

October
2008

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message by Greg Lane, K7SDW

Whatever happened to our "Elmers?" Having recently retired has provided me a new outlook on what I can do with my time. As many of us approach retirement (for those who can afford to), volunteering your talents to organizations of your choice will keep your RF circuits alive and well. Boy, are mine activated! What about yours? Many of us may come to a meeting and forget to ask the person next to us (hopefully you sat next to someone you don't know) what part of Ham radio are they interested in.

Too many of us take for granted that all the ham radio and personal experiences we have digested may be the same for others. But they are not. Many of our new hams and members need an "Elmer," someone to help them through the bumps and grinds of the "unknown to them" of the hobby. So, please introduce yourselves to someone you don't know, as a minimum, first name, call sign and what part of the hobby do they enjoy most.

October is nomination month for officers for 2009. I would like some of the new and old members to really think about contributing next year their time to the board or on one of the board committees. This is a good time to go to the web site and review the By-laws as to the description of the position and the responsibility asked for.

President's Message, continued on page 2

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October Club Meeting "Coast Guard Auxiliary"

Glen Kinney, KD6HJR, will be speaking on the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He will be including information about the history and the opportunities for people interested in communications to contribute to society. Glen will present a short video and slide presentation.

Glen, KD6HJR (Happy Junior Ranger) is an honest-to-goodness park ranger and frequents the Grissom (K6AER) repeater. Glen is a technician + and was initially licensed in 1992. He has been a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since 2001 and is currently the Division Communications Services Officer for D7. He is also Vice Flotilla Commander elect for Flotilla 77.

Join us for this fun, interesting, change-of-pace session Thursday October 16th at CVARC's regularly scheduled meeting.

As always, the CVARC club meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month at the East County Sheriff Station located at:

2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

This facility is just off of the 23 freeway between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Message, continued from front page...

We have a lot of great ideas and talents in our membership and many of you are members of other clubs as well. I hope most of you are not "just a joiner, once a month come if the speaker is interesting, etc." Some of the interaction during the break and if we have a quick "brag" session provides the opportunity to grow in the hobby and the friends brought along by being in it.

Members are allowed to advertise their own equipment for sale, but the board is looking in to providing a spot on the web site to allow members to indicate what they are willing to part with, be it free for pick up or small price to pay. I would think this will be only local and with local pick up of the items, as CVARC is not in the position to become a clearing house for all hams. This should allow our local members to reach out to the existing membership items that would help them get started without "burning the bucks" and not having anything to show for it. More on that as the Board works through the details, but as a member, if you have any great ideas, please send them forth. We have a good initial slate of prospects for 2009 and I would hope some of you would even nominate yourselves if you so desire to be part of the team that takes your ideas and creates the monthly meetings you expect and appreciate.

Thanks,
73 de Greg K7SDW

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Event Calendar

- Oct. 7 4th CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Oct. 12 FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Oct. 16 CVARC Club Meeting
- Oct. 18-19 JOTA (<http://home.tiscali.nl/worldscout/>)
- Oct. 21 5th CVARC Technician Class Begins
- Oct. 25 TRW Swap Meet
- Nov. 20 CVARC Club Meeting
- Nov. 29 TRW Swap Meet
- Dec. 6 (tentative) CVARC Holiday Party
- Dec. 9 5th CVARC Technician Class Completes
- Dec. 14 FCC License Exam at CVARC
- Dec 27 TRW Swap Meet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to af6cd@arrl.net

Nominating Committee Report Tom Stough, W0UFC

The Nominating Committee (myself and Neil Waybright, AF6CD) is pleased to present the following slate of candidates as 2009 CVARC officers and trustees:

- President: Greg Lane, K7SDW
- Vice-President: Phil Bartlett, K6UJO
- Treasurer: Dave Morton, AA6DM
- Secretary: Mary Ho, KI6COG
- Publisher: Neil Waybright, AF6CD
- Technical: Bruce Elbert, K6ZB
- Operations: open
- Social: open
- Education: Karl Moody, AE6TO
- Public Relations: Brad Ormsby, WA6GLE
- Member-At-Large I: Hugh Bosma, AE6YC
- Member-At-Large II: Mike D'Amore, N6MDA

Nominations from the floor will be taken at the October 16 and November 20 meetings. After nominations cease on November 20, we will vote in our 2009 Board. Please consider, especially, running for Operations Chair or Social Chair. Also: if you have a yen for teaching and mentoring our newest amateurs, Karl Moody would like to speak with you. After many years of yeoman service as Education Chair and licensing class teacher, Karl will be leaving our area during 2009. He will be glad to "groom" you to succeed him in this very important role. Bringing new hams into the hobby is a big part of CVARC's educational mission.

