

www.cvarc.org

November 2017

QUA CVARC

A Newsletter for the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

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I got an email recently from a ham who said he had his Technician license for three years now, but hadn't used it once. He said he still found it all a bit confusing and would love to learn more. But, he was unsure how welcoming experienced hams would be and wondered if CVARC would be a good fit for him.

I told him he wasn't alone, that we have a lot of people in CVARC who have taken up ham radio later in life -- or like him -- found it hard to get started and have never done much with their license. I told him we work very hard to tailor our programs and events to be of interest to hams at all levels of experience.

I also pointed out something I try to do at the club meetings. That is, I ask new members or visitors to stand up and introduce

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

Club Meeting and Pre-Meeting Dinner Information

The next regular club meeting is Thursday, November 16, 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: 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. Add hundreds of dollars' worth of upgrades to your existing equipment with low cost, do-it-yourself microcontroller projects.

Raffle Grand Prize: ARRL Handbook, valued at \$49.95. Also, a windup AM/FM/NOAA Emergency Radio.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: Join fellow club members and our guest speaker for a pre-meeting dinner, at 5 p.m., at Don Cuco, 254 W. Los Angeles Ave., Moorpark, (805)523-2261.

President's Message - Continued

themselves. Then the Members at Large are pointed out. I ask these club officers to meet new people during the break to get an idea of what they are interested in and what they would like to learn about the hobby. We then try to put them in touch with other club members with similar interests or experiences. The social time at the pre-meeting dinners, before the meeting, and during the break can often be the most valuable part of attending a CVARC meeting.

I mentioned that CVARC is also a gateway to number of related activities where a new ham can get comfortable on the air -- from events like Field Days, radio nets at community events, to emergency communications volunteer work.

I told him we are a friendly group and I've found almost everyone is happy to answer questions and share their experience. We run a special net for new hams, the "Newbie Net," every Sunday at 7pm on the Bozo Repeater, 147.885- PL 127.3. It is specifically designed for newly licensed amateurs or those coming back into the hobby. And of course many Elmers who want to share their knowledge and "pay it forward" participate as well.

Keeping CVARC as a friendly destination for new hams is one of the important responsibilities of the club's Board of Directors. We'll be electing a new board for 2018 at the November 16th meeting. We'll still accept nominations up until the final vote. The nominating committee has presented this slate of candidates for your consideration:

Nominees for 2018 CVARC Board of Directors

President	Stu Forman-KK6VYS
Vice President	Mark Horner-KK6IKX
Secretary	Andy Ludlum-K6AGL
Editor/Publisher	Stu Forman-KK6VYS
Education	Bill Willcox-KF6JQO
Technical	Adrian Jarrett-K6KY
Treasurer	Christian Ylagan-K6CAY
Operations	Steve Gillis-KZ6H
Public Relations	Joe Sprissler-AI6MW
Social	Mike Felio-KM6EII
Member at Large	Zak Cohen-N6PK
Member at Large	Tim Wheeler-K6POI
Member at Large	Ben Herrera-W6JWZ

The annual CVARC Holiday Party is on Thursday, December 7th at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel and Suites in Simi Valley. We're selling tickets and a good number of you signed up at the September and October meetings, but there's still room for more members and guests. The cost is \$25 per person. Be sure to get your tickets at the November meeting.

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President's Message - Continued

We'll have two raffles at the party. First, from all the tickets that have been sold during the year at the monthly club meeting raffles, we'll select the winner of a TYT DMR Digital Two-Way handheld radio. You must be present at the party to win this prize. Second, we'll have a "Big Raffle" featuring solar/battery products from Bioenno Power:

- 12V/24V, 20A Solar Charge Controller for LiFePO4 Batteries
- 80 Watt Foldable 12V, 12Ah LFP Battery
- Solar Panel for Charging Power Packs + Padded Case

This is a \$350 value!

While we will pick the winning ticket at the party, you are NOT required to be present to win. We're selling single "Big Raffle" 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.

