

September  
2009

# NEWS FROM CVARC

## President's Message Phil Bartlett, K6UJO

I have heard the question several times lately, "What type of Radio Club is CVARC?" To describe us as a general interest club does not do us justice. We do lots of different things and each thing is done with such passion and excitement that for the moment we are that "special interest" club --- until the next thing grabs our interest. The best way that I can describe CVARC is that we are a special club, with special people that bring to the club their interests and passions and draw everyone into an activity so that they can share their vision and excitement with all of us. We are a club with special interests that are not limited to the lists of interests at this moment. There is nothing in our charter, history or leadership that says that we can not do something; we can do anything we want to do, go down any street, explore new sights and sounds and share our love for radio and technology with each other in new ways with new gadgets and new friends.

The club is doing great things and we are looking forward to the New Year with plans for the Holiday party, elections, projects and goals for 2010.

*President's Message, continued on page 2*

### Inside this issue

2009 Event Calendar .....	2
Dinner with the Club Speaker .....	2
MFJ Acquires Cushcraft .....	2
No Significant Risk.....	3
Oregon WinLink .....	4
Nevada Hams Roadside Rescue.....	5

## September Club Meeting "Working Satellite With a Hand-held Transceiver"

Clint Bradford, K6LCS, has been a licensed amateur since 1994, and involved with public service communications.

He has given his "Working Amateur Satellites with your HT" presentation to several clubs and hamfests in Southern California. Right before our CVARC meeting on the 17th, we tentatively have a pass of AO-51 at 5:49pm and a pass of SO-50 at 6:09pm. I'll be in the parking lot if you want to work them. Download the programming guide at...

<http://www.k6lcs.com>

Professionally, Clint was sales manager for ADI / Premier / Pryme Communications, worked for Motorola a couple of years, and for Ham Radio Outlet a couple more. He resides in Mira Loma, California with his wife, Karen, and their pets: Karen's Icelandic horse, Mjollnir, and Clint's donkey, Edward R. Burro.

Clint is also an AMSAT area coordinator and ARRL Diamond Club member.

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

The East County Sheriff Station 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...*

If you would like to help plan the Holiday Party, get in touch with a board member. The more help, the lighter the load for each one of us. And remember the RAFFLE and get your tickets early to get that winning ticket for the grand prize.

Elections are around the corner and, as I said earlier, the club can go in any direction and we need your excitement and a few hours each month in a leadership capacity to put new directions into motion and execute the plans of the members to make next year even better. Please volunteer for a position on the board and help us grow the club. We have a special need in the area of Education to keep up our special outreach to new members and the public to get new people interested in radio and get their license.

I just talked with Greg Lane and he is feeling better, the pain is being well managed and he is able to get up and around for short periods of time. I have invited him to the September meeting and hope that he can make it. Greg is very active on CW and may be able get back to the voice rig in the next few weeks.

Phil

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## Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Event Calendar

September 17	CVARC Club Meeting
September 26	TRW Swap Meet
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	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

Dinner last month with Everett Beatey at Fud-druckers was a hoot. He is a very informative and entertaining gentleman.

Since it is SO hot, doesn't BBQ sound good??? Come and join our speaker Clint Bradford at Bandits BBQ. Last time we went to Bandits and sat on the patio, it was just delightful. So, for a summer rerun that is what we will do this month. Bandits is located at 589 North Moorpark Road.

Directions and menu can be found at [www.banditsbbq.com](http://www.banditsbbq.com). Hoping that everyone can come on down!!! Dinner beginning at 5:30, should give plenty of time to visit and get to the meeting on time.

Any questions, please contact Sue at 805-901-0164 or [sue@w6rh.com](mailto:sue@w6rh.com)

73 Sue

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## MFJ Acquires Cushcraft

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises <<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/>> announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies <<http://www.lairdtech.com/>> effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source."

MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this

antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

*Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 31 (Friday, August 8, 2009) by permission*

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## **National Safety Council Responds to ARRL: No Evidence of "Significant Crash Risks" While Operating Mobile**

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to National Safety Council (NSC) President Janet Froetscher in July expressing the ARRL's concerns that Amateur Radio not become an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC\\_Letter7-30-09.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf). Froetscher has now replied, saying the NSC does not support bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radios while driving [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC\\_Response\\_to\\_ARRL.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Response_to_ARRL.pdf).

Noting that there is significant evidence that talking on cell phones while driving poses crash risk four times that of other drivers, Froetscher observed that the NSC position calling for bans on the use of cell phones while driving is grounded in science. "We are not aware of evidence that using Amateur Radios while driving has significant crash risks," Froetscher wrote in her August 24 letter. "We also have no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. Until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of Amateur Radios, two-way radios or other com-

munication devices, the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use."

Froetscher said that while "the specific risk of radio use while driving is unmeasured and likely does not approach that of cell phones, there indeed is some elevated risk to the drivers, their passengers and the public associated with 650,000 Amateur Radio operators who may not, at one time or another, not concentrate fully on their driving." She points out that the "best safety practice is to have one's full attention on their driving, their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road.

Drivers who engage in any activity that impairs any of these constitutes an increased risk."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the ARRL "appreciates NSC President and CEO Janet Froetscher's clear statement that the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radio while driving. We applaud the NSC for taking positions that are grounded in science. At the same time, all radio amateurs should heed her call to concentrate fully on driving while behind the wheel. It is possible to operate a motor vehicle safely while using Amateur Radio, but if it becomes a distraction we owe it those with whom we share the road, as well as to our passengers, to put safety first."

On January 30, 2009, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf> that states "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles. Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public

safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times."

