



April 2017

QUA CVARC

A Newsletter for the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

President's Message
Andy Ludlum-K6AGL

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Roger Johnson is a retired Coast Guard officer in Maine. He was afraid his HF radio had turned into a boat anchor. Every time he turned it on, he'd hear harsh, grating static, like something generated by a lightning strike, except it never stopped. Johnson drove up and down the streets of his neighborhood with a spectrum analyzer hooked up to his laptop, determined to locate the source of the buzz. He found it less than a mile away at the home of a licensed marijuana grower.

Cultivation of recreational marijuana is now legal in Maine, along with Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, Alaska, Washington, the District of Columbia and of course, here in California.

The problem comes from the electrical ballasts regulating the indoor lamps used to grow pot. Grow lamps are distinctive because they power on and off for 12 hours at a time.

(Continued on Page 2)

Club Meeting and Pre-Meeting Dinner Information

The next regular club meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2017 (always the third Thursday) at the East County Sheriff's Station Community Room on Olsen Road at 7:30 pm. Talk-in coordination is on the Bozo repeater, 147.885 (- 127.3).

Guest Speaker: The Noise Floor: Richard Rudman, W6TIA, is a respected broadcast engineer who for decades was the Chief Engineer of the legendary radio station KFWB, Los Angeles. One thing hams have in common with AM broadcasters is the threat posed by the ever increasing noise floor which is stealing our signals and audiences. Richard will talk about what can be done to combat the problem.

Raffle: The Grand Prize is a 50W Photovoltaic Solar Panel with Charge Controller.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: Join fellow club members and our guest speaker for a pre-meeting dinner, at 5 p.m., at Szechwan Garden, 484 E. Los Angeles Ave., Moorpark.

President's Message - Continued

According to the ARRL, they can be powerful enough to produce the same amount of radio interference as a 1,000-watt AM radio station. Some of these cheap ballasts have phony FCC-compliance stickers. One inexpensive ballast sold by big-box retailers produced 640 times the level of interference of a legal unit. In fact, even if none of your neighbors are growing pot, it's unlikely you can find anyone on your block who is not radiating RF and adding to the noise floor.

But what our neighbors do is only part of the problem. It's too easy for hams to unknowingly create noise sources in their own homes. Many people have converted recessed lighting (pot-lights of another kind!) from incandescent lamps to LED types, which radiate RF. You might have a couple dozen recessed LED lamps in your house, not to mention security lights and even night-lights. To convert from household power to low voltage, LED lamps use noisy, built-in, switching power supplies. It's not just LED lamps. Many people are adding "smart" digital thermostats, stoves and washing machines. And this is by no means a comprehensive list.

Individual problems, such as the non-compliant ballasts, have been solved by employing a filtering device that almost eliminates the static. But the ARRL wants the FCC to take a stronger stand against devices that give off more interference than federal law allows in homes. There are hopes President Donald Trump's new FCC chairman, Ajit Varadaraj Pai will be sympathetic to hams. He has praised pending federal legislation aimed at helping amateur radio operators with their special problems.

The switch to energy efficient, but noisy, digital appliances appears to be happening at a pace our regulators just can't keep up with. Amateur radio operators need to be educated in order to become focused and effective lobbyists. Otherwise, one day you'll turn on your radio and hear nothing but static.

We're going to spend time this month discussing the problem of the rising noise floor. This month's guest speaker, Richard Rudman-W6TIA, will explain noise from a broadcast engineer's perspective.

73,

Andy
K6AGL

Reminders:

- CVARC Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 pm, at the Westlake Village City Hall. All members are welcome.
- If you haven't already, please take some CVARC business cards to give to anyone interested in learning more about ham radio. You can get them at the club meetings from Zak-N6PK. They are especially good to have on hand when working portable.
- If you have general questions or concerns, you can always contact CVARC's Members at Large, Adrian-G4FRZ at G4FRZ@hotmail.com, Charley-KG6CLT at crpember@aol.com or Mark-KK6IKX at mahorner@sbcglobal.net. Technical questions should go to Eric-WB6PYK at WB6PYK@arrl.net.

Mini Field Day - This Saturday, April 15

Take a break from those nasty tax forms and get out in the fresh air. Dust off that portable ham gear and come on out to the Mini Field Day Tuneup.

