

January
2010

NEWS FROM CVARC

President's Message Brad Ormsby, WA6GLE

Happy New Year to the CVARC Family! I want to thank our Past President, Greg Lane, K7SDW for all his hard work last year and for all his hard work for the past twenty plus years he has been a member. I think Greg has been involved with every Board position that CVARC has ever had. When you see him, please give him a "BIG THANK YOU". Also, due to the elevated age of Greg, he basically fell apart on last years "watch", so our Vice President, Phil Bartlett, K6UJO, another twenty plus years member took over the President's position. Another "BIG THANK YOU" goes out to Phil for his hard work.

After twenty plus years, I am back as your President once again. I look forward to all the fun we will share and the knowledge we will gain about our special hobby. I hope each and every one of you will be active and participate in our meetings, social events, club projects and most of all be "RADIO ACTIVE". In the Conejo Valley, we have several repeaters in our area, along with many other modes of communications available to us to experiment with, to learn from and make new friends, lets all get on the radio's and talk, share your experiences, knowledge, ask lots of questions, support and reach out to our new members and of course, share our hobby with prospective Hams, so they too can grow and be a part of Amateur Radio.

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January Club Meeting NVIS - The Ultimate Backup in Reliable Regional Communication Marty Woll, N6VI

Those involved in emergency communications have a tool that doesn't depend on repeaters or other infrastructure: HF using near-vertical-incident skywave, or NVIS. This presentation describes the propagation characteristics, antenna choices and band selection involved in utilizing HF for regional communication. Marty will also answer questions about ARRL issues.

Marty Woll N6VI is in his second year as ARRL's Vice Director for the Southwestern Division, and has been in Amateur Radio for over forty years. A retired CPA with a major international accounting firm, he holds an Extra Class license and is a Life Member of the American Radio Relay League. In addition to his Division duties, he is Assistant District Emergency Coordinator and Training Director of the ARES Northwest District of the Los Angeles Section, a Battalion Comm Unit Leader and Training Officer for the Los Angeles Fire Department's Auxiliary Communication Service, a licensing Volunteer Instructor and a Volunteer Examiner.

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...

Your Board will be working hard to make our Club fun and educational. If at anytime you have questions, suggestions or would like to help out and participate in our Club, please contact one of us. Remember, this is your Club and we want to make it the best we can.

We will continue to have a dinner social prior to our regular meetings to be announced in our monthly newsletter. This is a great way to meet and have an "EYEBALL" with our speakers and fellow members. If you have any restaurant suggestions, please contact Phil Bartlett, K6UJO.

We will be planning another club project this year. I want to send out another "BIG THANK YOU" to Hugh Bosma, AE6YC for last years project, the "Antenna Balun". I have my Balun up and operational getting great reports. If you have any suggestions or requests, once again contact one of our Board Members with your ideas.

This year I would like to have a "Radio Minute" at each meeting. My thought here is to have one of our members share some aspect of Amateur Radio with us. It could be on some history of radio, new products, antenna designs, various "how to's", etc. The objective is to learn and stimulate our interest in Amateur Radio.

Once again I look forward to the challenge and getting to know members and discovering the many talents within our CVARC Membership. Unfortunately, I will miss our first meeting of 2010 due to another hobby of mine, woodworking. I will be traveling to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia for a seminar on "Working Wood in the 18th Century". Any questions you might have on woodworking, you can ask our new Secretary, Eric Peterson, WB6PYK. See you in February!

Brad, WA6GLE

Dinner with the Club Speaker Phil Bartlett, K6UJO

Something exotic this month, THE ELEPHANT BAR AND RESTAURANT. A Global Grill/Wok

Kitchen. Their "Openers" would make a great meal at \$8.00. Soups are \$4 and \$5 dollars. Salads are \$7 - \$9. Soup and Salad combos are available. Burgers with Fries are \$9.00. Half Rack Ribs \$ 11.00. WOK specialties are \$11 – \$14.

Join us at 5:30 pm before the meeting on Thursday, 21 January, for a bite to eat, some fellowship and discussion with our Speaker of the Month. The Elephant Bar is located at 1825 Madera Road. Simi Valley CA, just about 2 ½ miles on down Madera Rd. from our meeting location, just before Los Angeles Ave in Simi Valley. Be sure to invite your friends living in Simi to join us for the dinner and the meeting.

