

March  
2009

# NEWS FROM CVARC

## President's Message Greg Lane, K7SDW

So why are you a HAM? What brought you to the ranks? Is it a hobby for you or just a passing fancy? Did you join because of Emergency communications support? Why did you join CVARC? Do you like the monthly get-togethers to at least find out what the person you have been talking to on the air looks like?

Did you join our Club to be informed, educated, entertained, or maybe it was for the social gathering of many of those who share the same interest in those mysterious electrons that scream through the air between transceivers? We need to know. Please contact myself via email or any Board member.

I started the above questioning because I'm one of the old timers that have been a member of this Club since 1987 and have seen our membership grow in various directions and interests. The challenge of any Club is to find out what the membership wants out of a club and not the elected Board members attempting either to guess what the membership would like or present what is comfortable to them. We need your input and need your support for those ideas and projects that are developed, funded and executed.

*President's Message, continued on page 2*

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## March Club Meeting "Precision Time Protocol (PTP)"

IEEE-1588 Precision Time Protocol (PTP) enables the synchronization network elements which are interconnected via packet networks. Originally designed for use mainly in factory automation applications, the PTP standard was modified in 2008 for use in telecommunications applications. PTP will be used to provide accurate frequency generation and timestamps in fourth-generation cell phone networks in which Internet Protocol packet technology will displace traditional TDM backhaul networks.

JOHN REIDY has over 30 years experience in marketing, sales and technical support of communications systems, beginning with his military service as a microwave radio repairman. He was most recently Vice President of OEM sales at Symmetricon, Inc., a San Jose, CA supplier of frequency and timing technology to research, government, and telephone network applications.

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...*

Our big challenge this year is a different kind of Field Day, because this year we have received, (it's in the bank) \$400.00 to put to use as a Grant for getting the "general public" up to our site to be actual operators of the equipment with our supervision. Rob, W6RH, Operational Chairman, will need your help to join his committee to pull this off as one of the best community interfaces of Amateur Radio that has ever been presented. Please contact him and join his committee as a lot of work needs to be accomplished prior to the event and not on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

My big challenge is to find a member willing to serve as President next year as my two years of service is up. We have many fine members that can pull this off. You are not alone with all the Board positions and the past officer participation that the Club has been blessed with. Think about how you can serve the Board next year when those October nominations are asked.

73 de Greg, K7SDW.

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## Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Event Calendar

March 8	CROP Walk
March 13 - 15	Coyote 2 Moons
March 19	CVARC Club Meeting
March 28	TRW Swap Meet
March 30	First Technician License Class Ends
April 5	Westlake Village Street Fair
April 11	ARDF Meet at Topanga Park
April 13	2nd Technician License Class Begins
April 16	CVARC Club Meeting
April 19	FCC License Exam
April 25	Arbor Day
April 25	TRW Swap Meet
May 9	Cruisin' the Conejo Bike Ride
May 16	Sea-to-Summit Bike Ride
May 14 - 16	Dayton Hamvention
May 21	CVARC Club Meeting
May 30	TRW Swap Meet
June 1	2nd Technician License Class Ends
June 14	FCC License Exam
June 16	Third Technician License Class Begins
June 18	CVARC Club Meeting

June 27 - 28	Field Day
June 27	TRW Swap Meet
July 3	Moorpark Fireworks
July 16	CVARC Club Meeting
July 25	TRW Swap Meet
August 4	Third Technician Class Ends
August 9	FCC License Exam
August 18	Fourth Technician License Class Begins
August 12	SB Section Hamfest, Santa Barbara
August 20	CVARC Club Meeting
August ___ (tentative)	CVARC Summer Picnic
August 29	TRW Swap Meet
September 17	CVARC Club Meeting
September 26	TRW Swap Meet
No Official Date (Yet)	ARRL SW Division Convention
October 6	Technician License Class Complete
October 11	FCC License Exam
October 15	CVARC Club Meeting
October 16 - 18	Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
October 20	Fifth Technician License Class Begins
October 31	TRW Swap Meet
November 14	Malibu Endurance Ride
November 19	CVARC Club Meeting
November 28	TRW Swap Meet
December 5 (tentative)	CVARC Holiday Party
December 8	Fifth Technician Class Completes
December 13	FCC License Exam
December 26	TRW Swap Meet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to [af6cd@arrl.net](mailto:af6cd@arrl.net)

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## Dinner with the Club Speaker Sue Hanson, N6OIZ

Thank you to all that attended the pre-meeting dinner last month. I don't believe anybody went away hungry and a good time was had by all.

This month we plan go south of the border for dinner. Cisco's has a really great early special, 50% off all meals that are ordered before 5:45! How can you beat that? Great food, great company AND reasonably priced.

Arriving by 5:30 should be enough to get those orders placed in time for the special. Everyone is welcome after that time but the special is recognized by the computers and there is no fudging.

Cisco's is located in the DMV shopping plaza. 23 to Avenida De Las Arboles East off the freeway and right into the shopping plaza parking lot.