We will be at the covered picnic pavilion North of the parking lot at the Conejo Community Center, 2525 N. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks (enter from Moorpark Road, North of Thousand Oaks High School) from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

CVARC will provide sandwiches, drinks, chips and electrical power (bring your own extension cords).

This is a great opportunity to test out your portable station in advance of Field Day (June 24-25 this year) and avoid those embarrassing gremlins later on.

Apologies for the short notice, but how much notice do you get in a disaster?

Any questions can be directed to Bill-KF6JQO at william_willcox@pacbell.net.



Recurring Nets

Sundays: Newbie Net, 7 pm, Bozo Repeater 147.885 (-127.3), all are welcome especially newer hams. Want to be net control? The procedure will be provided. Contact Todd-KD6RCM, kd6rcm@arrl.net. Following the Newbie Net, look for the VHF Simplex Rag Chew, 146.550 MHz, open for all.

Tuesdays: ACS/ARES/RACES Net, 7 pm, Bozo Repeater and 7:10 Amgen Repeater.

Wednesdays: HF Roundtable, 7 pm, 21.333 ± MHz, USB, all are welcome.

March Meeting Summary

The **Pre-Meeting Dinner** was at Stonefire Grill in Thousand Oaks. Approximately ten people attended.

President Andy-K6AGL began the meeting at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for Terry Graves-K7FE/SK, then welcomed a few first time attendees, and the newly licensed and recent license class upgrades. Thanks was given to Eric-WB6PYK for bringing the coffee and to Kat Hunley-K6VQN for bringing the cookies. Andy noted that the night's speaker would be Roger Berchtold-WB6HMW, President of the Amateur Television Network, Southern California Chapter, who would be discussing ATV, including analog and digital transmissions and ATV repeaters. Next month's speaker will be Richard Rudman-W6TIA, a respected broadcast engineer who, for decades, was the Chief Engineer of the legendary radio station KFWB, Los Angeles. He will be discussing the noise floor and what can be done to combat the problem.

Andy discussed the status of the conversion to the club-wide May 1 renewal date, and suggested that members consider renewing at the April meeting, so everyone isn't trying to renew at the May meeting. Dues are \$20 per year, (\$16 annually for multi-year memberships), and \$25 for families, per year.

April 15 is the CVARC Mini-Field Day and Picnic, to be held from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Thousand Oaks Community Park, 2525 N. Moorpark Rd., adjacent to Thousand Oaks High School. Food and power will be provided. Bill Willcox-KF6JQO will chair the event. Any questions can be directed to william_willcox@pacbell.net.

Norm-AB6ET encouraged members to sign up for his CW Class, which is primarily self-study, but with a few meetings to practice what's been learned. Information is in the March Newsletter.

Projects: At the time of the meeting, there had been about 25 responses to the survey asking members for their opinion about various proposed projects. Andy encouraged more members to respond to the survey.

Raffle: The Grand Prize was a Coax Adapter kit, valued at more than \$90 and, because of the amount of money taken in, the Grand Prize at the April meeting will be a 50W Photovoltaic Solar Panel with Charge Controller.

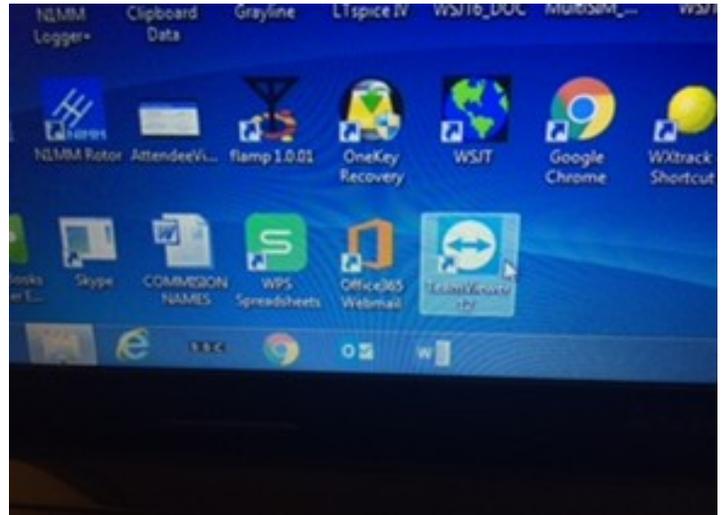
Guest Speaker Roger Berchtold-WB6HMW: Information about the presentation can be obtained at www.atn-tv.org.