73 de Tom

The Big One Is Coming, And We Will Be Ready

The largest earthquake preparedness exercise every held in California will occur on Thursday November 13th. The event is called "The Great Southern California ShakeOut". You can go to the website www.shakeout.org for all of the details, planning, and ShakeOut video clips. The video clips themselves are mind boggling and very sobering. The exercise will also be the

basis of this year's statewide emergency response exercise, Golden Guardian 2008.

The Great Southern California ShakeOut is based on a potential magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurring at 10:00 AM on the southern San Andreas Fault—approximately 5,000 times larger than the magnitude 5.4 earthquake that shook southern California on July 29.

It's not a matter of if an earthquake of this size will happen—but when. And it is possible that it will happen in our lifetime.

Dr. Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey has led a group of over 300 scientists, engineers, and others to study the likely consequences of this potential earthquake in great detail. The result is the ShakeOut Earthquake Scenario.

In an earthquake of this size, the shaking will last for nearly two minutes. The strongest shaking will occur near the fault (in the projected earthquake, the Coachella Valley, Inland Empire and Antelope Valley). Pockets of strong shaking will form away from the fault where sediments trap the waves. In the projected earthquake, it would occur in the San Gabriel Valley, in East Los Angeles, and also along the Santa Clara River basin in Ventura County hitting the cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, and the City of Ventura very hard.

An earthquake of this size will cause unprecedented damage to Southern California—greatly dwarfing the massive damage that occurred in Northridge's 6.7-magnitude earthquake in 1994. In summary, the ShakeOut Scenario estimates this earthquake will cause some 2,000 deaths, 50,000 injuries, \$200 billion in damage and other losses, and severe, long-lasting disruption.

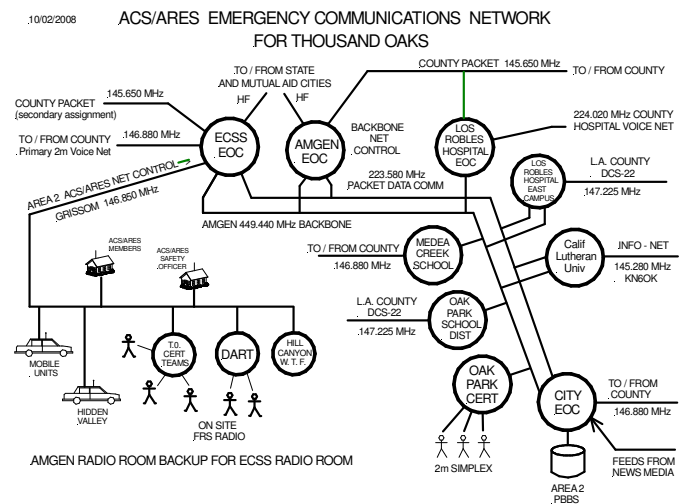
Ventura County will be heavily involved in the Golden Guardian (government agency) aspects of the exercise including most of the cities in Ventura County, law enforcement, all of the hospitals, Red Cross, schools, and other critical government agencies, as well as our-

selves Ventura County Auxiliary Communication Services (ACS).

As a quick background update, ACS is the name that has replaced the old RACES name. ACS allows us to provide a much wider range of emergency communications services than we were able to provide under RACES. As most of you know, Ventura County ACS is divided into eight areas corresponding to the eight major cities in the County. Thousand Oaks is Area 2.

Golden Guardian will be a massive test of our ACS Area 2 Emergency Radio Communications Plan, including extensive voice and packet communications.

Our Area 2 emergency radio communications network diagram is shown below:



We support and have radio equipment installed at the following Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs): East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS), The City of Thousand Oak (at the Civic Arts Plaza), Los Robles Hospital main campus, Los Robles Hospital east campus, California Lutheran University (CLU), and Amgen Corporation. We also serve and have radio equipment at the Oak Park Unified School District office and Medea Creek Middle School, Oak Park CERT Team, the Thousand Oaks DART team, and Thousand Oaks American Red Cross Shelters.

The Area 2 Emergency Radio Communications Network is a distributed architecture in both the assignment of people and placement of

equipment. Our work load is distributed across all locations to avoid people at one location being overloaded with work, while people at other locations sit idle. The radio equipment is also distributed so that if some sites are destroyed, the remaining sites will have sufficient resources to keep the Area 2 network running and providing services to our Area 2 customers.

