



October 2017

# QUA CVARC

A Newsletter for the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

## President's Message Andy Ludlum-K6AGL

### Contents

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
President's Message	1
Club Meeting & Dinner Information	1
Reminders	2
September Meeting Summary	3
The Convenient Ham Station—By AB6ET	4
Being a Helpful Ham—By AI6YR	5
Ham License Classes Information	7
CVARC Speakers and Topics	7
Events Calendar	8
Newbie Net Schedule	9
Recurring Nets	9
Yahoo Discussion Group Information	9
The Ham Cam	10
For Sale	11
General Club Information	12

I'm writing this less than two weeks after Hurricane Maria became the strongest storm to make landfall in Puerto Rico in decades. It's hard for many of us to picture the scale of devastation.

Island-wide power failures meant people trying to escape the tropical heat weren't able to use air conditioners, fans or even cold water. The island's crippled water and sewage treatment systems pose a looming public health crisis.

Without power, most people are without internet or cable service. Nearly all the cell phone sites in Puerto Rico are not working. Even the radio systems used by police and other first responders are inoperable.

The amateur radio community has stepped up to help. ARRL has

(Continued on Page 2)

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

### Club Meeting and Pre-Meeting Dinner Information

The next regular club meeting is Thursday, October 19, 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).

**Topic/Guest Speaker: 6 Meter Scatter & Sporadic E Propagation:** Adrian Jarrett-K6KY.

To Be Rescheduled: The presentation originally scheduled for this meeting, **Restoring WW2 Era Radios** by John Castorina-WB6AZP, will need to be rescheduled.

**Raffle Grand Prize:** ARRL Antenna Book.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Join fellow club members and our guest speaker for a pre-meeting dinner, at 5 p.m., at Toppers Pizza, 1416 N. Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks, 805-385-4444.

## President's Message - Continued

arranged to provide 25 two-person teams of hams, out of hundreds of volunteers. The teams will move health and welfare information from Puerto Rico back to the mainland where the data will be entered in the Red Cross Safe and Well system. Each team will be equipped with a go-kit containing an HF transceiver, software, a dipole antenna, a power supply and all connecting cables. ARRL also is sending VHF repeaters, hand-held transceivers, mobile radios, generators, and batteries with solar-powered chargers.

CVARC Member Ben Kuo-AI6YR, who has been keeping a close ear on the situation in the Caribbean, summed up amateur radio's value in this emergency. "It's amazing how important ham radio has suddenly become in the last week -- not just chasing DX and playing with gadgets, this is about life and death and truly fulfilling the promise of that popular ARRL t-shirt 'When all else fails...' Guess what? It failed, and yes, it did work, and that t-shirt is now Truth."

We will be electing our CVARC Board of Directors for 2018 at the November meeting. The process begins this month at our October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting when we accept nominations for board positions. All board positions are open for nominations. The only requirement for being a nominee is to be a CVARC member in good standing. While any member can be nominated for any of the board positions, the board will also be presenting a slate of candidates for nomination.

We're taking signups for the annual CVARC Holiday Party on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel and Suites in Simi Valley. A good number of you signed up at the September meeting, but there's still room for plenty more members and guests. The cost is \$25 per person and it's not too soon to think about buying your tickets at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will have two raffles at the party. First, from all the tickets that have been sold this year at the monthly club meeting raffles, we'll select the winner of a TYT DMR Digital Two-Way Radio. You must be present at the party to win this prize. We will also have a larger, special prize raffle. We will pick the winning ticket at the party, you are NOT required to be present to win. Tim Wheeler – K6POI is working again with Kevin Zanjani of Bioenno Power to select a solar/battery package for our special raffle. We're selling single tickets for \$10, or the best value, three tickets for \$25. As always, for the party or the raffle we can accept cash, check or credit cards.

Finally, Brad Ormsby-W6VO has arranged once again for CVARC to receive a nice donation of \$1,000 from the Rotary Club of Westlake Village as part of their annual "Day of Giving." Thanks Brad!

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-K6KY at [G4FRZ@hotmail.com](mailto:G4FRZ@hotmail.com), Charley-KG6CLT at [crpember@aol.com](mailto:crpember@aol.com) or Mark-KK6IKX at [mahorner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mahorner@sbcglobal.net). Technical questions should go to Eric-WB6PYK at [WB6PYK@arrl.net](mailto:WB6PYK@arrl.net).

