QUA CVARC

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club Monthly Newsletter — August 2015

The President's Message

A newly-licensed amateur radio operator ("ham") came to a meeting of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) recently and challenged one of us with, "why should I join CVARC?" The question is certainly not a stopper for many of us, but it's useful for all of us to be reminded of the benefits of CVARC membership. All clubs are not created equal!

We are an American Radio Relay League ("ARRL") designated "Special Service Club". Every two years we qualify for this award by demonstrating to the ARRL that we regularly and consistently provide the communities in and around the Conejo Valley with the following:

NEW HAM TRAINING, TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT…

This involves a yearly schedule of Technician class license training, encouraging "Elmering." An Elmer is among the more experienced in the club who coaches new hams (the name preferred by the ARRL), promoting fellowship and camaraderie in the process. Regularly scheduled testing sessions for all the classes of licenses administered by a cadre of trained and seasoned Volunteer Examiners are available every other even numbered months.

CVARC also sponsors a program offering newly licensed, new members:

- A more than 50% discount on dues for their first year of membership;
- The loan of a handheld radio — programming assistance included.

CONTINUING TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT…

CVARC offers classes in fundamental electronics and General and Extra class license training. Monthly membership meetings feature speakers who spark new ideas, discuss trends and emerging technologies, DIY build projects, innovative antenna designs, and software-based communications systems. We occasionally hold a swap meet instead or just an evening of socializing.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS… COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT… ROBUST FAVORABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS…

These all go hand in hand. CVARC consistently provides communications for yearly neighborhood events such as:

- the Amgen Bike Race;
- the Ventura Marathon;
- Wings Over Camarillo Air Show;
- the CROP Walk for the Hungry;
- Cruising the Conejo Bike Race.

(The President's Message—continued from page one)

The list goes on and on but the value to the public is just as comprehensive as the training that it provides us as radio operators to hone our communications skills as emergency message traffic specialists. Each event mimics the same problems and stress that occurs during actual emergency communications situations.

All of the foregoing creates a winning scenario for everyone involved. You are serving your community while advancing yourself and your club in the art and science of amateur radio.

Why should you join the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club? Why Not?

Tim Wheeler, K6POI, President

Please Join Us for Dinner with the Speaker at Bandit's BBQ

Kindly join your fellow CVARC members and guests this month for the pre-club meeting dinner at 5:00 PM at Bandit's BBQ. Meet Fred Martin, KI6YN, our speaker for this August. The restaurant is located at 589 N. Moorpark Rd., in Thousand Oaks, near the intersection of Wilbur Rd, and Moorpark Blvd. phone (805) 497-7427. We have a reservation made under the name of CVARC/Michelle, thanks to Michelle, KK6RBW and Mark Horner, KK6IKX, our social directors team. Hope to see you there!

CVARC Presents: Fred Martin, KI6YN, on How to Fly a Satellite

Our August 2015 speaker will be one of our own, Fred Martin, KI6YN. Fred is a fascinating retired engineer and near lifelong ham who works CW only. His shack is in his home about 700' above the Conejo Valley floor and features a 40' crank up tower he keeps nested at 28' to support a hex beam.

Fred holds a graduate degree in electronics engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked for many years at Bunker Ramo when that company occupied what is now Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village. Fred completed a myriad of consulting projects, building incredible antennas and satellite systems all over the globe for outer space, necessary to help us in part to remain the free nation that we are today.

Be sure to ask him about the 80' parabolic reflector out on the mountain as part of Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, especially its amazing standing wave ratio (SWR) on two (2) meters. You will be astonished.

Fred's presentation will be accompanied by visual aides that he provided Jaap De Goede to prepare to be shown on our projector. Thank you Jaap or your help. Fred, thank you for sharing some of your interesting career with us—Ed.