A Convenient Way to WSJT-X

- Adrian Jarrett-K6KY

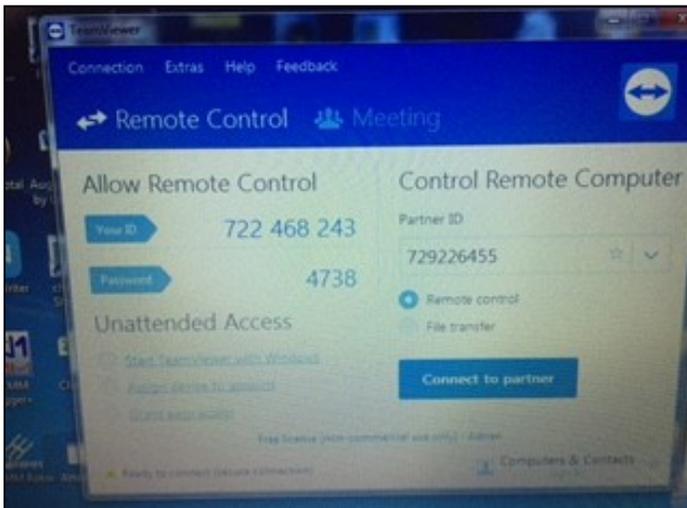
As did we all, I enjoyed Jaap's February presentation on WSJT JT65 and JT9 HF modes. It peaked my interest sufficiently that so I ordered a new interface cable for my Signalink USB and eagerly awaited its arrival.

I downloaded the WSJT-X program and set up the Signalink with a TS2000 and enjoyed a couple of Qs. Then I realized why I had abandoned WSJT some time ago; it is so, so slow. Not only that, but spending evenings in the Attic Shack was a bit antisocial to the rest of the family; there had to be a better way. WSJT-X can control a rig to set frequency appropriate for the mode in use, in a selected band, and so I used a serial link to the TS2000 for frequency control. The signalink controlled the TX/RX changeover.

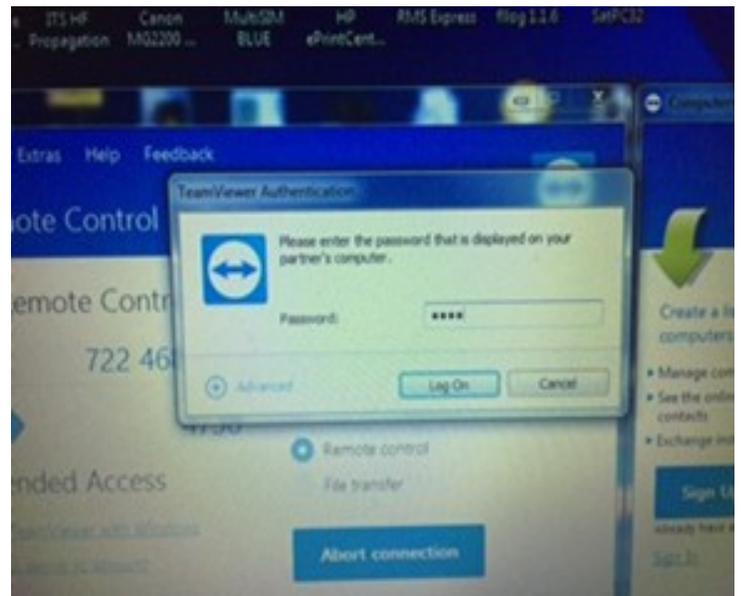


I spent half a Saturday trying to set up a Windows remote desktop, which looked very easy from the help files, but I could not get it to work. In my search for online

program from www.teamviewer.com onto a couple of Windows PCs fired it up on the 'to be controlled' PC that was connected to the Signalink

