



February 2018

QUA CVARC

A Newsletter for the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

President's Message

Stu Forman-KK6VYS

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After our Winter Field Day event last month, I spent a little time thinking about our hobby. But more specifically, I thought about the social aspect of ham radio and our club.

At its core, ham radio is about communications. Yet, much of the time, ham radio is an activity that we do alone. We work our stations from the comfort of our own homes – maybe in a home office or the garage - often while the rest of the family is off doing other things. Many of us wear headsets, which further immerse us in the radio world, AND isolate us from the rest of the world. Let's face it, ham radio can be a very solitary endeavor.

Yes, sometimes we have conversations with people in other parts of the country, and sometimes other parts of the world. But often we aren't having a conversation at all, we're just making a contact. We exchange call signs and signal reports, but there's no discussion. No exchange of ideas. For many of us, our time on the air is often little more than testing our equipment, or testing the band conditions. How far can I reach today? Will I add another state and get one closer to that Worked All States award? Will I work a new country? How will I do in this contest? There's

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QUA [CVARC](http://www.cvarc.org) Newsletter Editor
 Stu Forman—KK6VYS
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Club Meeting and Pre-Meeting Dinner Information

The next regular club meeting is Thursday, February 15, 2018 (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: *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.

Raffle Grand Prize: 48 watt soldering station, Raspberry Pi 3 Kit, and Arduino Projects for Ham Radio book.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: Join fellow club members and our guest speaker for a pre-meeting dinner, at 5 p.m., at Szechuan Garden, 484 E. Los Angeles Ave., Moorpark, (805)517-1930.

President's Message - Continued

nothing wrong with these pursuits. I enjoy these aspects of the hobby too. But, while this is communications on a technical level, it isn't very social.

So why do we do it? Why do we spend so much time alone, holed up in our shacks, chasing contacts and awards? Perhaps the point of these pursuits is so that we can tell others about them. It's nice to get together with other hams to share our experiences and our accomplishments, to ask questions and learn, and I love that CVARC offers so many opportunities to do that.

CVARC is a large club, now at over 160 members, and we routinely have 50 or so members and guests attend our monthly meetings. Many come early to socialize. There's always lively chatter during the break and, after the meeting, it sometimes takes a little push to get people out the door. Every monthly meeting feels like a reunion. "What have you been up to since last month?" Maybe you participated in a recent contest, or tried a new mode, or built an antenna, or acquired some new gear. Everyone, it seems, has something to share.

We also typically have about a dozen or so people attend the pre-meeting dinners. If you're a new ham or new to CVARC, it's a great way to get to know some of the club members, and perhaps get answers to any questions you might have. Communication *is* happening at CVARC. It's nice to get out of the shack. We ARE a social club.

Winter Field Day this year was a little cold, and a little windy. Contacts were few, but everyone still seemed to be having fun. And isn't *that* what it's all about?

73,

Stu-KK6VYS



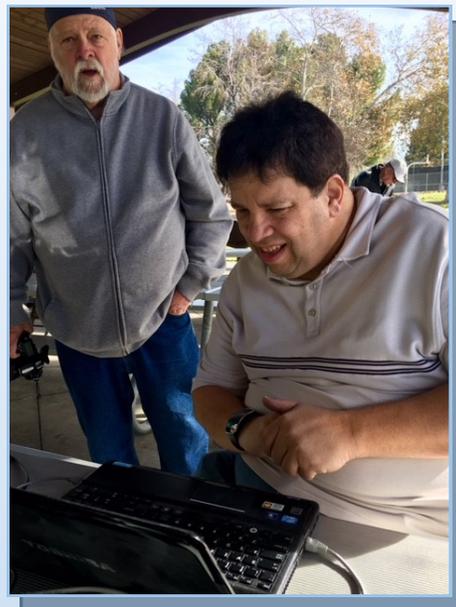
**Save the Date
April 15th
Mini-Field Day**

Reminders:

- CVARC Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 pm, at the Westlake Village City Hall. All CVARC members are welcome.
- If you haven't done so 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, Zak Cohen-N6PK at zakc99@aol.com, Tim Wheeler-K6POI at tim.k6poi@gmail.com or Ben Herrera-W6JWZ at w6jwz@outlook.com. Technical questions should go to Adrian Jarrett-K6KY at g4frz@hotmail.com.

Winter Field Day 2018





N6ZE WILL SPEAK ON VHF CONTESTING FOR NEWBIES AT THE APRIL CVARC MEETING!!!