2015 CVARC Calendar

August 22 – 23	Wings Over Camarillo Air Show - Ted Lansing http://wingsovercamarillo.com/ KI6PTX@arrl.net
August 29	North American SSB Sprint 0000-0400 UTC
Sept 2	FLDIGI Training Session- 5 – 9:00 pm East Co. Sheriff's Station
Sept 11 – 13	Southwestern Division Convention (Hamcon 2015) Torrance www.hamconinc.org
Sept 12 – 13	Ventura Bike Ride & Marathon Stewart KG6BOV@arrl.net
Sept 12 – 14	Sept UHF Contest http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Sept 13	North American Sprint, CW 0000z – 1400z
Oct 3	San Diego Ham Fest http://www.sdhamfest.org
Oct 3	CVARC Mini Field Day/Picnic in Thousand Oaks-on Moorpark Rd/De Los Flores beside T.O. High School
Oct 3	Share The Road Ride- Steve King KE6WEZ@gmail.com
Oct 3	Oxnard Disaster Preparedness Fair-Rose and Channel Islands Blvd-fire station 8
Oct 3 – 4	California QSO Party 1600z – 2200z
Oct 10	CERT Refresher
Oct 10	Ventura Making Strides Cancer Walk-Jose N6VUY@arrl.net
Oct 10 10-10	International 10-10 Sprint 0001z- 2359z
Oct 16	Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon 2015) San Ramon
Oct 16 – 18	Microwave Update 2015 (hamfest/convention) San Diego, CA http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/microwave-update-2015
Oct 24 – 25	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000z – 2400z
Nov 14	Oxnard Band Contest-Stewart KG6BOV@arrl.net
Nov 15	Red Cross Bike Ride-Stewart KG6BOV@arrl.net
Dec 12 – 13	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Dec 13	Santa to the Sea 1/2 Marathon

Here's a little joke for you:

(I told it to Greg Lane, K7SDW, who thought it was funny. If you don't laugh, it's Greg's fault! Hah!)

There was a small boy who lived up the street from a ham. One day, the boy convinced his dad to visit the ham's shack. The little fellow immediately began to explain to the ham how his keyer worked. "I know about that," as the little guy pointed to the keyer. "You turn those knobs on the radio box up real high and squeeze the two plastic things sticking out of the little box (the keyer) and it shocks the toad that lives in the big box (the radio cabinet)". "Then the radio goes...toad de toad, de toad, toad, toad." The little fellow gushed, "...he eats dried bugs he finds in the box, too!" The ham was somewhat taken aback by all this and asked the boy, "...does the toad have a name?" "Oh yes", answered the boy. "His name is Morris Toad."—Ed.

"CQ SPRINT":

A Call Made By Many Ventura County Operators On Saturday, 08 August 2015

On Saturday, 08 August 2015, during late afternoon & early evening, a great short contest, (in N6ZE's opinion), the Fall 6 Meter SPRINT was held.

The Fall Six Meter (50 MHz) SPRINT, is held in late Summer to take advantage of possible Sporadic E (Es) band openings. If the "E Layer" of the ionosphere ionizes, six meter signals are reflected off the "E Layer", about 60 or 70 miles above the earth's surface, and communications can occur over distances from 300 miles to 3000 miles. This occurs on a sporadic basis over unpredictable paths: This is a major reason why many commercial users no longer wish to use this part of the Radio Spectrum, but this reason is why it is so much fun for Amateur Radio Operators. The Six Meter Band is sometimes called "The Magic Band" because operators never can tell what might pop up!

The Fall SPRINTS are sponsored by the Southeast VHF Society >>>>http://svhfs.org/wp<<<<. Individual SPRINTS are held on 6 meters (50 MHz), 2 meters (144 MHz), 135 cm (222 MHz), 70cm (420 MHz), & microwave frequencies during about a 2 month period. A similar set of SPRINTS are held in the Springtime also.

Participants in the SPRINTs now submit their scores on the 3830 'Rumor Page" >>>>www.3830scores.com<<<< , rather than sending in entries to "QST" or "CQ". Entrants instantly see how well or poorly they did, rather than waiting 6 months or a year to view the scores posted in ham radio magazines. Because of the random nature of Sporadic E propagation, VHFers various parts of the country might make only a few contacts or a couple of hundred contacts during the 4 hour event!

SoCal hams made few or no long distance contacts during this SPRINT, but relied upon local communications for most or all of their score.

I was "On The Air" for most of the Six Meter SPRINT and was happy to put 14 Ventura County stations in my log. AA6JR, Jeff, & his daughter, Jessica, KD6ARA, operated from Agoura, on the Western edge of Los Angeles County. I also made contact with XE2CQ in Tijuana, Mexico on CW because there was Tropo Enhancement Propagation (Tr) between Ventura County and the San Diego area. Late in the SPRINT, I made Sporadic E (Es) contacts with K7ULS in Salt Lake City & W9RM in the South of Colorado.