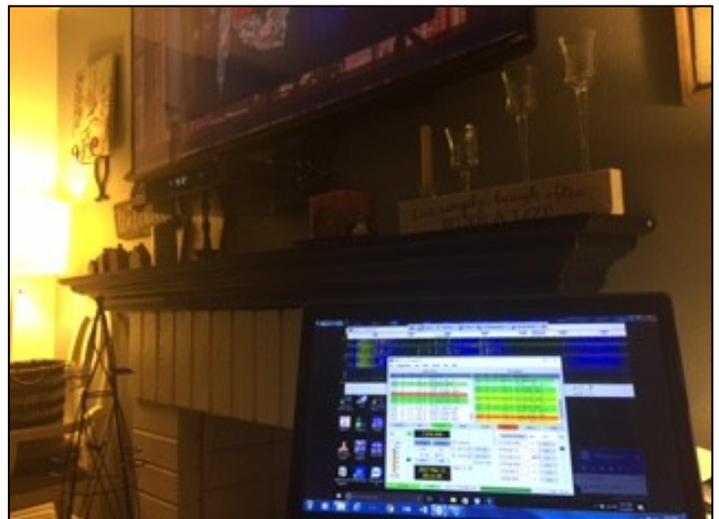
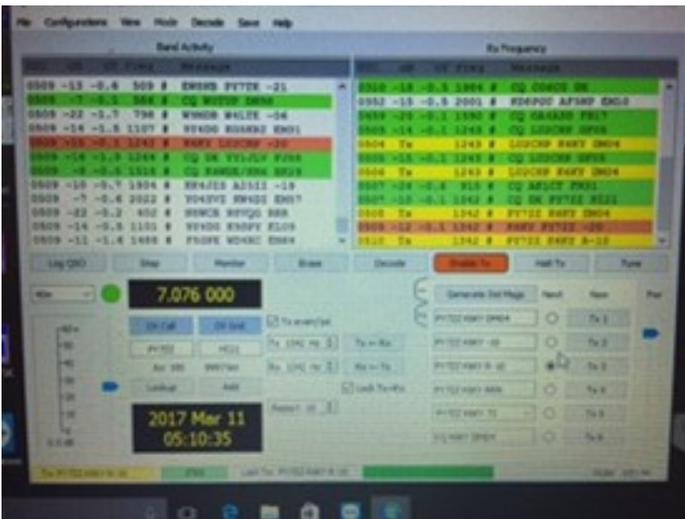
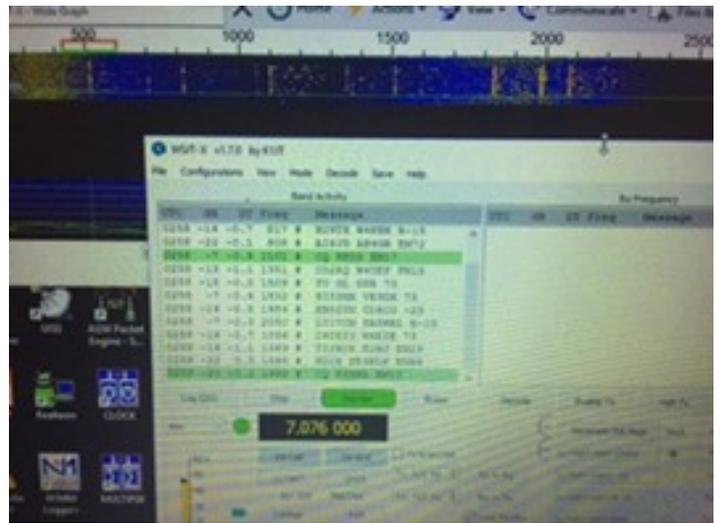
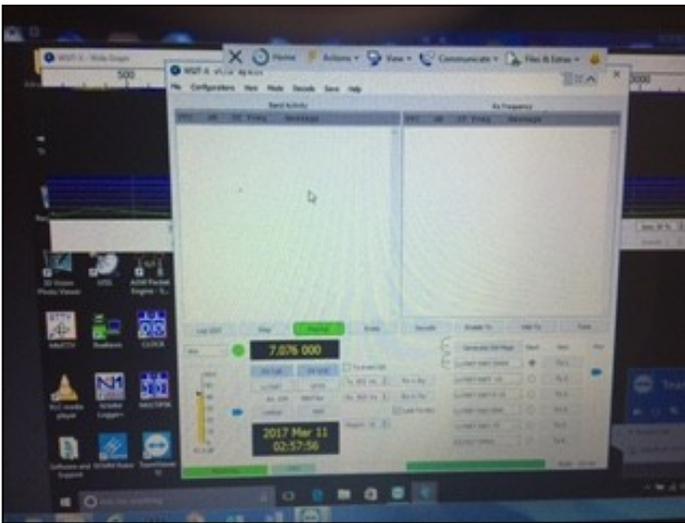


