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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’s Station 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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

Trivia Corner

What is a quad antenna? It is a type of radio [antenna](#) frequently used by [amateur radio](#) operators. Like a [Yagi-Uda antenna](#) ("Yagi"), a quad consists of a driven element and [parasitic elements](#); however in a quad, each of these elements takes the form of a [loop](#), which may be square, round, or some other shape. It is known for its outstanding gain.

President’s Message

Zak, N6PK

We are getting close to elections for next year’s Board positions. We still need volunteers for the board especially for Social and Vice President.

We just finished the Ventura County Radio Rodeo and demonstrated to the county how we can communicate in emergency mode. We had 18 people check in on 40 meters – During a Monday – with most people at work and we still communicated. We had many more check in on 2 meters. We also had a set-up at the Rodeo site and had many drop-ins.

We are next going to help the Thousand Oaks Police communicate during their charity golf tournament. It is on October 21st another Monday. If you would like to see a helicopter drop baskets of golf balls and try to dunk one into a hole – come on down. If you can help, e-mail me.

We are continuing our quest into Amateur digital communications. Our EOCs are all fitted with FLDigi software and up to date packet software. We will be using these on the Tuesday night ACS network. Anyone can check in as a visitor to check out equipment.

We have received our certificate renewing CVARC as an ARRL full-service club. We are the largest full-service club in the area and will continue to offer any service that any Amateur wants and needs and also do all we can to help non-hams join our wonderful hobby.

CVARC Meeting and Discussion – October 17th, 2013

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:30 P.M. on October 17th, 2013, at the East County Sheriff’s Station (“ECSS”) will have another exciting panel discussion. The panel will continue discussing digital communications.

This panel will have several members presenting discussions and answering questions on Echo Link/IRLP and how to use Raspberry Pi for digital communications.

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

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

Zak Cohen – N6PK

Dinner with CVARC

Come join your CVARC buddies (and spouses) for dinner at Jinky's Café. Location at 1724 E. Av. de los Arboles, in the Albertson's shopping center, is convenient to the ECSS, just off the Arboles exit east from Hwy. 23. Menu includes 5 flavors of chili daily, breakfast served all day, and if you dig thru the coupon books there are discounts. Although they don't take reservations, they're setting aside several tables for us by 5:30 p.m. under CVARC. Jinky's phone: 805-493-8809. Diane's phone: 805-630-7994. See you there!

CVARC VE Session

The next CVARC VE session will be held Sunday, October 13th at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff's Station.

CVARC VE sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners.

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

The Newbie Net

By Todd Kleopfer, KD6RCM

The Newbie Net is alive and well and looking for check-ins! This net is focused on newly licensed hams as well as those that have been inactive for a while and want to gain more confidence on the radio. This net helps answer questions that new hams have but are afraid to ask and helps to get rid of the "mic fright" that prevents a lot of new and old hams from getting on the air. This is a relaxed net that encourages check-in's even if you have no questions. Elmer's or seasoned hams are encouraged to get on the net to help answer questions from others and provide stories or ideas that others may not think about.

The Newbie Net meets every Sunday night at 7:00 pm on the Bozo Repeater, 147.885- with a pl of 127.3. The net controls rotate between members to give others a chance to gain the valuable experience of being a net control operator. This is voluntary though but those that do this get a free raffle ticket.

Digital Modes Without a Radio

Since I am the webmaster for CVARC – my interests naturally run to the digital modes such as PSK-31 and RTTY. My attempts to get on the air however have been frustrated because I am in a townhouse with a strong HOA (and a minimal budget right now). However, this past weekend, I figured out how to get on the air without a radio (of my own).

The first thing I did was setup my system with the necessary software. I needed four (4) for what I wanted to do. The first 3 pieces to the puzzle were:

- VB Cable (www.vb-cable.net). This handy piece of software creates a virtual audio cable to take the output of the radio into FLDIGI. This software is DONATION-ware – and the advantage of the donation is that you get two additional virtual audio cables (which will be useful for connecting the output of FLDIGI back into the radio). After making your donation, you will be directed to vb-audio.pagesperso-orange.fr/Cable/VirtualCables.htm to download the additional virtual audio cables. Time to download and configure: 3 minutes.

NOTE: This is also a good piece of software for the SDR group (especially those of us using the RTL-SDR USB receive only dongles). It allows for connection between the SDR program and FLDIGI.

- VSP Manager (k5fr.com/ddutilwiki/index.php?title=VSP_Manager) is a Virtual Serial Port manager. You must send an email to the other (link on the page) and he will send you the link. I used this software to “send” CI-V/CAT communication between FLDIGI and the radio. The software is FREE to

Amateur Radio operators. Setup time: 3 minutes.

At this point, I went into the VSP Manager utility and created one virtual serial pair (using COM21 and COM22). I decided to use COM21 for the “radio” side, and COM22 for the FLDIGI side.

- FLDIGI (www.w1hki.com/Fldigi.html). This is the basic digital communications tool that we have all heard about and seen demoed. Time to download and configure: 10 minutes.