I did not hear any other stations during the contest period with the exception of the K7AZ/Beacon, located in Lompoc, CA. K7AZ/b is a propagation indicator beacon & transmits a CW identification on 50.076.5 MHz. The K7AZ/Beacon can typically be heard in Thousand Oaks, CA by means of a bit of Tropo Propagation. The weak signal can usually be heard within a couple of hours of sunrise and sunset. Details on the beacon can be found at >>>>www.qrz.com/db/k7az<<<<.

As more and more businesses & other interests keep needing and requesting pieces of the Radio Frequency spectrum, I feel that it is essential for Amateur Radio Operators to utilize the frequency bands we are allocated. One way to do this is by operating in as many contest events as possible. This also provides great training & experience in the use of our frequencies. Just don't forget to send in your scores!

An included photo of www.DXMAPS.com (see pg. 6—Ed.) shows what 6 Meter paths were noted at about 6PM PDT during the SPRINT.

SPRINT scoring typically is: Number Contacts (QSOs) multiplied by Number of Grids (*) contacted.

(*) A grid is one degree of Latitude by two degrees of Longitude and is roughly 60 miles square. Grids are a primary means of accounting operator's achievements.

(continued on page 5 hereafter)

(Continued from previous page 4)

In my case, I made 19 QSOs in 4 Grids for a score of 76:

Date	Time (Z)	Call sign	Grid rcd	Mode; Grid #
08AUG	2302	WA6EJO	DM04	SSB; 1
08AUG	2308	AA6JR	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2311	KM6B	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2314	AG6AY	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2319	KD6ARA	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2322	W6RH	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2326	N6XEW	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2332	WA6FXT	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2353	AB6ET	DM04	SSB
08AUG	2354	KC6UIH	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0009	KG6SFW	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0015	XE2CQ	DM12	CW; 2
09AUG	0016	W0UFC	DM04	CW
09AUG	0054	WB6MIO	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0111	K6KY	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0117	K7ULS	DN41	SSB; 3
09AUG	0152	NS6V	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0157	KB6BCL	DM04	SSB
09AUG	0202	W9RM	DM58	SSB; 4

Submitted by: Pete Heins, N6ZE

PS: At dinnertime on 13 August, N6ZE/mobile 7 near Seattle, WA established 6 meter comms with 5 stations in the San Francisco Bay area and the High Desert during a 10 minute period. Equipment: FT100 & ¼ wave whip.