# September Meeting Summary

## Andy-K6AGL

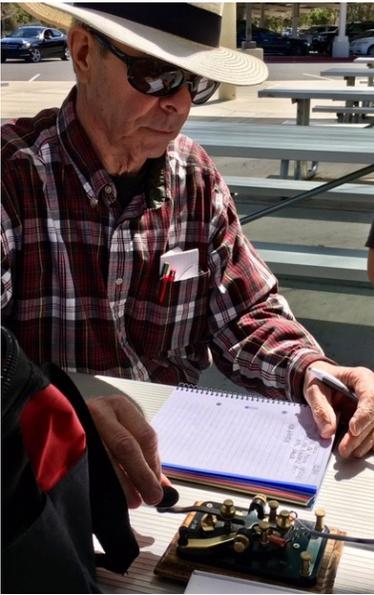
- >Pre-meeting dinner at 1700 attended by a few hams at the Dugout Sports Grill in Simi.
- >Regular meeting at the East County Sheriff's Station. Called to order at 1930 with Pledge of Allegiance.
- >Scheduled meeting activity was to be interactive Skype contact with **Bob Heil-K9EID**.
- >Internet problem with Bob caused delay in Skype ultimately leading to cancellation of the interview.
- >Quite a few new hams, members, and visitors were recognized.
- >Club lanyards for name tags are still available.
- >Holiday Party announced—December 7, Posada Royale in Simi, attendance tickets are \$25 each. There will be two raffles. Grand prize is solar panel and controller, need not be present to win. Tickets \$10 each or three for \$25. Second prize is a digital dual band hand held radio, must be present to win, winner drawn from all the yearly raffle stubs. Sign ups are being taken.
- >Donations to the club through the efforts of club members were noted.
  - >**Steve-KC6IJM**, received and donated \$400 from Northrup-Grumman recognizing his volunteerism.
  - >**Brad-W6VO**, received and donated \$1,000 from Rotary Westlake Village recognizing his community service.
- >Nominations were requested for the annual Hugh Bosma Award.
- >Club elections will take place in November. Nominations will be announced in October. Any member may run for any office. Newer hams as well as anyone is encouraged to run for office. The non-elected Raffle Coordinator is needed too. It just requires buying the monthly prizes and conducting the raffle during meetings.
- >Proposed plans for the October 7 picnic and QSO party will have to be pushed back, maybe November.
- >The antenna building project by **Adrian-K6KY** will also be pushed back, maybe November.
- >**Jeff-AA6JR** announced the next VE testing session on October 8. Many new hams have been very successful in training and testing through CVARC and the VE program. Jeff also said that CQ Magazine will feature his pictures of the CVARC Field Day on the cover and also in their 2018 calendar.
- >Recent emergency conditions were discussed. **Ben-AI6YR** was noted as providing and relaying hurricane messages. **Rob-W6RH** and **Rick-KQ6NO** talked about local events and preparedness activities. Some newer hams talked about experimenting with VHF simplex as well as repeaters under various operating conditions.
- >A number of club members went to Oregon and Idaho and other northern areas during the eclipse and reported on seeing the eclipse as well as radio operating during the event time. Using the reverse beacon system was mentioned as a measure of propagation.
- >Another member talked about the Route 66 event and the special QSL cards.
- >The recent LA Hamvention was discussed and another one soon in San Ramon was mentioned.
- >Packet is regaining popularity. Many EOCs have packet and many other stations are on the air.



# Getting on the Air

## Setting Up Your Station—Make it Convenient

by Norm Campbell—AB6ET



As simple as it sounds, to get on the air you have to have your station set up and in place. And to make that happen it has to be convenient.

Anyone can throw a lash up together and get on the air, but to stay on the air consistently your station has to be in place and connected. Anything can work for a while, but if it starts taking more time to set up than it does to operate then radio turns into work. It doesn't have to be totally permanent, but you have to have everything you need to get on the air.

Find a place where you set up that you can sit, write, and operate. Some hams are lucky enough to have a dedicated room. Others are under the stairs, in a cabinet, on a workbench, or in a corner. A desk, some shelves, or boards can work for you. What you want is to have a place where you can put your radio and accessories, as well as have a place for the mic, key, and earphones. Have a writing space with a bit of storage for paperwork and reference material, maybe a computer too. Look at various stations on the pages of QRZ.COM for ideas, or visit local hams to see what works for them.