For the settings, I used COM22 for the CI-V/CAT communication and Cable-Out as the soundcard. Now, all I needed was a radio! Well, it runs out, that there is a group that supplies access to radios over the Internet for free – remotehams.com. I downloaded their client software (RCFOrb) configured it to use COM21 for CI-V/CAT and Cable-In for the speaker, and I was looking good.

I then selected a radio (one in Alta Loma) and tuned it to the 20 Meter PSK and RTTY frequency. A little bit of tuning, and I was able to watch RTTY traffic being decoded in FLDIGI’s Super Browser window. It Worked! I was also able to decode PSK-31.

And then, right at 5pm Sunday – it stopped. All the RTTY traffic disappeared. After looking at the communications, I realized that there must have been some sort of RTTY contest going on (which would explain some of the exchanges I was seeing) – and that the contest must have ended at 5pm.

My next step will be to connect the second virtual audio cable between the FLDIGI output and the “radio” speaker. At that point, I will be able to transmit as well. (Please note that you will have to upload a copy of your license and ask permission before you can transmit.)

So, my total costs: \$0 (something I could afford). My total time to set it up: About 30 minutes.

Submitted by Dean Nedelman, K6DIN

Help Wanted For Mike Slate, N6TEA (your Ed.):

Please help me re-install my Butternut HF9V nine-band vertical antenna together with its 60 radials of which each is 65' in length. (Yes, that really is 3,900' of AWG No. 14 stranded copper insulated wire already bolted to a square stainless steel radial plate.)

Each radial must be unwound from the more or less organized spool lying at the base of the mast ground mounting tube and placed in a concentric circle. The radials are spaced at about 6' 10" at their ends apart from the mast. It makes a great ground plane which most verticals require to function not only properly but well.

The antenna has no gain (typical for verticals) but makes up for it with a low take-off angle. I've actually had SSB voice DX stations ask me if my beam was pointed directly at them and how much power was I running? (In fact, my amp puts out only 600W-900W PEP SSB with 100W additional reserved for headroom (voice peaks).

Each year, the field is cleared of weeds around June 1st. This year, I met the crew chief who told me that in the future, he and his crew can clear the weeds without damaging the mast or the radials so I can leave it up. He actually proved it the year before last. I should have left it up (duh.)

The job should not take more than an hour or so. Of primary concern, any volunteers must be aware of the ground condition in the field where the antenna is located. It is full of abandoned gopher mounds. If one does not walk carefully, he could

find his foot caught in a collapsed gopher tunnel which might twist an ankle.

My disability just does not allow me to be climbing a ladder to get into the field or bend over to pick up any weight. Your help is therefore gratefully welcome.

After the job, I will buy the sandwich of your choice from Jersie Mike's together with chips and a soft drink, served at my apartment.

My preference would be for Saturday, October 26th., beginning at 11:00 AM unless the KNX studio tour is on that day. If you can help then, kindly call me at home (805)-498-9590 or on my cell phone at (818) 917-6868 to confirm. My e-mail is n6tea@arrl.net or mmslate1@msn.com . Thank you.

73 de - - M

N6TEA

Mike, Editor, QUA CVARC

Holidays are upon us! Time for a party!

CVARC's holiday party is Saturday, Dec. 7, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m., and we'll be returning to the Cameron Center in Newbury Park. The club provides turkeys, maybe some ham, too, decorations, serving goods (plates, flatware, etc.) and beverages. All you really have to do is come have fun! Oh, and bring a potluck to share! Sign-ups will be passed at October and November meetings. AND, by popular demand, we're returning to a "white elephant" auction, as well as the usual "super" raffle prizes.

After our date was picked, in September, another event popped up that some of you are probably also participating in: National Weather Service's Skywarn Day at the Oxnard Weather Service Offices. It's an all-day event but is scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. So come on back to Newbury Park to enjoy the holiday season and a great dinner with your CVARC buddies.

Submitted by Diane Wainwood, KJ6JEJ

Late Breaking News:

October 2013 meeting grand raffle prize is a

Signalink USB sound card/digital interface

Winner's choice of interface cable.

\$109 value for maybe just a buck.

73

Bill Willcox

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 \$30: 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.KBOMGA.net>

Log in is required

<http://www.radioexam.org>

Practice Exams



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 updated 9/20/2013 and is available at: <http://vc-ares.org>. [Please note that these frequency charts are notoriously difficult to edit. If you see an error, please bring it to the Editor's attention. Thank you.]

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 – 100.0 Simi Valley AD6SV
147.885 - 127.3 Thousand Oaks - BOZO N6JMI
147.915 - 127.3 Camarillo WB6ZTQ
146.970 - 127.3 Oxnard WB6YQN
145.400 - NIL Ojai Valley N6FL
147.150+ 127.3 KOAKS (*needs independent verification*)
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

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) 802-8211.....	zcohen@ieee.org
Vice President.....	(currently vacant)			
Secretary.....	Eric Peterson.....	WB6PYK.....	(805) 479-9953.....	expeterson@gmail.com
Treasurer.....	Ken Segedie.....	WD9DPK.....	(818) 489-6990.....	ken806@earthlink.net
Public Relations.....	Dave Singer.....	KI6YVI.....	(805) 377-2459.....	david.f.singer@gmail.com
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
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.