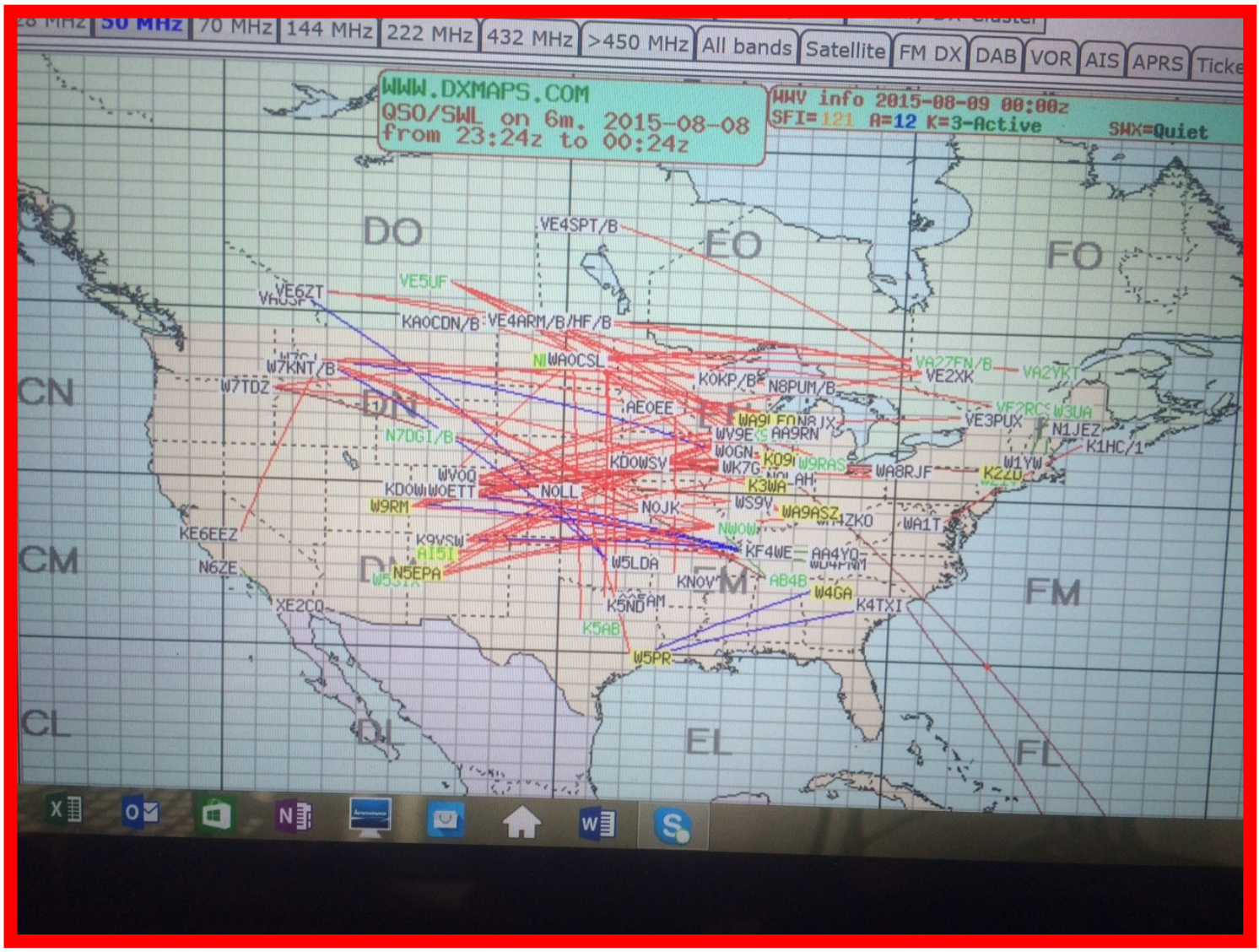
(See page 6 that follows for an interesting 6 Meter QSO Map—Ed.)

(Continued from preceding page 5)