We provide three primary services to our Area 2 customers. These services are:

- Rapid response emergency radio communications,
- Big picture information, and
- Info-Net.

Our customers played an extensive role in defining these services.

Rapid response emergency communications is our traditional RACES emergency communications service. When a disaster hits, we deploy to our Area 2 EOCs as quickly as possible after ACS activation to handle interagency communications traffic.

The emergency communication service that our ACS Area 2 customers have requested most is providing them with “Big Picture Information” on the evolving crisis. All of our customers have fairly good radio communications within their own organizations. For example, the Thousand Oaks Police Department at East County Sheriffs Station (ECSS) has excellent communications with law enforcement throughout the County. But, they do not have the man power to determine the amount of destruction throughout Conejo Valley, or the situation at California Lutheran University (CLU) and its neighboring retirement village, etc. Los Robles Hospital can talk to other hospitals throughout the County. The City of Thousand Oaks has good radio communications with its other City facilities. Oak Park School District has good radio communications from its district office to its various schools. However, these organizations become isolated islands when a disaster hits and they lose all cell phone, telephone, and internet service. Their management teams, working in their individual Emer-

gency Operation Centers (EOCs), have gut wrenching decisions to make in trying to figure out how to deal with the emergency. But, they usually have little or no knowledge on the scope or severity of the evolving crisis to base their decisions on. They can communicate within their own organization, but they can not reach anyone outside. Any news media reports that they receive will generally be dealing with other areas in Southern California, not Conejo Valley. Their satellite phones, if they have them and if they are charged up, will probably not work as well as hoped. Often the number that they are trying to call will be busy. With our extensive ACS emergency communication networks we can provide them with much of the information that they need. Obtaining this service is the primary reason that each of our Area 2 customers have spent a significant amount of money buying the radio equipment that we specified for them. This is also our most demanding service going way beyond anything that we have provided in the past and requiring heavy integration of both voice and packet communications.

Info-Net is a lesson that we learned directly from the San Diego fires last year. They didn't have one! During an emergency, most nets identified in our Area 2 plan will be restricted to ACS members for their assigned tasks. Info-Net is the single exception. Within Area 2 the non-ACS amateur radio operators far out number ACS members. During an emergency these non-ACS hams will need a voice net that they can check into to get information so that they can get their families to safety or shelter in place. These non-ACS hams can also provide law enforcement and other agencies with considerable first hand accounts of situations throughout the area. Because of its extensive networks, ACS will have an enormous amount of information concerning the disaster that can be released to non-ACS hams. The Area 2 Info-Net, running on one of our 2 meter repeaters, will provide Area 2 non-ACS hams with better information on the crises than they can obtain elsewhere. It is anticipated that a large number of non-ACS hams will check into Info-Net to obtain information and to provide information that they are aware of. The Thousand

Oaks Police Department is highly supportive of Info-Net because of the large number of "on the ground" observers that it provides them. This net will be run from our CLU EOC.

The ACS services that we are providing to our community are very serious. Our customers are depending heavily on us. There is no where else that they can get the services that we are providing to them! We need a lot of people to do this, not only amateur radio operators but non-hams as well. If you look at all of the work that we have to do, only about half of it involves talking over the radio. We need an extensive team of non-hams to handle all of the critical background work. Changing from RACES to ACS allows us to bring non-hams into the program. We now have a number of husband and wife teams in the program. If you are not already a member of ACS, we need you! If you know of non-hams that would like to get involved in emergency communications, please have them get in contact with us.

Ken Larson KJ6RZ
ACS Area 2 Emergency Coordinator

Montana Ham Assists In Rescue of Fellow Amateur 600 Miles Away

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS

coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday pre-

vented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 27, #38 of September 26th, 2008, Reprinted by permission)

ARRL Auction: Getting Down to the Wire

Excitement continues to build as the ARRL gets ready to preview items for the Third Annual On-Line Auction on Thursday, October 16 <<http://www.arrl.org/auction>>. With almost 140 items up for bid – with more being added every day -- this event promises to have something for just about everyone. The auction kicks off October 23 and runs until October 31 on the ARRL Web site.

This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. ICOM has generously donated an IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF mobile transceiver; this rig was reviewed in the May 2006 issue of QST <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/pdf/pr0605.pdf>>.

A new donor to the ARRL On-Line Auction is R4 Systems <<http://www.r4systems.com/>> -- developers of the Proteus Design Suite, a suite of tools for professional printed circuit board design – has donated a Proteus Suite software package.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's online auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we

realized that we had sold 162 items and sold just more than \$50,000 worth of merchandise." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials.