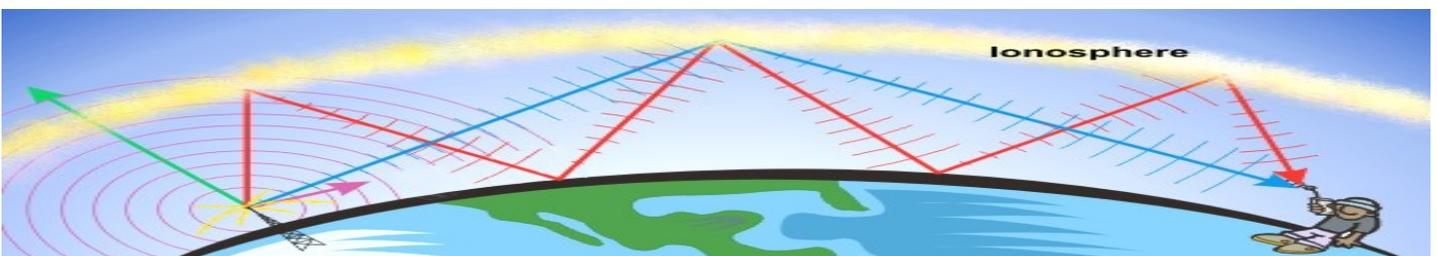
Remember that you will need electrical connections for power supplies and accessories. Do you have some sockets nearby with the current capability you will need? How about heavy duty extension cords too? Leave some room behind the radios for all the electrical connections you'll need. Think about tags on the wires so you know what goes to what the next time you add or disconnect something.

Nothing has to be solidly bolted down. After a while you might decide to move things around. You can make it even more convenient as you use it more frequently and find out what works best. Make it easy for yourself to get behind, move around, swap out, add, or subtract your equipment.

And make your antennas convenient too. Having your antennas up all the time and connected makes it much easier to get on the air. But antennas are not permanent either. Set them up with the idea that you can get to them again, take down, put up, experiment, and use.

Consider where you will bring in your antenna feedlines. There may be a few depending on what you plan to operate. Even if you only have one or two now, there may be more in the future so think about how you plan to bring them into the shack.

The beauty of radio is that no one can see it on the other end. So get your radio gear conveniently in place and start using it.





# The Helpful Ham Uses His Skills Every Day

*Don't wait for that Once in a Lifetime Emergency to use your ham skills!*

by Ben Kuo, AI6YR

The ham radio community likes to talk about how ham radio will be useful if there is every a big earthquake (i.e. The Big One). However, why wait for that once in a lifetime event to be helpful as a ham? And, will anyone want to use a ham radio operator when they're not used to, especially in an emergency?

Here are a few stories – and tips – on how, instead of drilling and worrying about the next big earthquake, how ham radio can be useful in everyday life – and better polish your skills so that you actually might pick up your radio and be helpful in a real emergency.

## 1. Hang Out On The Repeaters!

You're not useful if you're not there—so make sure you program your radios to the local repeaters, and make sure to come back if someone makes a call. Even if you don't have much time, let the other operator know you've heard them, and that someone is listening. Program the repeaters into the transceiver you have installed in your automobile (you do have one of those installed, don't you?), and just scan. You don't have to get into a long QSO or ragchew, just let folks on the repeater know you're there!

One local ham I know tells me the story about hearing someone on BOZO one day, where someone kept putting out their call. No one answered. Detecting a note of concern in the calling ham's voice, he came back, and lo and behold—there was a need for urgent (but not emergency) traffic! It turns out, the ham calling out on the repeater (and not getting any answers) had gone out with his buddies to Santa Cruz Island, part of the Channel Islands National Park. They'd been hoping to come home that day, but due to rough seas and weather – they weren't able to get off the island! Anyone who's been out there knows there is no cell phone service on the island – and really no way to get a message to shore. It was no emergency, but the ham at home was able to copy down contact names and numbers, and make some phone calls to let families know what the situation was, and to keep people from worrying. If he'd just let that call go on the repeater, the poor ham on the island would have been SOL and some families would have been extremely worried without that traffic handling.

Similarly, I've specifically hung out on the repeaters when I know someone is out on a long trip. My son (KK6ODQ), for example, went on a sailing trip (out around Anacapa Island), where they unfortunately hit a rock. They contacted the Coast Guard and limped back towards shore, however, they were forced to motor back in at a very slow speed. Instead of arriving back at port around 3pm, they expected it would be 6pm or 7pm before they were back—all while worrying about a sinking boat! A quick call by my son allowed me to inform the parents of everyone on the trip, and keep updated every half hour.