See you there at the club meeting and at the party!

73,

Andy-K6AGL

Save the Date!

CVARC Winter Field Day Event

Saturday, January 27th



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 CVARC 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, Charley-KG6CLT at crpember@aol.com or Mark-KK6IKX at mahorner@sbcglobal.net. Technical questions should go to Eric-WB6PYK at WB6PYK@arrl.net.

October Meeting Summary

>About a dozen members gathered at Topper's Pizza in Thousand Oaks. The November pre-meeting dinner is at Don Cuco in Moorpark.

Andy-K6AGL

>Meeting began at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

>General announcements included:

>Notice of Technician and General amateur license training in November and December followed by a VE Testing session. Full details are in the newsletter and on the CVARC discussion group site.
>The CVARC annual holiday party is December 7 in Simi Valley at the Best Western Posada Royale. Tickets are available now at \$25 each, or sign up so the club can get a count. The grand prize, which was on display, is the Bioenno solar panel with controller and battery. Tickets for the grand prize are \$10 each or three for \$25. The second raffle prize is a dual band digital hand held radio. The winning ticket for it will be drawn from all monthly raffle tickets saved from the club meetings.



>Club officer elections for the 2018 Board of Directors were opened for nominations. There were no nominations from the general club members. The BOD Nominating Committee announced the proposed slate of officers who have all agreed to run for 2018 positions. The list of nominees was posted and discussed. The general election will take place at the November club meeting.

>Feature Presentation:

>**Adrian-K6KY** presented a slide show production and discussion about 6 meter digital modes used for Sporadic E and meteor scatter contacts. The newer programs of JT8 and MSK144 are quickly replacing previous digital methods and CW. The speed and sensitivity of the newer programs are the main reasons. His next experiment will be with moon bounce.

>**Eric-WB6PYK** provided coffee, and

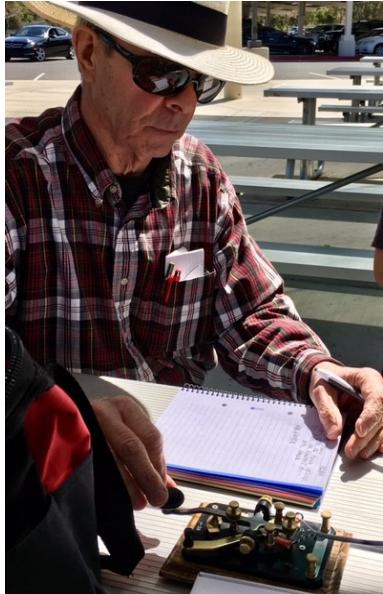
Christian-K6CAY brought cake.

>**Bill-KF6JQO** conducted the monthly raffle. In the future, **Dean-K6DIN** will move into the appointed position of Chief Raffle Conductor as Bill intends to move into an elected BOD position. **Norm-AB6ET** won the main prize, the newest 23d edition of the ARRL Antenna Book. He offered to loan it to any member wishing to borrow it.



Personalities of the HF Bands

by Norm Campbell—AB6ET



Each band has its own personality and characteristics. The sun and ionosphere, as well as other factors, cause the HF bands to be different during the day or at night and also at different times of the year. Getting on the air is the best way to find out what works and what doesn't. Pick a band, get on it, stay with it for a while. Tune around, move up and down across the band. Try different times of day.

HF bands are not quiet and solid copy like VHF/UHF FM simplex or repeaters. It takes a good ear to successfully hear HF signals. SSB has its own sound. CW has its own sound. Mix in QSB, noise, interference, other band conditions, and you have some listening to do to gain skill on HF.

With band conditions such as they are in relation to the sun cycle, the bands can be in or out. Sometimes they are in, but often limited. Sometimes they are really in and everything is possible. Sometimes they are out and you think your radio is broken. It takes listening, listening to WWV, checking propagation charts, beacons, and anything else available to us. Lower bands have been better, higher bands have been poorer. Mostly it takes turning the radio on.