WWW.DXMAPS.COM

QSO/SWL on 6M as of 2015-08-08

From 23:24z to 00:24z



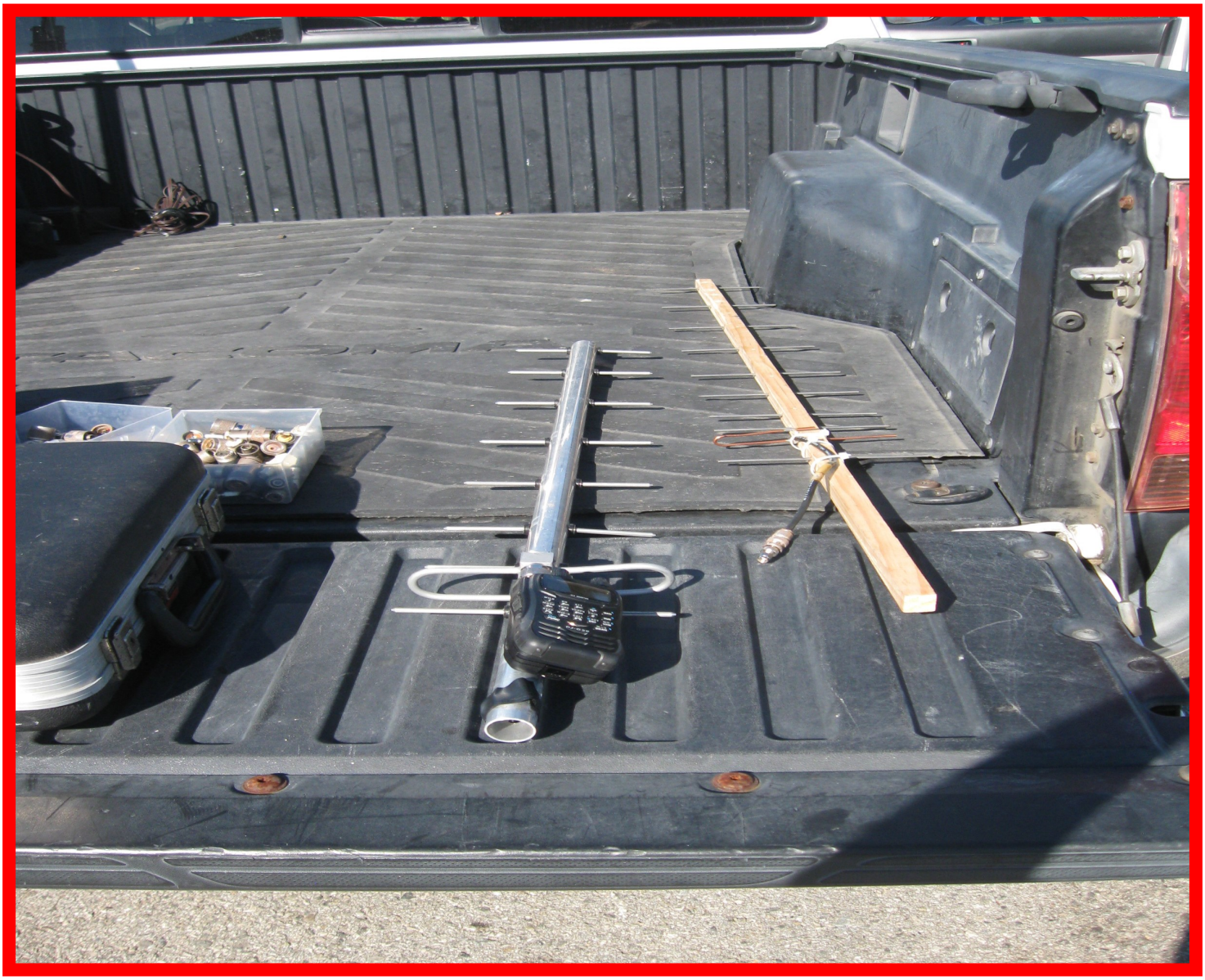
6 meter propagation map at 5pm pdt sat. 08 August 2015. Note lots of Sporadic E propagation in most of the country. N6ZE - XE2CQ path is tropo.

[Detailed article on pg. 4, table on pg. 5 and photograph above, posted from www.dxmaps.com, are all courtesy of Pete Heins, N6ZE-Ed.]

Pete Heins, N6ZE, [at left] operated on Sunday morning of the ARRL's August UHF Contest from a 2400 ft. ridge in the Santa Monica Mts. Pic. #9190.

(Full story appears on page 8 hereafter)

Just some of the equipment (below) necessary to win UHF contests, in this case, antennas, an HT and a serious box full of connectors, oh, and a truck. Then there are radios and all the cables to connect them. The operators of these contests are very dedicated, sometimes driving all day from place to place to gather QSO's. Pic. 9189



ARRL AUG 2015 UHF: Pete Heins, N6ZE (DM04qb) + Rick Slater, AG6AY (DM04qb), team up to work this recent UHF contest.

Notice Rick's car has even more gear. These guys are seriously among the most proficient and dedicated contesters around. But, with some fairly inexpensive gear, as Pete explains and Rick practices, you too can get in on the fund with NO HOA antenna restrictions!

Rick Slater, AG6AY, (left) goes for another QSO from a choice spot above the Santa Monica Mountains. Pic 9184.

#9190: Pete, N6ZE, operated on Sunday morning of the ARRL's August UHF Contest from a 2400 ft. ridge in the Santa Monica Mts (grid: DM04qb). He made 41 contacts on the 135 cm (222 MHz), 70 cm (420 MHz band), 33cm (902 MHz band), & 23 cm (1296 MHz) bands. Most interesting contact was with KJ6SJY, who was backpacking on a mountain in Poway, CA (DM12). Best DX on 902 MHz was W6QIW, near Goleta, CA (DM04). 4 QSOs were achieved on 23 cm SSB; the 33 cm beacon near San Diego, CA (DM12) was S-5 with no preamp installed in the feed line. A Yaesu FT-736 produced about 20 watts output on 135 cm & 70 cm and 10 watts on 23 cm. The ALINCO DJ-G29 FM handheld provided about 2 watts of power. Small yagis were used on all four bands. Pete's T-shirt was obtained at a Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference in Seaside, OR. N6ZE is a current member of the Pacific NW VHF Society and the BOZO SoCal Two Meter Group.