If you have any questions, e-mail or call, Phil at peb@peb.net or 805.300.3045. Reservations are for 12 under "Phil B".

Library Books Eric Peterson, WB6PYK

Please return any borrowed library books, etc, so we can do a full inventory of all the material.

Thank you,
The CVARC Librarian

CVARC Receives Grants from J.D. Power and Associates Dave Morton W7DMM

CVARC has received two grants from The McGraw-Hill Companies division J.D. Power and Associates. The grants were delivered by Erik Franco – K6EJF – who works at JDPa and directed the teams who prepared the grant requests within the company.

One grant is for training materials (laptop computer, projector, projection screen) and the other is for handheld transceivers to be loaned to newly licensed amateur radio operators (five Yaesu FT-60R radios). Each grant is in the amount of \$1000.

Thank you to Erik, his teams at J.D. Powers, and to The McGraw-Hill Companies and J.D. Power and Associates.

Utah Hams Coordinate Rescue

In areas where cell phone signals just won't work, Amateur Radio gets through. That's what happened when Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, of North Logan, Utah, found out just before noon on Wednesday, December 2 when he came across a dairy truck that had crashed and rolled over in the Logan River as he drove on Route 89 through Logan Canyon.

As 38,000 gallons of dairy products were spilling into the Logan River, Yeates waded through the cold river to help get the driver out of the truck's cab and then put out a call on his handheld transceiver. Another ham, Brent Carruth, AD7VF, of Logan, was monitoring the repeater and heard Yeates make the call. Carruth listened as Yeates give a first-hand account of the condition of the driver and the seriousness of the crash and then called 911. According to [The Herald Journal](#), Utah Highway Patrol officials originally reported that the call for help came from a motorist who traveled to a cell phone reception area before dialing 911.

"What happened Wednesday, where a radio operator happened upon an accident, was not an isolated incident," Carruth told the newspaper. "It happens more frequently than one might suppose." Yeates, who owns property in the canyon and travels it weekly, agreed saying he says he helps a crash victim at least once a year: "When you pull up on an accident, your first concern is to make sure the driver or passengers are okay. I grabbed my fire extinguisher because there was smoke coming from the truck and I could hear the driver talking and he said he was okay."

This is not the first time a radio amateur was on hand to help out in Logan Canyon: In March 2008, Eldon Kearl, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, was driving in the Logan Canyon, Utah area when he came upon a driver who lost control of her truck in the snow. Her truck fell more than 100 feet over a cliff, and two of the three passengers were thrown from the truck. Using his handheld transceiver, [Kearl was able to contact](#)

[Roger Ellis, KE7HTE](#), of Logan through the local repeater to ask for help.

Carruth explained that a radio operator virtually anywhere in the mountains of Cache or Rich County can broadcast a signal to the repeater that sits atop Logan Peak in the Bear River Mountains east of Logan. The cluster of communication equipment rises about 5200 feet above the valley floor, giving gives the spot a strong vantage point over much of the [Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest](#). The Logan River rises in the Bear River Mountains in Idaho and flows south, then southwest through Logan Canyon and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the city of Logan in the Cache Valley. It then joins the Little Bear River a few kilometers west of Logan and about eight kilometers upstream from where the Little Bear River joins the Bear River. - *Information provided by The Herald Journal*

FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules Neil Waybright AF6CD

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the *Public Notices* announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the *Public Notices* announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules. The *NPRM* states that the FCC "now believe[s] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the *Vanity Report and Order* [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. Historically, items appear in the *Federal Register* approximately 7-10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, November 25th, 2009, Reprinted by permission)

Classified Ads

Classified ads are available to club members seeking to sell items of interest to other hams. Contact the newsletter editor if you have questions, or something you would like to post here.

The 2009 ARRL HF Phone Sweepstakes Contest: A Few Comments & A Lot Of Trivia As Noted By Pete Heins, N6ZE

Because my favorite VHF/UHF bands have been quiet recently, I decided to participate in the 2009 ARRL HF Phone Sweepstakes Contest.