The Teamviewer panel gives each computer an ID and password. The local PC ID and password is entered into the remote PC and presto, after hitting 'connect...' you see the local PC desktop on the remote PC.



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A Convenient Way to WSJT-X—Continued



Then it is as easy as if you were sitting at the local PC in front of your rig, but a bit more sociable and closer to the blender for Margaritas.

A few words of warning: If you set up remote control for your rig be sure to check that the power levels and antenna VSWR are acceptable on any band you may switch to. The WSJT-X has a limited rig interface and does not provide feedback on actual parameters that the rig is operating with. Of course, you could set up a webcam so you can see your rig controls.

You can run any program via the remote desktop. I use Clock from F6CTE to sync to UTC as required by WSJT and I use FLDIGI for other digimodes. Both work just fine via the remote desktop. I also use the TeamViewer app on my iPhone, so I can even work digimodes on the go. What's next; how about a Skype interface for SSB?

Another warning; keep the volume on the rig turned off. Household occupants get a little edgy with WSJT or PSK warbling around in the background for hours on end.

Scheduled CVARC Speakers and Topics

Thursday, April 20, 2017 – The Noise Floor: Richard Rudman, W6TIA, is a respected broadcast engineer who for decades was the Chief Engineer of the legendary radio station KFWB, Los Angeles. One thing hams have in common with AM broadcasters is the threat posed by the ever increasing noise floor which is stealing our signals and audiences. Richard will talk about what can be done to combat the problem.

Thursday, May 18, 2017 – New Radio Demo Night — We asked Eric Christensen, K6EJC, of Ham Radio Outlet to bring the five radios he thinks show off the newest and most interesting technology available to hams today.

Thursday, June 15, 2017 – ARRL, Questions and Answers — Southwest Division Director Dick Norton-N6AA answers your questions and gives us a look at the latest activities of our hobby's leading organization, the American Radio Relay League.

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – What is a Panadapter?

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – Emergency Radio Communications in Ventura County

Thursday, September 21, 2017 – Improving Your Receive Audio: Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, founded the company Heil Sound in 1966, which went on to create unique touring sound systems for bands such as The Grateful Dead and The Who. Heil has also been an innovator in the field of amateur radio, manufacturing microphones and supporting efforts to improve the quality of transmitted and received audio.

Thursday, October 19, 2017 – Satellites and Moon Bounce

Thursday, November 16, 2017 – Latest Antenna Research and Design

December, 2017 – CVARC Holiday Party

2018

Thursday, January 18, 2018: Collecting and Restoring Old Radios

Thursday, February 15, 2018: Digital UHF/VHF Modes, DMR, D-Star, P-25, Fusion

Thursday, March 15, 2018: Software Defined Radio and Remote Operation Demo

The Speakers Committee (Brad Ormsby, W6VO, David Arata, KA9WMI, Tim Wheeler, K6POI and Andy Ludlum, K6AGL) is always interested in your program ideas. If you have thoughts on who might be a good speaker for a club meeting, please let any of us know.

Newbie Net Schedule

Sunday nights, 7 pm, Bozo Repeater 147.885 (-127.3), all are welcome, especially newer hams. Want to be net control? The procedure will be provided. Contact Todd-KD6RCM, kd6rcm@arrl.net. Check the CVARC website and discussion group for additions and corrections to net control operators.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Net Control Operator</u>
Apr 16	Todd-KD6RCM
Apr 23	Stu-AG6AG
Apr 30	Ben-W6JWZ

Please send me your logs of check-ins after the net.

Thanks to all!

Todd
KD6RCM

QUA [CVARC](#) Newsletter Editor
Stu Forman—KK6VYS
sforman66@icloud.com

CVARC Yahoo Discussion Group

Are you interested in seeing current information or posting timely information yourself? Visit and join the CVARC Yahoo Discussion Group.