Check it out at [www.ciscos.biz](http://www.ciscos.biz).

Any questions or suggestions for future dinner sites please call or email Sue Hanson 805-376-9350 or [sue@w6rh.com](mailto:sue@w6rh.com).

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### Field Day Rob Hanson, W6RH



Please mark your calendar for June 26, 27 and 28 for the CVARC Field Day.

Friday the 26th we will start setup at about noon, and will have a pot-luck dinner with burgers provided by CVARC. We will need help with the giant tent, so please sign up and join the fun of setting up the "big top".

Saturday, we will begin actual operation at 11:00 and expect a number of visitors, since we will be offering free food. Our visiting hours will end at dusk, but (with sufficient staffing and coffee) we will operate all night.

Sunday, we will take everything down at 11:00, and again, we will need many bodies for the tent.

I will have a signup sheet at the meeting for time, function, and pot-luck dish.

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call, or drop an email.

73 Rob  
[rob@w6rh.com](mailto:rob@w6rh.com)

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### Exercise Your VHF/UHF Capabilities During The Spring Sprints Pete Heiz, N6ZE

Many hams utilize their VHF and/or UHF equipment to only communicate through repeaters or make an occasional simplex contact on 146.52 MHz FM Simplex, but never have tried to communicate without the repeater on up on Grissom Peak or Rasnow Peak. ACS/RACES members sometimes need to utilize creative ways to communicate with each other!

Sprint Contests held each Spring (and also in the Fall) give you a great opportunity to try out your VHF/UHF transceivers, antennas, & 'hilltopping' portable locations WITHOUT using a repeater. The Sprints are very short contests, most of which only last 4 hours. Typically, most contacts are made within the first hour or two of each Sprint so your spouse might be more receptive to your participation in the evening mini-contests. With Daylight Savings Time now in effect, you could combine a dinner picnic trip up to the Santa Monica Mountains with a bit of operating for the first three Sprint sessions.

A unique feature of the Sprints is that other than Microwave Bands Sprint, only 1 band is utilized per test.

Most QSOs are made on SSB, but CW, JT441/JT65 (data modes), and some FM are also used. An FM handheld with a 'rubber duckie' usually won't provide too much in the way of results, but with 2 watts of SSB/CW and a small Yagi, I have worked out over 100 miles. With a modest 50 or 100 watts and an 8 or 9 element Yagi, I typically can work out some 300 miles to the North from my favorite hilltop within Thousand Oaks. (The 6 meter Sprint sometimes provides Sporadic E propagation at distances out to 1500 or 2000 miles.)

The schedule for the Spring 2009 Sprints are as follows:

- 2 meters (144.200MHz +/-SSB/CW or 146.55/58 MHz FM): Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 7PM – 11PM PDT
- 135cm (222.1MHz SSB/CW or 223.5MHz FM): Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 7PM – 11PM PDT
- 70cm (432.100MHz +/- SSB/CW or 446.0MHz FM): Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7PM – 11PM PDT
- Microwave: 902MHz & up\*: Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6AM – 1PM PDT. This timeframe takes advantage of possible enhanced tropo enhancement in the early morning hours).
- 6meters (50.125 MHz SSB/CW and up or 52.525MHz FM): Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 4PM – 8PM PDT. This date/time takes advantage of possible sporadic E propagation).

Send me an e-mail at N6ZE@arrl.net if you need additional details for 902 MHz, 1296MHz, 10GHz, etc.

Additional information will be published in April 2009 "QST" and also be available from K9JK73@msn.com and N6ZE@arrl.net. (The sponsor's web site has not yet been activated.)

Bt73Pete, N6ZE

PS: I plan to be on the air for several of the Sprints

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### April and May Club Speaker Phil Bartlett, K6UJO

Paul Raab, KF6CM will be the speaker. His presentation is titled -- What is the yotta-watt delta? --a presentation on "Modern radio design and when to use extra front end filters or not.

Paul has been licensed since 1975. He is a senior electronic engineer at SystemWare in Camarillo. He worked for Data Exchange, Demo Systems, Vitesse Semiconductor, and Power One as a electronic test engineer over the past 30 years. Also he is the training officer for the East Valley Sheriff Station - Mountain Search and Rescue Team.

Adrian Popa, a very popular past speaker will be the speaker for May. His presentation is titled -- "A quick trip through the universe". It includes discussing dark energy and dark matter.

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### ARDF Event Report at Topanga Park March 7, 2009 Joe Moell K0OV

Our ARDF event at Topanga State Park was one of the best attended sessions in a long time. The weather was perfect for running and walking, with the temperature never getting out of the 50's in the shade. Under the dense canopy of trees, where we could hear the birds but not see them, nine newcomers built yagis and attenuators. The deer and squirrels watched in fascination. Later, the experienced hunters showed up with their RDF gear, in time for the main two-meter hunt as practice for the [USA ARDF Championships in Boston](#).