Comments On The ARRL's January 2018 VHF/UHF Contest

By Pete Heins, N6ZE/Rover

N6ZE/Rover did a different rove this time:

On Saturday, N6ZE/Rover, made 42QSOs in DM03/DM04 on 4 bands from local small hill within city limits of Thousand Oaks, CA (DM04ne): FT857 and whips for 6/2/70 + TM231 & whip for 135cm

On Sunday, N6ZE/R made 31QSOs on 3 bands with FT857/whips while in motion Northbound on Interstate 5 and successfully made QSOS from 6 grids: DM05/CM96/CM97/CM98/CM88/CM89

Each VHF/UHF contest provides different challenges, achievements, & a chance to communicate directly with fellow VHF/UHFers. (VHF/UHF Contests do not permit use of Repeaters.)

The January 2018 ARRL VHF Contest presented me with some unusual challenges due to a variety of changes to scheduling plans! Originally, I planned to operate from DM04, DM03, DM13, and possibly DM14. (CM94, a nearby grid I frequently utilize was unavailable because of the US-101 highway closure in Santa Barbara Co. due to mud slides.

My QTH in Thousand Oaks, CA, is located in the Conejo Valley, a valley area surrounded in all directions by substantially higher ridges & mountains. By operating as a Rover during VHF Contests, I travel to unobstructed hilltops to be able to make QSOs without nearby mountain ridges to interfere with my VHF/UHF signals. I frequently operate from various locations about 2500 ft above sea level in the Santa Monica Mts. and typically can work out as North as Sacramento, CA.

During a 3.5 hour period on Saturday, I made 42 QSOs, mostly from the top of a small hill located within the city limits of Thousand Oaks, CA and a few QSOs were made while driving. Two round trips to the hill involved about 4 miles of travel. I made QSOs on both 6 & 2 meters with stations in both DM03 & DM04. 135 cm (223.5 MHz) & 70 cm provided QSOs with others in DM04 only. With an Yaesu FT857 and a Kenwood TM-231A, and ¼ wave whip antennas, I made 11 QSOs on 6 meters, 13 QSOs on 2 meters, 9 QSOS on 223.5 MHz FM, & 9 QSOs on 70 cm.

On Saturday night, I went to bed with the assumption that I'd probably operate for a bit on Sunday from DM04 in the Santa Monica Mts, with a bit of a drive to the South to make some QSOs from DM03 so that I could truly qualify as a Rover. **WRONG!** Early on Sunday morning with a 'pretty decent' weather forecast to Northern California & Oregon, my Robin (W7PBJ), my XYL, & I made the decision to drive up to Seattle, WA to transport some household furnishings not suitable to transport by air. **SO:** we decided to drive Interstate highway I-5 North to Seattle. On Sunday afternoon, Robin drove, so I was able to make 31 QSOs on 3 bands with the FT857 and ¼ wave whip antennas; N6ZE/R successfully activated Grids DM05, CM96, CM97, CM98, CM88, & CM89 and we traveled 450 miles. During the Sunday Rove, I completed 9 QSOs from CM96, 6 QSOs from CM97 & CM98, and 2 QSOs from CM88 & CM89. Thanks to WA6IKE, I was able to make contacts with him (CM98) & KJ6KO (CM98) during my 12 minutes in CM88 and 9 minutes in CM89! For safety reasons, I terminated my Rove at sundown at Arbuckle, CA. and assumed the driving duties to our Redding, CA hotel.

To encourage VHF Contest activity in Socal (and also to encourage operators to contact me!) I typically announce VHF Contests on the web sites for several Ventura County Amateur Radio Clubs, the ARRL Santa Barbara Section, the Western States Weak Signal Society, the Pacific Northwest VHF Society, the W6YX

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Comments On The ARRL's January 2018 VHF/UHF Contest—Continued

Stanford VHF Reflector, the San Bernardino Microwave Society, and VHF Contesting. Because my home operating area, the Conejo Valley, is surrounded by hills and mountains, I make the special announcements to inform the members of both the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) and the Ventura County Amateur Radio Society (VCARS): both to encourage my local hams to get on the air AND to demonstrate to newer hams and those unfamiliar with non-repeater operations that VHF/UHF QSOs can be made without using a repeater.