This is a closed Yahoo group so you have to go to the club website, select the “About Us” tab, and follow the “Discussion Groups” link to join. <http://www.cvarc.org/page2/page3/>

After being approved, you can read past and recent posts or comment and post information yourself.

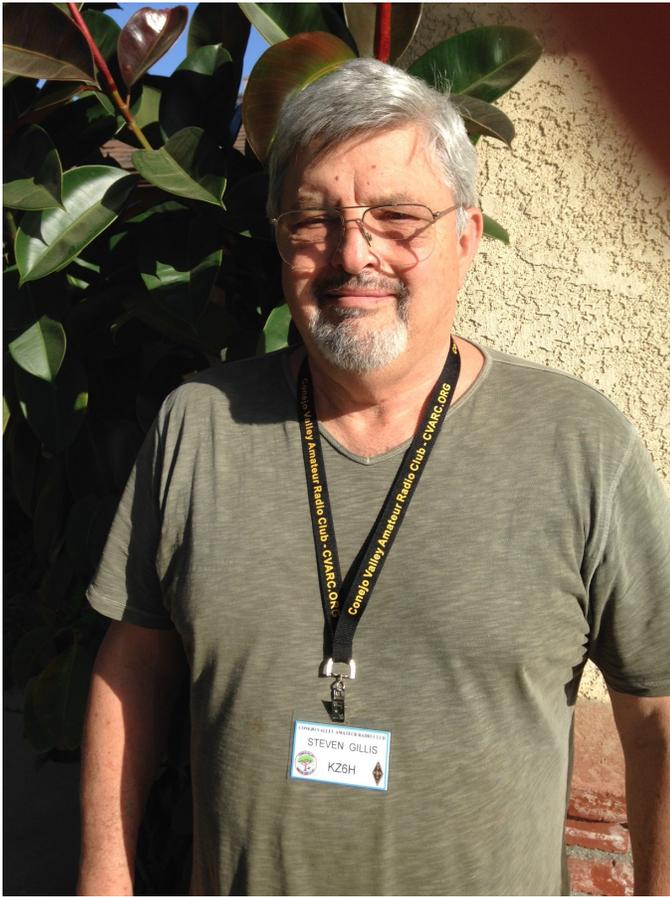
Take a look. Lots of timely information being passed back and forth.

Event Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Links</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
April 15	CVARC Mini-Field Day and Picnic		
April 16	Rookie Roundup-Phone -	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup	
April 17	144 Mhz Spring Sprint Contest 7:00 – 11 pm (local time)	https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2017-information	
April 20	CVARC General Mtg. ECSS 7:30 pm, Topic: The Noise Floor		
April 21 - 23	International DX Convention Visalia	http://www.dxconvention.org	
April 21- 22	Boy Scout Camporee - Tierra Rejada Rd. Moorpark Ben	KK6FUT@gmail.com	
April 25	222 Mhz Spring Sprint 7 – 11 pm (local time)		
May 3	432 Mhz Spring Sprint 7 – 11 pm (local time)		
May 6	Microwave, 902 Mhz and Up Spring Sprint 8 am – 2 pm (local time)		
May 6-7	7 th Call Area QSO Party 6:00am – midnight (local time)	http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules	
May 6 – 7	Indiana, Delaware, New England QSO Party		
May 11	CVARC Board Mtg. Westlake City Hall 7:30 pm		
May 13 - 14	50 Mhz(6 Mtr) Spring Sprint 2300Z(Sat) – 0300Z(Sun)		
May 18	CVARC General Mtg. ECSS 7:30 pm, Topic: New Radio Demo Night		
May 28	Mountains to Beach Marathon—Ojai to Ventura, Rob	w6rh@hotmail.com	
June 3 – 4	10-10 Int Open Season PSK Contest 10 Meters	http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-schedule/2-uncategorised/51-open-season-rules	
June 4	Love Run - Area 2—Zak	N6PK@arrl.net	
June 8	CVARC Board Mtg Westlake City Hall 7:30 pm		
June 10-12	June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf	
June 15	CVARC General Mtg. ECSS 7:30 pm Topic: ARRL Q & A with SW Division Dir. Dick Norton-N6AA		
June 18	Kids Day	http://www.arrl.org/kids-day	
June 24-25	Field Day	http://www.arrl.org/field-day	
July 3	Moorpark Fireworks Show		
July 8 – 9	IARU HF World Championship	http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship	
July 10	ACS/ARES District Mtg 7:30 pm		
July 15 – 16	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest		
July 23	Goodkin 1-Day Ham Radio Class	http://www.qualitymatrix.com/hamclass/2017-schedule-of-classes/	
Aug 5 – 6	222 Mhz and Up Distance Contest	http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest	
Sept 15-17	Southwestern Division Convention (HamCon2017) Torrance	http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/southwestern-division-convention-hamcon-2017	



