willcox.....	KF6JQO.....	(805) 526-0351.....	<a href="mailto:kf6jqo@yahoo.com">kf6jqo@yahoo.com</a>
Operations.....	Adrian Jarrett.....	K6KY.....	(805) 915-7562.....	<a href="mailto:g4frz@hotmail.com">g4frz@hotmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor.....	Mike Slate.....	N6TEA.....	(805) 498-9590.....	<a href="mailto:n6tea@arrl.net">n6tea@arrl.net</a>
Education.....	Tim Wheeler.....	K6POI.....	(818) 541-0321.....	<a href="mailto:k6poi@arrl.net">k6poi@arrl.net</a>
Social.....	Diane Wainwood.....	KJ6JEJ.....	(805) 241-6967.....	<a href="mailto:kj6jej@yahoo.com">kj6jej@yahoo.com</a>
Member at Large.....	Todd Kleopfer.....	KD6RCM.....	(805) 844-8708.....	<a href="mailto:kd6rcm@arrl.net">kd6rcm@arrl.net</a>
Member at Large.....	Andy Ludlum.....	KI6NON.....	(818) 370-3402.....	<a href="mailto:ki6non@arrl.net">ki6non@arrl.net</a>
Member at Large.....	Charles Pember.....	KG6CLT.....	(805) 495-6701.....	<a href="mailto:crpember@aol.com">crpember@aol.com</a>



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 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.