## 2. Keep those simplex calling frequencies going, too!

Similar, to repeaters, keep simplex calling frequencies in your scan list, and check them often. One of the first things a new ham does, is get on 146.520 and see who they can call up on the air! The answer today, sadly, is... almost no one. I keep a spare radio on 146.520 all the time, and – as a result – have been the first, real, ham radio contact for a number of first time ham operators. If the existing ham community isn't

(Continued on Page 6)

## The Helpful Ham Uses His Skills Every Day—Continued

listening on simplex, those new hams figure that ham radio is dead, lose enthusiasm for the hobby, and never truly join our ranks!

### 3. Pay attention to non-ham radio frequencies.

Do you know what your local police department and fire department use for their dispatch channel? For hams, it's easy enough to listen in on the local police and fire departments. (for example, here in Ventura County, the local police dispatch on 156.150, fire on 155.055). It's worth knowing these frequencies, and listening in to see what's going on. If you don't know what those frequencies are today, and aren't paying attention, don't know the lingo, and are otherwise clueless – when it's useful to have those frequencies (wildfire, earthquake, etc.) you won't know how to get to them.

The other frequencies to pay attention to are the National Weather Service (local broadcasts of weather on the radio at 162.400 and 162.425 work really well for me), where you get up to date weather alerts and broadcasts and other important information on storms. This works even if you're out of Internet range, when you're up on a mountain top, out on the ocean, or in the middle of the desert.

Want to demonstrate the usefulness of ham radio to someone not familiar with the radio? Show them the police, fire, and weather – and you'll have them hooked. Nowadays, there's a half dozen non-hams who will call or text me to ask why they heard sirens, what's going on with the police activity, etc. etc. etc.—and who are seriously thinking it would be good to know how to tune into that information on the radio.

### 4. Keep other people informed on traffic, fires, etc.!

All too often, we here in Southern California face traffic jams and wildfires. All too often, I'll be stuck in traffic, or see a fire break out, and tune into the local repeaters – and crickets. If hams aren't using the radio to let people know what's going on locally – whether the giant traffic jam on the 101, or the massive wildfire in Santa Barbara which has closed off the PCH—what good will we be in bigger emergencies? Get on the air! Put your call out, mention to anyone listening (hopefully, people following tip #1!) that there's a big fire, you might want to tune into the fire frequencies to see what's going on. Do a little talking and communicating! I watched this week as people on social media (Twitter, Facebook) complained they didn't know what was going on with the big La Tuna fire in Los Angeles. As ham radio operators, we're in the rare position of actually knowing where to get that first hand information (see #3) – tuning into the local fire frequencies, passing on tidbits of information to other hams. I listened in on the Santa Barbara repeaters over the last two big fires up in that direction, and there was always a stream of information and updates from folks there on what was going on! Even if no one else appeared to be on the repeater, someone would put on an update. “Fire department says they are calling up two air units!” “The 154 is now shut down”. We should be doing the same!

Anyway, those are a few hints and tips I'd throw out there on how to make us more useful as hams—at least in my opinion. If we're not on the air on a normal day, how useful will we be, really, in an emergency?

Ben  
AI6YR

# Technician License and General License Classes

Amateur radio license training classes will be held in the Community Room of the East County Sheriff's Station on Olsen Road in November/December followed by an FCC license test. The entry level license is the Technician Class with privileges granted for VHF and UHF frequencies. More radio privileges/frequencies are granted with the General Class.

There is no charge for the classes as this is a Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsored community training activity. Study materials are required and need to be purchased before class. There is a materials fee for the testing. The FCC Volunteer Examiner testing date for all classes of licenses is Sunday, December 10 at the same location at 8:30 am.

Technician Class: The dates are four Saturdays: November 11, 18, December 2, and 9, from 1pm to 5pm. Contact instructor Bill Willcox-KF6JQO for more information about registration and required material at: [william\\_willcox@pacbell.net](mailto:william_willcox@pacbell.net).

General Class: The dates are four Saturdays: November 18, 25, December 2, 9, from 9am to 1pm. Contact instructor Zak Cohen-N6PK for more information about registration and required material at: [zcohen@ieee.org](mailto:zcohen@ieee.org).