#9189: The 33 cm (902 MHz) station utilized by Pete, N6ZE, is a ALINCO DJ-G29 FM 2 watt handheld. To eliminate any feed line losses, the handheld directly fed the M>2 yagi through an SMA-N adapter.

#9184: Rick, AG6AY, used 2 FM hand held rigs with yagis to make 24 QSOs on 135 cm, 70 cm, & 33 cm. He made a 70 cm FM QSO with KJ6SJY, who was backpacking on a mountain in Poway, CA (DM12), and completed QSOs with W6QIW, west of Santa Barbara, CA (71.5 miles distant) on the 3 bands. Rick used "VJB Cheapie Yagis" on all

What's Up With Tubes? Using HF Tube Radios and Operating the Swan SW-270

By Norm Campbell – AB6ET

When I started in ham radio we had to learn CW and we had to operate tube radios, and it was all HF. With very few exceptions, that's just the way it was.

Tubes and tube radios are now a curiosity that need explaining. The same can be said for a standard transmission car or tailwheel airplane. These days it takes special training to operate any one of them.

Recently I had the opportunity to relive a bit of my radio youth and check out a radio that came to the club from an SK estate. The radio is an SW-270, a classic HF tube transceiver built by the Swan company of Oceanside, CA. See the ad in this edition of the CVARC newsletter offering it for sale to a lucky ham who wants a reliable tube radio that has lasted for years and will probably last many more.

The SW-270 was a new offering for Swan around 1970. They took the best of their previous single and three-band SSB transceivers and delivered a five band SSB and CW radio boasting lots of power, built-in power supply, and rugged construction for home or mobile use. There are a few transistors in this one, but it's mostly tubes and tube technology designed for 80 through 10 meters.

At the time, the price of a few hundred dollars for this radio was reasonable for the average ham since comparable transceivers like the Collins KWM-2 cost thousands. This type of radio put a lot of hams on the air with strong SSB signals, great audio, and reliable service.

Vacuum tubes, sometimes called valves, are big cylindrical envelopes with pins sticking out the bottom. They work by emitting a flow of electrons from a hot heater or cathode toward the plate and are regulated by a grid or grids with everything working in a vacuum. A small signal is introduced on the grid and is amplified as the flow of current moves to the plate. That's how tubes work.

Most tubes are shells of glass but sometimes they are metal. When turned on, they get hot and glow merrily. Being good hams, we like to see glowing tubes, blinking lights, dancing meters, and lots of knobs and buttons. Tube radios have it all.

You can look inside a tube radio and recognize each part and trace it on a schematic diagram. When something blows up it's easy to see what it was and replace it accordingly.

The general warning about tube radios has to be stated here. These are not 12 volt car battery radios. These radios turn 120 volt house current into hundreds and hundreds of volts with lots of current using power transformers. Keep the covers on, fuses in place, fingers and screwdrivers out. It's easy to blast yourself even after the plug has been pulled due to the big capacitors inside. You have to work on them now and then, but you must be careful.

(Continued on page 10 hereafter)

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Furthermore, you have never been burned until you get a good RF burn! Watch out for transmitted RF power these radios produce in the exposed circuits.

In the mid 60s I had a three-band Swan SW-240. It was my first real radio that was not home brew or surplus. It was a wonderful radio that put me on the air with not only voice but single side band voice. I modified it a bit to work CW and had great fun with that radio for years.

So when this Swan SW-270 was called to my attention by Todd – KD6RCM, our CVARC estate sale coordinator, I was interested in seeing it. I was skeptical about working on an old radio, but when Tim – K6POI, our CVARC club president, asked me to "evaluate" it, I couldn't refuse. Adrian – K6KY and Ben – KK6FUT offered valuable technical assistance. How could I go wrong?

We are lucky these days having resources available on the other end of our keyboards. Tubes and components are available on eBay, QRZ, QTH, Mouser, Digi, and other places. I knew that if I had to find parts I could probably do it.

There are lots of hams who know a lot more about electronics and circuits than me, but I have had some hands-on practical application experience using and operating radios. I knew the first thing I needed to do was check for obvious mechanical problems, and then work my way through to electrical and electronic problems.