CVARC Lanyards



Steve Gillis-KZ6H came up with the idea of producing CVARC lanyards!

In the picture, you can see Steve modeling one of the new lanyards. We had 100 made and we'll begin selling them at the club meetings, starting April 20th, for the bargain price of just \$1.00.

The Ham Cam

The 1959 and 1966 Ham Shacks of Gerald Scannapieco-K2JUV of Southold, NY.



Do you have any interesting gear? A vintage radio? An old or unique Morse code key? A special QSL card? Tell us about it!

Send photos and a brief description to sfor-man66@icloud.com.



For Sale

- 20M, 4 element beam, 26' boom Hy-Gain 204BA, with BN86 balun - \$175
Alpha Delta DX-CC 10-80M parallel dipole, 82' long - \$80

Contact Roger-WD6EVT at (805) 338-5605 or WD6EVT@arrl.net

* * *

- Ammo cans available for purchase for \$9.00 each.

Contact Eric-WB6PYK at WB6PYK@arrl.net

* * *

- A Yaesu FT1000 MP Mark V 200W, 160 - 10 meter HF Transceiver. (not the 100W "Field" model.) Two VFOs, designed for contesting. Internal keyer, Packet and RTTY modes, with stock external 30V and 12V power supply. Clean, reliable operation. Absolutely no problems ever. With original operations manual. Will sell with big diaphragm Yaesu MD200 microphone, if I get a decent price. Make offer!! See on eHam.net: <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/850>

Contact Tim-K6POI at tim.k6poi@gmail.com

* * *

- Yaesu FT897, All Mode, 100W HF 160 - 6 meter, 50W 2 Meter, 20W 70 cm With LDG-897 Plus External Auto-Tuner and cables, Auto-Tuner designed for FT897 by LDG Internal keyer and data modes. Absolutely clean, no problems. With original operations manual and microphones. Good first radio or Go Box. Proven performer. (Not FT-897D, needs external or internal power supply.) Will consider all offers. See on eHam.net: <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2432>

Contact Tim-K6POI at tim.k6poi@gmail.com

General Information about the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, CVARC

CVARC is a Special Service Club (SSC)

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. To be recognized by the ARRL as a Special Service Club, 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, and Operating Activities.

Meetings and Location

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 7:30 p.m. with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session beforehand or as announced. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring friends.

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 pleased to have you join.

CVARC Membership Rates

The simplest way to join (or to renew) is to give a check bearing your name and address to the Treasurer in person or by mail. Make the check payable to "CVARC" and please put your call sign and email address on the memo line.

Current annual rates are changing during the next year. The following rates apply but will change: 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. Email info@cvarc.org for pro-rated dues figures for renewals before April, 2017.

An application to join is found on the club website.

Name, call sign, or address changes may be e-mailed to the Treasurer.

QUA CVARC

"QUA CVARC" is the club newsletter published monthly, not later than the Monday preceding the CVARC club meeting, by the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, AA6CV, PO Box 2093, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093.

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.

Tax Deductible Donations to CVARC

CVARC is an IRS-certified 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are deductible pursuant to IRS rules. If you have working radio equipment or 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 to help fund and grow CVARC.

We cannot accept certain donations, and have to place some restrictions on them such as, no hazardous materials, nothing we could not sell, etc. If you are interested in donating, contact any board member at a meeting or via email.

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 for more details.

CVARC Officers

For the current list of CVARC officers together with their contact information, please visit the club's website at <http://www.cvarc.org>. You may view past newsletters on the website.