In his letter, Harrison explained to Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

Froetscher replied that she "appreciate[s] your focus of Amateur Radio for emergency communications during disasters. I encourage ARRL to adopt best practices for the safe operation of vehicles that confines use of Amateur Radios while driving only to disaster emergencies."

The Policy Statement asserts that the ARRL "is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention. Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 36, Friday, September 11, 2009, by permission)

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## **GOVERNOR'S \$250,000 GRANT TO AMATEUR RADIO GOES ONLINE AS OREGON HAMS INSTALL NEW WIN-LINK SYSTEM**

This month, Oregon ARES members will complete the state-wide installation of Winlink <<http://www.winlink.org/>>, thanks to a \$250,000 grant from Governor Ted Kulongoski. In 2007, the governor was impressed by the hams' ability to handle emergency communications when severe winter storms wreaked havoc on Oregon's North Coast and flooded the City of Vernonia, knocking out 911 services, Internet and phone service for an extended period of time <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2007/12/05/100/>>. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said that during the storms, the radio operators were "tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected." When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas.

"I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators," the governor said at the time. "These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." Because of the service rendered by Amateur Radio operators in providing communications support, the governor allocated funds for the installation of a Winlink system to integrate Amateur Radio with the Internet.

The equipment will be installed in the Emergency Operating Center in each of Oregon's 36 counties. Once the monies were distributed, ARES members researched and purchased the equipment that would be needed, formalized and signed contracts between the state, counties and ARES, and allocated space to install the antennas and equipment within each EOC. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) scheduled for October 3-4

<<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>>.

"Using Winlink equipment and other amateur equipment already in place at the EOCs, ARES teams will have to quickly create a communications network, in some instances without depending on other infrastructure such as telephones or Internet," said ARRL Oregon Section Public Information Coordinator Steve Sanders, KE7JSS.

"Many will not use commercial electric power. Despite these limitations, the ARES teams should not only be able to quickly pass local messages, but also communicate with other regions of the country. The ability to pass information in and out of disaster areas is crucial to the effectiveness of emergency responders."

When Oregon's State Office of Emergency Management was activated on December 3, 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/12/13/101>>, hams over the course of the next four days used Winlink to pass message traffic. "The Winlink system performed perfectly, and the ARES team at the OEM was able to pass approximately 200 messages into and out of the State of Oregon Emergency Operations Center," said Marion County ARES Emergency Coordinator Dean Davis, N7XG. "The only mode of communications for several Oregon counties for the first two days of the storm was the Winlink system."

(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 36, Friday, September 11, 2009, by permission)

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## Nevada Hams Coordinate Roadside Medical Rescue

On the afternoon of July 16, ARRL Elko County (Nevada) Emergency Coordinator Greg Barker, K7CWL, was making his way home on Nevada Highway 278 when a van sped past him. About 60 miles later into his trip, he saw the van slow down and pull over to the side of the road. Barker, a physical therapist, pulled over and asked if he could assist. An elderly couple, their daughter and granddaughter were on the way to the hospital in Elko -- another 60 miles -- as the grandmother was experiencing what they believed was a series of mini-strokes.

The daughter told Barker that their van kept losing power and wouldn't run. Barker assessed the grandmother and tried to call 911 on his cell phone, but there was no coverage in that area. "I put out a call on my mobile radio, requesting immediate assistance, using the 146.850 repeater located about 55 miles away, part of a wide-area linked repeater system maintained by the Elko Amateur Radio Club," he told the ARRL. "Kent LeBart, K6IN, club president and a radio techni-

cian for the Nevada State Highway Patrol, was monitoring the system and responded immediately, asking how he could be of assistance."

Using the crossband repeat mode on his mobile radio, Barker was able to stay with the family at the van. He also used his handheld transceiver to tell LeBart that the grandmother needed to get to the emergency room. "Kent contacted central dispatch and relayed the information I gave him and asked me questions from the dispatch about the patient's situation and condition," he said. "Based on that information, they sent a medivac helicopter from Elko and an ambulance from Carlin."

Barker said that Highway 278 has no mile markers: "I relayed information to dispatch about the location using the closest ranch name and mountain pass turn-off as landmarks. With this information, volunteer fire fighters and first responders were on scene in about 20 minutes and the helicopter was on scene in about 30 minutes, followed by the ambulance at about 35 minutes."

Another local ham, Joe Sasgen, AD7OO, was able to offer useful information about approximate arrival times of the helicopter and ambulance. "Joe was monitoring central dispatch out of Elko," Barker said. "This information was reassuring to the family."

Flight paramedics assessed the grandmother and determined that a flight was justified based on her condition, Barker told the ARRL. "I was able to take her husband into the hospital in Elko to meet his wife. This is another testament to the value and utility of Amateur Radio, particularly on the lonely highways of rural Northern Nevada."

(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 30, Thursday, July 31, 2009, by permission)

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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	146.385	+	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.

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>.

ACS members should remember that their ACS card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jerry B. Goldman KC6JSO (805) 405-8213 or (805) 493-0076 Office. Jerry works with OES on a regular basis and will track your renewal to ensure that you receive your new badge in the shortest possible time. You will need to complete a Volunteer Update form for your renewal. Jerry will email this form to you 45 days prior to your ACS card expiration date. Please make sure that Jerry has your correct email address at all times.

### 2008 CVARC Officers

President.....	open .....	open .....	open .....	open .....
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 .....	Rick Barrett.....	KE6DKF .....	n/a.....	ke6dkf@roadrunner.com
Operations .....	Rob Hanson .....	W6RH .....	(805) 376-9350.....	w6rh@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor .....	Neil Waybright.....	AF6CD.....	(805) 517-2962.....	af6cd@arrl.net
Education.....	Karl Moody .....	AE6TO .....	(805) 523-0622.....	ke6wvz@aol.com
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.