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## Scheduled CVARC Speakers and Topics

**Thursday, October 19, 2017 - 6 Meter Scatter & Sporadic E Propagation:** Adrian Jarrett-K6KY.

To Be Rescheduled: The presentation originally scheduled for this meeting, **Restoring WW2 Era Radios** by John Castorina-WB6AZP, will need to be rescheduled.

**Thursday, November 16, 2017 - Arduino Projects for Amateur Radio:** Dennis Kidder-W6DQ talks about ways to increase the functionality and value of your ham radio without spending a lot of money. Dennis will explain how you can add hundreds of dollars' worth of upgrades to your existing equipment with low cost, do-it-yourself microcontroller projects.

**December, 2017 – CVARC Holiday Party** 6 p.m. Posada Royal Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley: Details and ticket purchase information at [CVARC.org](http://CVARC.org).

## 2018

**Thursday, January 18, 2018 - Emergency Preparedness:** Bill Boyd, Emergency Manager with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services discusses emergency preparedness and communication in Ventura County.

**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.

# Event Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Links</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
October 16 – 20	School Club Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup</a>	
October 19	CVARC General Mtg. ECSS 7:30 pm Topic: Restoring WW2 era Radios		
October 21	Jamboree 9 am – 5pm Banyan Park in Newbury Park - Ben Kuo		
October 22	Ventura Marathon-Ojai to Ventura		
October 28 – 29	CQ Worldwide DX Contest-SSB	<a href="http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>	
November 6	ACS/ARES District Meeting 7:30 pm		
November 9	CVARC Board Mtg. Westlake City Hall 7:30 pm		
November 11	Oxnard High School Band Contest		
November 12	Red Cross Ride For The Red Bike Ride		
November 16	CVARC General Mtg. ECSS 7:30 pm Topic: Arduino Projects for Amateur Radio		
November 18 - 20	ARRL November Sweepstakes-Phone	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>	
December 1 – 3	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">http://www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>	
December 2	Skywarn Recognition Day 6:30 am NWS office Oxnard		
December 7	CVARC Holiday Party 6 p.m. Posada Royal Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley Details and ticket purchase information at <a href="http://CVARC.org">CVARC.org</a> .		
December 9	Camarillo Christmas Parade Ted Lansing	<a href="mailto:W6TEL@arrl.net">W6TEL@arrl.net</a>	
December 9 – 10	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">http://www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>	
December 10	Santa To The Sea Half Marathon		
December 10	CVARC VE Exam ECSS Community Rm 8:30 am		



# 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](mailto: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>
October 15	Arie-WA6RIE
October 22	Bob-W6CJX
October 29	Todd-KD6RCM

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

Todd-KD6RCM

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## 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](mailto: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.



## 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.

# The Ham Cam



Ham shack? Well, not exactly...  
Any guesses where this is?  
Email me at  
[sforman66@icloud.com](mailto:sforman66@icloud.com).

The answer will be in next  
month's newsletter.



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 [sforman66@icloud.com](mailto:sforman66@icloud.com).



- As some of you may know, a few of us have been working with the family of the late **Terry Graves (K7FE/sk)** to find new homes for many of his Amateur Radio and engineering *Treasurers*, while at the same time trying to recover some much-needed revenue for the family. To that end, in May, 2017, we published the first list (i.e., Rev. 1.0) of “**For Sale**” items for your review and consideration. We will try to keep the list as *current* and *accurate* as possible, dropping items that are either PENDING SALE or SOLD, refining item information as appropriate, and adding items as they become available.

Items currently available for purchase are listed at <http://terrygraves.org>

\* \* \*

- Field Strength Meter (assembled). From the recent Project Build—\$40

Contact Eric-WB6PYK at [WB6PYK@arrl.net](mailto:WB6PYK@arrl.net)

If you have gear for sale, and you'd like to have it included in upcoming CVARC Newsletters, please send a brief description of each item, the price, your name and contact info and, if necessary, a photo to Stu-KK6VYS at [sforman66@icloud.com](mailto:sforman66@icloud.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.

CVARC single membership is \$20 per year. For a multi-year single membership, the special rate is \$16 per year. Family membership is \$25 per year. A special \$10 first year membership rate is offered to new hams licensed in the last 12 months and full-time students. CVARC membership dues are payable in May. If you are joining the club during any other month of the year, please contact [info@cvarc.org](mailto:info@cvarc.org) or the club treasurer Christian Ylagan at a club meeting for the proper, prorated dues amount to get you on a May renewal schedule. 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.