Being prepared to work on an old (or new radio) requires having certain equipment and tools. A good test meter is a requirement as well as having a variety of screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, cutters, and little things that there is no name for but you must have. A soldering iron, solder, and soldering skills is also required. Reference material such as the radio manual, ARRL Handbook, tube charts, and parts lists are necessary. This steel and aluminum aether penetrator weighs about 25 pounds, not quite into the well known boat anchor size, but headed there. A sturdy workbench and good lighting is absolutely needed.

The radio was very dusty, but nothing out of the ordinary rattled so that was a good sign. It looked like the major parts were there. It had not been run over by a truck or used as a backstop at the shooting range. Maybe there was hope. It even had the optional Swan plug-in VOX.

Another major bonus was that it had the original operating manual. Of course many of the manuals for popular radios are on-line, but it's especially nice to find the real manual with all the pages and certainly one that has not been used as a placemat for a hundred lunches.

Every ham does something to his radios over a period of 30 or 40 years. This radio was no exception. There are hand written notes in the manual, the carrying handle had been removed never to be replaced, the main tuning knob was changed to a perfectly suitable but other than original knob, another switch was added to the VOX unit.

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These things happen. As long as no unsightly holes have been butchered into the panel or extra wires hang out, then these minor changes can be tolerated.

If there is something else added that I don't know or can't figure out then I follow the "dusty switch rule." It's dusty for a reason, don't touch it.

It was time to take a look. Armed with a screwdriver and pictures from the operating manual I took off the top and bottom covers. The bottom was nice and clean, the top, however, was filled with sawdust. Luckily I saw no broken or missing tubes, no burned out or melted parts, and no leaky capacitors. The open relays looked functional with no bent arms and good spring action.

A small short bristled makeup brush and gentle puffs of air eventually took care of the sawdust and regular dust. A barely damp cloth (water only) carefully worked around components finished the process. Covers were cleaned and dried carefully. The front panel took a little time but cleaned up nicely.

Things were looking good inside. I used one of the useful but unnamed tools to poke around solder joints testing for loose or brittle connections. Screws were tested for tightness. I used deoxidizing contact cleaning lube on anything that moved or plugged in. The tubes came out, were cleaned, and put back.

The next step was to reassemble and test. This was the hardest time to resist plugging it in and turning it on. With 40 year old capacitors designed to last 20 years there could be a problem. If full and immediate voltage is applied to old paper or electrolytic capacitors they can blow and go off like firecrackers. They have to be brought back up slowly with the hope that the capacitors will reform internally and return to useful service.

Ben – KK6FUT invited me to his shack to use his Variac to see if we could bring this radio back to life. A Variac is a line voltage variable transformer. We plugged the radio into the Variac and the Variac into the house line and started giving the voltage little tweaks from about nothing to full line voltage over a period of time. We talked and worked on other things during the time Ben adjusted the voltage up 5 or 10 volts every 10 or 15 minutes. After a while we saw the nice glow of active tubes and shortly thereafter we could hear receiving activity in the speaker!

We continued bringing it up to full line voltage and let it settle in. Then it was time to remove the Variac, plug it in directly and see what happened. It worked and sounded like it was working fine. We ran it for a while in receive mode (REC) and then were ready for a power check and on the air test.

Tube radios have a few controls not found on new radios, notably things like DRIVER, PA TUNE, PA LOAD, and some others. PA means power amplifier, remember how tubes work? Modern radios do the power settings for you. With these tube radios you have to do it yourself.

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The manual explains the procedure step by step. While in receive mode, turn the DRIVER, PA TUNE and PA LOAD for maximum background noise. The controls will be more or less in the right position for the chosen frequency. Don't be a lid and tune up on an active frequency, move off a little to a clear spot or use a dummy load. Next, don't talk but click the PTT (push to talk) and rotate the CAR BAL (carrier balance) to null and confirm the bias is set, 40ma in the case of this radio. It was already set and had been for years.

Then unbalance the carrier by turning the CAR BAL knob a bit to show something on the meter. Peak the DRIVER, sometimes called EXCITER, then dip the PA TUNE and then rebalance the CAR BAL to null and release the PTT. The bias, carrier balance, and driver have been successfully tuned for resonance on the chosen frequency and the radio is ready to tune for power.