With the advent of the digital mode, FT-8, some 8 month ago, a lot of VHF contesting activity has shifted from SSB/FM/CW modes to FT-8. Many hams have absolutely embraced this new way of making QSOs easily. I regard FT-8 as part of the ham's 'tool kit', but I feel that it has a couple of notable limitations. An FT-8 QSO takes more time to complete than a quick voice Contest exchange. For those of us who compete in the Rover category, a laptop computer takes up a lot of space in a cramped vehicle and scribbling on a 'yellow pad' is often the easiest way to keep track of QSO data. From my very recent experience, sitting in the front passenger seat to operate the contest, while my XYL drove was not particularly pleasant!! I initially used an app on my cellphone for Grid Locator info, but the app froze up after an hour of use. I then reverted to my ancient grid chart: An Auto Club California map with grid boundaries drawn on it. I held the FT857 control head in my lap and utilized my 'yellow pad' for data entry. Despite having flown for thousands of hours in airplanes, looking down into my lap for extended periods as we bounced along on the highway made me nauseous once in a while.

I really enjoyed my Rove through the Sacramento & San Joaquin Valleys and spending time working my DM04ne club members! I'm looking forward to the Spring SPRINTS and the June 2018 ARRL VHF Contest.

Historical trivia: As an Unlimited Rover entry in the January 2016 ARRL VHF Contest, I made a total of 76QSOs, worked 22 grids on 5 bands, activated 3 grids in SoCal & WA. My score of 2350 points in January 2016 tied my results in January 2018!

- Pete-N6ZE

**THE NEW KENWOOD TS9990
CONTESTING TRANSCEIVER**



The image shows a Kenwood TS9990 radio transceiver, which is a multi-functional device. It features a built-in microwave oven on the left side, a 10-cup coffee pot in the center, and a 2.3 cubic foot refrigerator on the right side. The radio itself is a high-performance contesting transceiver with a large LCD display showing frequency and signal strength, and numerous control knobs and buttons. The refrigerator is open, revealing various items inside, including a banana, a water bottle, and some canned goods.

**1500 WATTS (MICROWAVE)
2.3 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
10 CUP COFFEE POT
200 WATT PEP SSB***

*ACTUAL OUTPUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF APPLIANCES CONCURRENTLY RUNNING

Planned CVARC Speakers and Topics

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 - Elecraft

Thursday, April 19, 2018 – Contesting

Thursday, May 17, 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, June 21, 2018 – Field Day History

Thursday, July 19, 2018 – Logging Software

Thursday, August 16, 2018 – Mobile Operation

Thursday, September 20, 2018 – DMR

Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Repeater Systems

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – Antennas

Thursday, December 13, 2018 – CVARC Holiday Party

The Speakers Committee (Mark Horner-KK6IKX 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.

Note: This is the latest schedule of planned Speakers and Topics. It is always a work-in-progress, and sometimes it becomes necessary to reschedule a speaker to another date. We apologize for any confusion.

Event Calendar

- February 11 CVARC VE Exam - East County Sheriff's Station Community Rm. 8:30 am
- February 12 – 16 School Club Roundup - <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- February 15 CVARC General Meeting 7:30 pm East County Sheriff's Station
Topic: Restoring WW2 Era Radios
- February 17 – 18 International DX contest-CW - <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- Feb 18 – 19 Class Exchange Contest, Phone 1400 – 0800 UTC
<http://www.classicexchange.org/jan18/jan18ann.html>
- March 3 - 4 International DX contest-Phone
<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- March 4 Crop Walk-Area 2 Zak n6pk@arrl.net
- March 4 – 5 International DX contest-Phone
- March 5 ACS/ARES District Meeting ECSS 7:30 pm
- March 8 CVARC Board Meeting 7:00 pm Westlake City Hall
- March 8 – 11 Southern California Linux Expo (SCaLE) N6S
Pasadena Convention Center
<https://www.socallinuxexpo.org/scale/16x>
- March 10 Extra Class License classes begin - East County Sheriff's Station
5 Saturdays, 8:00 - 12:00 - Contact william_willcox@pacbell.net
- March 15 CVARC General Meeting 7:30 pm East County Sheriff's Station
Topic: Contesting
- March 17 Technician License classes begin - East County Sheriff's Station
5 Saturdays, 1:00 - 5:00 - Contact william_willcox@pacbell.net
- April 8 CVARC VE Exam ECSS Community Rm 8:30 am
- April 12 CVARC Board Meeting 7:00 pm Westlake City Hall
- April 19 CVARC General Meeting 7:30 pm ECSS Topic
- April 29 Aut2Run CSUCI
- May 27 Mountain to the Beach Marathon



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> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| February 11 | Norm-AB6ET |
| February 18 | Stu-AG6AG |
| February 25 | OPEN |

Net Control Operators, 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

Here are a couple of pictures of the boatanchor side of the K6KY shack.

The first picture, the left end of the boatanchors, has a HP Spectrum analyser top shelf left (for use with a Heathkit Apache), with HP dual variable supply and an audio signal generator.