Different parts of each band are set aside and regulated for each license class and also for phone or CW. And parts of those sections also have general use practices that can be determined by listening for a while. Check the frequency and band charts to determine what should be used and where. Theory is fine up to a point. What counts is practical application.

In general, these characteristics are what I've found for the HF bands. Everyone's experience is a little different, so get other opinions too. When hams got "200 meters and down," this is what we got.

160m: Nighttime band. No real experience using it. Have listened. Very low on HF, just above the AM broadcast band. Propagation similar to AM broadcast band, probably need a lot of power to make yourself heard. Some operators have made worldwide contacts even using lower power. Really long wavelength also means really long antenna.

80/75m: Nighttime band. 80m generally thought of as the CW portion, 75m generally thought of as phone portion. It's all called 80m. Often very good for local (short distance to a few hundred miles) but can open up now and then for very long distance communications. Lots of nets both voice and CW. Lots of high power stations on the air, but also ordinary power like us with 100w. Lots of activity including long time operators on the air burning up electrons. Beware of lids. Long wavelength, long antenna.

60m: Channelized. No real experience other than listening. Guessing characteristics somewhere between 80m and 40m at different times of day and night.

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Personalities of the HF Bands - Continued

40m: Daytime/Nighttime band. Propagation and conditions changing all the time. Real HF conditions apply. Pretty good all around band. Daytime good for local (short distance to a few hundred, maybe up to 1000 miles.) Nighttime can be worldwide, local goes away but might still be there. Night is also the time when foreign shortwave broadcast stations chew up the top part of the band. Lots of nets during daytime. Good experimental conditions for QRP. Lots of beginner and tolerant CW operators, but also high speed and experienced DXers too. Busy during contests. Digital operations use a certain part of the band. Antennas are long, but not as long, more manageable.

30m: Small CW only band, also a no contest band. Conditions should be similar to 40m and 20m but can vary greatly.

20m: Daytime/Nighttime band. Often thought of as a long or longer distance national and worldwide band. Usually not good for local contacts within a few hundred miles. Can be active day or night. Conditions change all the time. Some national nets, usually daytime. Lots of DX. Often very skilled operators, many "big gun" stations. Different activities on different parts of the CW and phone portions. Well established digital part of the band. Lots of activity during contests. Antennas are shorter, more manageable lengths, lots of varieties available.

17m: Mostly daytime/can be nighttime. Band conditions have to be checked, often the band is out, but you never know, check during daytime. But when it's in it's a nice band on both CW and SSB. Good for national contacts, maybe DX too. A no contest band. Also, shorter antennas due to higher frequency.

15m: Daytime. Usually the band is out. When it's in it's a good band for national and international contacts. On rare occasions the band is in at night, but you will have to wait a long time to find it. This is the band used on Wednesday nights on 21333 kHz at 7:00 pm for the CVARC local HF net. At that time of day the band is usually out so it's just ground wave local. Vertical antenna polarization has been found to be most useful in these local contacts at night. Antennas are getting short.

12m: No experience. The band is usually out. Upper end of band is near 25 mHz WWV. If you can hear WWV at that frequency maybe the band is in. A no contest band.

10m: Daytime. However, mostly the band is out these days. Ten meters is quirky and you have to listen a lot. One way to check is to listen for the beacons just below 28300 kHz. If the band is in you will hear the low power CW beacons from stations that are always on the air. When the band is in it's really in and a lot of fun. You can work the world on 10 watts. It's a huge band so regular HF activities like CW and SSB are lower. FM repeaters and simplex are higher. There is a Novice and Technician voice portion between 28300 and 28500 mHz. If there is activity on the band it's likely that's where you would find it. You never know. Since the band has been out for so long I don't often listen except to check beacons now and then. Antennas are even shorter.