Switch the function knob to TUNE-CW, sometimes called TUNE or LOCK. If the key is plugged in it has to be held down. The radio is in full power transmit mode and can only be turned on like this for short periods of time and must be brought into resonance as soon as possible, less than 30 seconds is recommended.

Watch the meter dip while carefully turning the PA TUNE. It should have been pretty close already. Then bring up the current a little using PA LOAD and dip again with PA TUNE. According to the manual, this radio can be loaded from under 200 up to 300 milliamps. We found that when loaded to about 220ma the power output was about 100 watts. Power input is calculated by multiplying voltage times current. We figured the power supply to the final amplifier tube is probably about 600 volts times the 220ma (.22A) current giving us 120 or 130 watts input. This is within the book and tube limits. Dip and load to resonate the power amplifier final tube to the desired current. End with dip and switch back to receive mode.

We started on 75 meters and made a contact right away. The signal report was good. This radio was on the air again! We tried tuning the other bands. Forty and 20 meters tuned pretty well. These old design radios start to lose performance when they go up in frequency. Fifteen and 10 meters would load but power output was reduced. Again, that's just the way it is. Retune after moving beyond 25 kHz either side of the original tuned frequency.

Since then I've been making contacts from home on both SSB and CW. Reports are good. The VFO is very stable. The built in power supply is really a nice feature.
Now it's time to return the Swan to the club and move it along to someone who wants a reliable HF tube radio. It's perfect as a second radio or for use at an alternate location.

Tube radios have character and a charisma not found in modern radios. This Swan is the way it used to be and this is the opportunity for others to experience the thrill and skill of using a tube radio.

Submitted by Norm Campbell, AB6ET

(See page 14 hereafter for a picture of the completed unit)

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[Here is the beautiful Swan refurbished by Norm Campbell, AB6ET with the help of Ben Kuo, KK6FUT. You may buy this radio, previously donated to CVARC, at our next general meeting this coming Thursday, August 20, 2015. This concludes this article-Ed.]

From the new desk of the Editor, Mike Slate,

The more familiar continues on the following pages—Ed.

Notice anything different?

Anything you don't like? Then speak up, please. I can take it. The goal was to make the newsletter more readable on your PC monitor. Since it seems like I'm editor for life, I took the liberty of using my new MS Publisher. It allows greater freedom of composition, pictures and until I master it, things may seem a bit sophomoric. So, bear with me. In the future, I want to return to distribution on Mondays so the cut-off is the preceding Friday at noon. Tnx de - - m, N6TEA

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last **CVARC VE session** was held Sunday, August 9 at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station. Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, advised that the FCC has not yet posted the results as of the time of this writing. The August results will be posted in the September newsletter.

The next CVARC VE session will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station. VE sessions are generally held on the second Sunday of each even numbered month at the forgoing time and location.

CVARC VE sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners. Participating Volunteer Examiners donate their time to help advance Amateur Radio and 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

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 the next to last page 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 is updated regularly and is available at: http://vc-ares.org.

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please 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, Area 2 EOC, whose info is listed below, to arrange it.

For the current list of CVARC officers together with their contact information, please visit the club's website at http://www.cvarc.org where you may also view past newsletters which include an application to join together with the necessary fees that include discounts for new members and families.

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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 e-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.

CVARC University will offer a class for the Amateur Extra class license to be held at the East County Sheriff Station starting Saturday, August 29 for approximately five successive sessions. This is a great way to upgrade your General class and gain more bandwidth.

Hugh Bosma Award nominations are open during the remainder of August and all of September for members to suggest another CVARC member who has served the club in an extraordinary fashion. Hugh Bosma died this past year after battling cancer. This award in part commemorates Hugh’s service by a like minded ham. The plaque of recipients is displayed on the table beside the speaker’s stand at every general meeting. The Board will decide the winner in October. All members are eligible.

Holiday Dinner This year’s celebration of the holidays will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Posada Hotel & Suites in Simi Valley. The facility is located at the intersection of Los Angeles Avenue and Olsen Road. This years format will include the club providing the entire meal for members and guests. The menu will include salad, a choice of two meats at a carving station, three side dishes for each diner and dessert. More details will follow in future newsletters and on the CVARC Discussion website on Yahoo Groups.

Mailing address: Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club PO Box 2093 Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093