I put out three easy 2m transmitters close by and the beginners found them as individuals and in small groups. Not everyone turned in a score sheet, but I know that these people found all three: Hector Figueroa KE6VRL, Larry Mock KI6BKP and Chuck Tedeschi KI6DKI.

The main course of five ARDF-timed transmitters was about 2.5 kilometers long. It was close for first place between Bob Cooley KF6VSE and Jay Hennigan WB6RDV. Their split times were almost identical at two cycles per fox, except that Jay took four minutes more getting from #5 to #2. Route choice is important!

### ARDF 2-METER COURSE RESULTS 5 FOXES

Name and call	Foxes	Time
Bob Cooley KF6VSE	5	0:46:36
Jay Hennigan WB6RDV	5	0:50:59
Scott Moore KF6IKO	5	1:12:36
Rick Barrett KE6DKF	5	1:17:14
Dick Norton N6AA	5	1:27:50
Richard Clark N6UZS	5	1:56:13
Chris Story KA6WNK	5	2:11:18
Chuck Tedeschi KI6DKI	5	4:11:16

with John Rendler KI6DIG & Larry Mock KI6BKP

Bill Smathers KG6HXX 4 1:09:38  
Tom Gaccione WB2LRH 4 2:31:03

My 80m transmitter was less than a half kilometer away and had a strong signal. It required careful bearings and attention to the map to avoid overshooting the proper trail and ending up in the heavy brush.

#### 80-METER HUNT RESULTS (1 FOX)

Name and call	Time
Jay Hennigan WB6RDV	6:51
Bob Cooley KF6VSE	12:36
Bill Smathers KG6HXX	13:03
Scott Moore KF6IKO	16:01
Mary Ho KI6COG	55:30
with Rick Barrett KE6DKF	

Chris Storey KA6WNL also tracked down the 80m transmitter as we went to pick it up at the end of the day.

Bob Thornburg WB6JPI came by again to promote mobile T-hunting. He has come up with kits including a Yagi and window mount and he's looking for beta testers.

Thanks to Marvin Johnston KE6HTS, who stayed up into the wee hours the night before, putting kits together for late registrants. April Moell WA6OPS got all the hunters started on time and took care of a minor soldering iron burn. Thanks to them and to everyone who helped by teaching RDF techniques and picking up transmitters.

Joe Moell KØOV

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### We Value Your Input Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Do you have an idea you would like to share with the board, know of a dynamite speaker that the other club members would enjoy, have talents you would enjoy sharing, or know of events that you think the club may be interested in?

Please come forward and contact the board and let us know! We have two members-at-large who are specifically elected to solicit input from the members at meetings and events. This is no

way limits your access to the other board members, but helps explain why you see members frequently approached at club meetings and asked for input.

A related fact is that the club is all of its members, and not just the board. The board members cannot be everywhere and do everything. One case where this comes up is with visitors at the meetings. If you meet a visitor at a meeting, please greet them warmly and make them feel welcome. Ask them if they came for a particular reason and help them make connections. If you feel uncomfortable or don't know who to connect them with, point them out to any of the board members. Bill Willcox (our Raffle chairman) is putting together an Elmer "system" to connect those looking for help with those able to provide it. Please answer his questionnaire and volunteer to share your skills with others.

Neil

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### US Coast Guard to Discontinue LORAN Stations Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Last month, the US Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/>> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm>> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were re-

placed by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. --  
Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label) \_\_\_\_\_

ACS # \_\_\_\_\_ ARES# \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Update Roster Only? \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership: Names/Calls \_\_\_\_\_

Send Information/Application to:  
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2093  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

New Renewal  
Single Membership - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Multi-year \_\_\_\_ years @ \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
New Ham, New Member - \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Membership, Full-Time Student \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Membership Renewal (include ARRL form) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
AD Space (2x3) One Year (member) - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
AD Space (2x3) One Year (non-Member) - \$75 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in License Upgrades? \_\_\_\_\_  
Joining ARES/ACS? \_\_\_\_\_  
Disaster Action Team? \_\_\_\_\_  
Obtain a HAM License? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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	146.970	-	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	145.650	None	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, KI6DJV 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
Vice President.....	Phil Bartlett .....	K6UJO .....	(805) 499-6935 .....	peb@peb.net
Secretary .....	Mary Ho .....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241 .....	abele7213@mypacks.net
Treasurer .....	Dave Morton.....	AA6DM .....	(805) 495-3920 .....	aa6dm@arrl.net
Public Relations .....	Brad Ormsby .....	WA6GLE .....	(818) 991-1130 .....	bormsby@sbcglobal.net
Technical .....	Bruce Elbert.....	K6ZB .....	(805) 529-2541 .....	k6zb@arrl.net
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Social.....	Sue Hanson.....	N6IOZ .....	(805) 376-9350 .....	robhanson@juno.com
Member at Large .....	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987 .....	hrbcrb@aol.com
Member at Large .....	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA .....	(805) 496-1073 .....	mike.damore@roadrunner.com



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.