Those are my experiences. Try it yourself and develop your own thoughts. Get on the air. Nothing is perfect and never will be. Just do it.

- Norm-AB6ET

Scheduled CVARC Speakers and Topics

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.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 – CVARC Holiday Party 6 p.m. Posada Royal Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley. Details and ticket information is available at CVARC.org, or see the President's Message on Page 2 of this Newsletter. NOTE: There is NO club meeting or Board of Directors meeting in December. Happy Holidays!

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 – Restoring WW2 Era Radios: John Castorina-WB6AZP discusses the restoration of WW2 radios sets for P-51D "Sierra Sue 2" (VHF) and P-51C "Lope's Hope" (HF) aircraft. He'll bring some examples of the equipment he supplied for aircraft.

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

Thursday, April 19, 2018 - Software Defined Radio and Remote Operation Demo

Thursday, May 17, 2018 - TBD

Thursday, June 21, 2018 - TBD

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.

CVARC VE Session Report – October 8, 2017



The October CVARC VE session served just four candidates. Among those who earned new licenses or upgrades at the session were:

Name	Call	New License Class
Ryan Blackman	KM6NFV	Technician
Margaret Schmidt	KM6NFW	Technician
Jerome Staszewski	KM6NFX	General
Robert Zingery	KM6NFY	Technician

CVARC conducts exams on the second Sunday of each even-numbered month. The next session will be held Sunday, December 10 at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station.

CVARC VE sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners. Participating Volunteer Examiners at the October session included; George Tamayo, WD6EJO; Stuart Sheldon, AG6AG; Robert Shank, KM6RSS; Greg Lane, K7SDW; and Rob Hanson, W6RH. CVARC 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

Event Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Links</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
November 11	CVARC Technician License Class — 4 Saturdays; 1 – 5pm ECSS Bill Willcox wiliam_willcox@pacbell.net ;		
November 11	Oxnard High School Band Contest — Stewart KG6BOV kg6bov@arrl.net		
November 11	North American SSB Sprint 0000z – 0400z https://ssbsprint.com/rules/		
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	CVARC General License Class - 4 Saturdays; 9-1pm ECSS Zak Cohen zcohen@ieee.org		
November 18	CVARC Technician License Class — 4 Saturdays; 1 – 5pm ECSS Bill Willcox wiliam_willcox@pacbell.net 2 nd class		
November 18 - 20	ARRL November Sweepstakes-Phone http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes		
November 19	Muddy Warriors Xperience Paramount Ranch, Agoura Zak Cohen zcohen@ieee.org		
November 25	CVARC General License Class - 4 Saturdays; 9-1pm ECSS Zak Cohen zcohen@ieee.org 2 nd class		
December 1 – 3	ARRL 160 Meter Contest http://www.arrl.org/160-meter		
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 CVARC.org .		
December 9	Camarillo Christmas Parade - Ted Lansing W6TEL@arrl.net		
December 9 – 10	ARRL 10 Meter Contest http://www.arrl.org/10-meter		
December 10	Santa To The Sea Half Marathon—Stewart KG6BOV kg6bov@arrl.net		
December 10	CVARC VE Exam ECSS Community Rm 8:30 am		
December 17	Rookie Roundup-CW http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup		
January 27	CVARC Winter Field Day Event—Details Coming Soon!		



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>
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November 12	Stu-AG6AG
November 19	OPEN
November 26	Todd-KD6RCM
December 3	OPEN Simplex Net to Follow on 146.550 MHz
December 10	OPEN
December 17	Todd-KD6RCM
December 24	OPEN
December 31	Stu-AG6AG

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

Todd-KD6RCM

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.



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



The ham shack of KE8EML, Floyd Johnson of Holton, MI.

Last month's Ham Cam featured these two photos and asked whether anyone could identify the location. We had several guesses, but none were correct. These photos were taken in the queue for the Grizzly River Run ride at Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim. Thanks to those who participated.



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.



- 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

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.

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 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.