The 'mission' for this contest is to work as many phone stations in as many ARRL Sections as possible on the 160, 75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Note that the 30, 17, and 12 meter WARC

bands and VHF/UHF are not used for this event. An unusual feature of this event is that once a station has made a contact with a particular station on one band, then the station may not be contacted on another band. This is only a US/Canadian contest so QSOs with other countries are not permitted.

For a complete QSO, the required information which shall be exchanged and acknowledged, includes sequential serial numbers for each QSO, Transmitter Power Class (*), callsigns, year first licensed, and ARRL Section. This requires considerably more key strokes or scribbling than is required for most other contests!

At my location, I utilize a typical 100 watt rig (this is "Low Power") and have a Cushcraft R-5 Vertical for 20, 15, & 10 meters, while for 40 meters I use an East/West dipole mounted on the roofline of a one story home within the city. I use the 40 meter dipole with a manual antenna tuner for a bit of 75 meter work. This setup is hardly a 'big-gun' setup! For the Sweepstakes, I operated as an "A" entry i.e. less than 150 watts. I do not use 160 meters and I did not notice any 10 meter openings.

Because we are still near the bottom of the sunspot cycle and because winter is beginning, one would expect that 160, 75, and 20 meters would provide the only useful propagation.

However due to my very limited 75 meter antenna, many 'big gun' stations on 20 meters, and better than expected conditions 15 meters (and a much bigger 15 meter phone band than the 20 meter allocation contains) led to some moderately surprising results for me.

On 75 meters, I only was able to work stations within California. Almost every QSO took some work for the 'big guns' to hear my Low Power transmitter with marginal antenna. All but one of the stations I completed QSOs with was in the High Power category.

I worked as far as Maine on both 40 and 20 meters. As one would expect during this season and low sunspot activity, my 40 meter performance netted almost twice as many QSOs as 20 meters did.

However, 15 Meters provided the biggest surprises. 15 meters was 'open' from morning until near sunset. I worked Puerto Rico (3370 miles) and had more QSOs (82) on 15 meters than on any other band. I even worked three QRP (<5 watt) stations. QRM was usually just a minor inconvenience.

In comparison, I made fewer than 3 dozen QSOs on 20 meters due to constant heavy QRM when the band was open. Each day, 20 meters typically remained open about an hour longer than the 15 meter band.

With somewhat limited operating time (**), I was able to contact 47 states, Puerto Rico, and 4 Canadian Provinces. I only heard ND, and did not hear NH or DL. I made contact in 62 of 80 sections. Surprisingly, I heard, but did not work LAX & San Diego Sections; I never did hear Orange Section. I completed 185 QSOs in this contest, and would have made more, but I spent time trying to contact all 50 states during the contest.

I still do not use computer logging assistance during contests as a single op: I use a pad of paper and scribble with a pencil. For me this system still works best because I have fewer chances to type an incorrect character. I then construct my log on Microsoft Word's "Table" subroutine once the contest is over. With "Table" I am able to check for duplicates, arrange by band, section, and then reformat for submission in date/time group again. Because most ham radio contests now require or very strongly suggest use of Cabrillo format, I have been able to easily paste my Table format into the Cabrillo entry. The web site URL is normally included in the rules for each contest.

I enjoyed my weekend on the HF bands and look forward to the ARRL 10 Meter Contest which will be held on second weekend of December. Will 10 meters open at all???

Hopefully this article will encourage some of the 'local pistols' to do some operating on the HF bands. Although very useful, a kilowatt and a

large beam are not mandatory to produce useable results on the HF bands.

*Single operator: QRP, Low, or High Power; Multi Op, Multi Op unlimited, or School
 ** Sleeping, taking XYL to lunch, and getting my daily dose of caffeine/conversation at coffee shop

Band	Antenna	QSOs Made	Sections Worked	State & Provinces Worked	Best DX	QRP	Low pwr	High Pwr	Unlimited: Spotting Assistance With Any Power Level	Multipop
Meter Band	Type	Approx.	Approx.		Miles	Q	A	B	U	M
160	No Antenna	0	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
75	40M Dipole + Tuner	14	5	1	325	0	1	1	11	1
40	40M Dipole: Roofline Mounted On 1 Story House	58	35	32	2650	0	11	22	10	10
20	Cushcraft R-5 Vertical	31	23	24	2650	0	4	11	6	11
15	Cushcraft R-5 Vertical	82	37	30	3370	3	14	32	20	9
10	Band Closed	0	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
	Approximate Totals	185	62 of 80 Worked	47 States, Puerto Rico, & 4 Cdn. Provinces Worked	----	3	30	66	47	31

N6ZE'S ARRL 2009 PHONE SWEEPSTAKES (APPROXIMATE) DATA:

Public Service: FCC Issues First Waiver for Government-Sponsored Disaster Drill

On Tuesday October 27, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) granted the first waiver (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2302A1.pdf) that allows amateurs who participate in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drill to communicate on behalf of their employers during the drill.