The middle shelf has the Yaesu FLDX400 and FRDX400 twins. The transmit scheme in the transmitter is rather complicated. The receiver was a bear to get going due to damaged ceramic filters. The receiver is somewhat deaf on the higher bands and I have not yet found out the root cause. The transmitter and receiver can be linked together, although, due to the LO scheme, they tend not to be on exactly the same frequency, making HF QSOs a challenge. On the right is an old, trusty Ameritron 1.5kW ATU.

The bottom shelf has a Drake TR4, an Eddystone EC10 and a ICOM 735. The Drake is an excellent radio and its performance challenges more modern rigs. The circuit design makes modernization and upgrades difficult in terms of bands covered and filter improvements. The Eddystone EC10 was a receiver from my youth. I almost bought one with my first years wages working in a hardware store, but ended up with a Trio (Kenwood in the States) 9R59DS, which had bandspread on the ham bands. The EC10 sports germanium PNP transistors and so needs a -12V supply. These early transistors tend to fail, and so this model has been converted to silicon NPN transistors and +12V supply. Why? It was something to try.

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The Ham Cam—Continued

The IC735, with coveted Perspex switch cover in place, is a good radio. However it does not play fair at Field Day as it has a lot of broadband synthesizer noise when in transmit. This one has been fitted with narrow SSB and CW filters. It has also been converted to operate on 475kHz, the new 630 meter band, with about 50 Watts out. The next task is to put up a 630 meter antenna, although that will take a little time.



The second picture, the right hand end of the boatanchors, sports on the top shelf, far left a few books featuring vacuum tube data books, a Knight VFO, two HP digital function generators, a HP power meter, a PAL/NTSC display. The middle shelf supports a box of connectors, a Halicrafters SX-99, two trays of adapters, a Johnson Viking VFO, an Eddystone 840, and an Eddystone 770. The Eddystone dial in these models has an effective scale length of 57 feet. The 840 is a standard 550kHz to 30MHz, with 455kHz IF and the 770 covers 20MHz to 200MHz. Both are great for HF AM reception. Squeezed on top of the 770 is an AKD HF3 receiver. I use this transistorized receiver as an AM receiver because the digital readout is accurate enough to keep the boatanchors in-band.

The lower shelf is held down with an FT101EE, the first junker radio I bought from eBay. Quite a puzzle to get going, it provided a good few weeks of entertainment. The FT101 is held down with a Variac, for powering up boat anchors nice and slow. Next to the 101 is a Standard Radio B40, the first commercial receiver I had. It covers 1 to 15MHz with a nice spiral scale and dates from 1946. Next to that is a Johnson Viking II and a Heathkit Apache. Both these radios run 100W of plate modulated AM, and can be heard on 40m AM at 7291-7295kHz. It is said that the Apache can operate on many different frequencies, most of them at the same time. That is where the Spectrum analyser in picture 1 comes in handy.

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The Ham Cam—Continued

Eddystone was a well-known, now sadly defunct, British radio company. The 840 was made for use across the Empire, sporting a power supply that could run on AC or DC, with an adjustment to suit line voltages from 100 to 250 Volts. The case design allows for a live chassis, and so the case is insulated by an array of plastic and Bakelite fittings. I fitted a 3-conductor power cord to make sure that the chassis was at neutral and the case grounded. The radio would operate quite happily with the chassis connected to live, but maintenance would become somewhat exciting.

- Adrian-K6KY

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.



- CW Automatic Keyer, \$20.

KE Electronics "SQ Auto Keyer." Has built in paddles. Also does iambic keying. Older keyer, made for grid block keying, may not work with newer type radios. Otherwise it would still be a great code practice oscillator... Norm-AB6ET, radioab6et@verizon.net, (805) 990-4972

For Sale - Continued

This is the WW2 receiver you always wanted.

BC-348-R, working, clean, and already nicely converted to 110V. No outrageous modifications. General coverage receiver up to 18 Mhz. Used in bigger airplanes in WW2 such as B-17, B-29, etc. Of course it has quirks, but this is the way radio used to be and would be perfect for a vintage station or to relive the old days. \$100. Needs high impedance earphones or speaker with matching transformer. Has to be local, very heavy radio, about 30-40 pounds...



Norm-AB6ET, radioab6et@verizon.net, 805 990-4972

* * *

- 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>

* * *

- Connect Systems CS700, UHF DMR handheld. Like new, never used, never programmed, only charged battery. Complete with box and programming cable. \$100 firm. Contact Norm-AB6ET, radioab6et@verizon.net or 805-990-4972



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.