Many vintage items will also be offered. Returning by popular demand are four ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes. With a starting bid of \$50, these boxes are filled with components, parts and electronic do-dads. No one -- except the ARRL Lab staff -- knows what exactly is inside each box, but each is guaranteed to be full of things that the Lab staff considers valuable (but keep in mind that they collect just about anything).

All product review items in the On-Line Auction will include a link to a PDF file of the actual Product Review, as well as a reference to the QST issue that the review appeared in.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, said that there are "loads of neat stuff" available in the Auction, including a set of Dayton Hamvention pins going back to 1995, gift certificates for ARRL merchandise and publications, radios, books and much more. "We'll be adding items throughout the preview period, so keep checking back to find things you might have missed," she said. "This event would not be possible without the generosity of our many corporate donors. Our sincere thanks go to all who donated items for this year's auction."

Jahnke also advised auction users to look through the "Help" and "About Us" sections, where you'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. "To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies in the 'About Us' section," she said.

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 27, #40 of October 10th, 2008, Reprinted by permission)

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times & Frequencies

Area 2 ACS/ARES members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday night at 7:00pm on the Area 2 check-in nets.



Area	Time	Mode	Frequency	Shift	PL	Repeater/Notes
Area 1	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	147.930	-	127.3	AD6SV
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:00-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>146.850</u>	-	<u>94.8</u>	<u>K6AER/Grissom</u>
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:10-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>224.700</u>	-	<u>156.7</u>	<u>K6HB</u>
<u>Area 2</u>	<u>7:10-7:30 pm</u>	<u>Voice</u>	<u>449.440</u>	-	<u>131.8</u>	<u>W6AMG/Amgen</u>
Area 2	(Simplex)	Voice	146.445	None	None	Simplex
Area 2	(Backup Repeater)	Voice	147.885	-	127.3	N6JMI "Bozo"
Area 3	7:15-7:30 pm	Voice	147.915	-	127.3	WB6ZTQ
Area 4	7:15-7:30 pm	Voice	149.970	-	127.3	WB6YQN
Area 5	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	145.400	-	None	N6FL
Area 6/7	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	147.975	-	127.3	N6VUY
Area 8	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	146.985	-	127.3	South Mtn.
County	7:30-8:00 pm	Voice	146.880	-	127.3	WA6ZTT
County	6:45-7:00 pm	Voice	52.980	-	82.5	K6SMR
County	7:30-8:00 pm	Voice	224.020	-	127.3	WB6ZTR
County	Before 6:30 pm	Packet	145.710	+	None	Hospital Net
County	(ACS Simplex)	Voice	147.570	None	None	Simplex

Net Control operations for the weekly ACS/ARES Area 2 check-in are run from the ACS/ARES communications center at East County Sheriff Station (on Olsen Road) every Tuesday starting at 7:00pm.

Visitors are welcome and have the opportunity to operate the station. Please contact Gino Spinelli, K16DJV at (805) 529-6101 if you would like to attend.

ACS members should remember that their ACS card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jackie at the Office of Emergency Services in Ventura, (805) 654-2551, to renew it.

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please call the Area 2 Emergency Coordinator, Ken Larson, KJ6RZ at (805) 495-9435 or go to the ACS/ARES section of the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805) 498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
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Member at Large	Dave Morton.....	AA6DM	(805) 495-3920	aa6dm@arrl.net



CVARC is recognized by the ARRL as a Special Service Club (SSC). To be a part of the ARRL's Special Service Club program, the club must regularly show that it is actively involved in certain areas, including:

- New Ham Development and Training
- Public Relations
- Emergency Communications
- Technical Advancement
- Operating Activities



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

Address Correction Requested

– FIRST – CLASS – MAIL –



CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC Web Site at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the Web site, you may like to join the CVARC Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CVARCDiscussion/>

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, except December. The meeting location is the Community Room at The East County Sheriff Station, 2101 E Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks. Meetings start at 7:30pm with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

“News from CVARC” is published monthly (on the Monday preceding the CVARC club meeting) by the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, AA6CV PO Box 2093, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093. It is mailed free of charge to all members.

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its Board, or its members.

CVARC Membership Rates

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings, and we do not pressure newcomers to join. If, however, you would like to support the club and its activities by becoming a member then we will be very pleased.

The simplest way to join (or to renew) is to write us a check bearing your address, and give or send it to our Treasurer. Make the check payable to “CVARC” and please put your call sign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, Call sign, or Address changes may be emailed to the Treasurer.

Current annual rates are: Regular Membership: \$25. Family Membership: \$30. Special discounts are available for; New members just licensed: \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year.