The waiver request was made on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That state will be conducting a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 8 AM-5 PM (EDT) to test their emergency response to the possible release of chemical agents at Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Kentucky.

"The waiver request was what could almost be termed a 'textbook example' of the process," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The waiver request met all of the criteria outlined in the Commission's recent *Public Notice DA 09-2259: A government-sponsored drill, the specifics of when and where the event would happen, the identification of the amateur licensees that would be providing communications on behalf of their employers, the*

identification of the employers and a brief description of the drill. With all of the requirements in order, the WTB was able to turn the waiver around promptly, allowing the amateurs involved to participate in the exercise."

It is important to note that while this particular waiver -- the first issued under the new guidelines -- could be readily handled within the short time frame, Henderson suggests that government agencies wishing to request similar waivers in the future provide sufficient lead-time for their requests. "I wouldn't recommend that a waiver request be filed at the last minute," he said. "The Kentucky waiver had the benefit of being the first one -- meaning there was no lag time in processing. It also had the advantage of easily meeting all of the requirements, making it an easier decision. I would encourage government agencies to file the waiver request as soon as they know which amateurs will need to be included in the waiver. This will allow the FCC as much lead time as possible. I am not certain they will be in a position to expedite last-minute requests."

More information on *Public Notice DA 09-2259* can be found on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/20/11151/?nc=1>

(Reprinted from the ARRL Letter of 29 October, 2009, Reprinted by permission)

CVARC VE Session Report – December 13, 2009

The CVARC VE session of December 13 served 8 candidates. Among those who passed elements were:

Name	Call	New License Class
Michael D. Smith	KJ6EIL	Technician
Tono Sutedjo	KJ6EIM	Technician
Christian G. Hillner	KD6MSZ	General
James C. Leiterman	KJ6EIN	Technician
John K. Grosse	KJ6EBX	General
Peter D. Ferrin	KJ6EIO	Technician
Roy F. Deschene	KE6UMW	General
Johnathon S. Selstad	KJ6EIK	Technician

The exam sessions would not be possible without our team of Volunteer Examiners who conduct the exams in a professional and efficient manner. VE sessions are one of the components that help qualify CVARC for special service club designation by the ARRL.

The next VE session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Sunday, February 14 at the East Valley station.

Submitted by Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR, CVARC VE Session Coordinator

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 _____

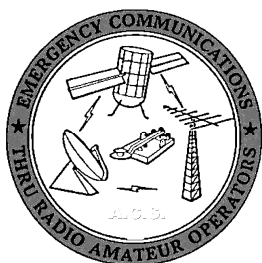
Send Information/Application to:
 Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 2093
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093

New Renewal
 Single Membership - \$25 _____
 Multi-year ____ years @ \$20 = _____
 New Ham or 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, Jerry Goldman, KC6JSO at (805) 405-8213 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.

2010 CVARC Officers

President.....	Brad Ormsby	WA6GLE.....	(818) 991-1130.....	bormsby@sbcglobal.net
Vice President.....	Rob Hanson	W6RH.....	(805) 376-9350.....	rob@w6rh.com
Secretary	Eric Peterson.....	WB6PYK.....	(805) 479-9953.....	expeterson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Morton.....	W7DMM.....	(805) 495-3920.....	dmorton@rain.org
Public Relations	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA.....	(805) 496-1073.....	mike.damore@roadrunner.com
Technical	Bill Willcox	KF6JQO.....	(805) 657-0351.....	wlinport@pacbell.net
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Social.....	Phil Bartlett.....	K6UJO.....	(805) 499-6935.....	peb@peb.net
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Member at Large	Karl Moody	AE6TO.....	(805) 523-0622.....	ke6wvz@aol.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.