

Inside this Issue

President’s Message 1
 Trivia Corner..... 1
 January Speaker 2
 Join Us For Dinner 2
 “Newbie” Net Grows..... 2
 Technical Corner 3
 Amateur Radio Magic 3
 CVARC VE Session Report 3
 CW Classes 4
 Help Wanted 4-5
 Looking For A New Antenna? 5
 Exam and Study Guide Sites..... 5
 Tax Deductible Donations..... 6
 Ventura County ACS/ARES.....7
 CVARC Officers.....7

The CVARC club meeting is held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month at:

The East County Sheriff Station
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

The East County Sherriff Station facility is just off the 23 freeway from the Olsen Road off-ramp, north, between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley.

Trivia Corner

Who knows what “QUA,” means? It appears at the beginning of the name of our newsletter. Your editor had to look it up on his “Q” code chart! It means, “here is news for...” QSL? If ur nu to CW pse see pg 4.

President’s Message

Rob Hanson, W6RH

Happy New Year! 2012 is a year we hope to make CVARC and ham radio evenmore fun and interesting. 2012 is designated the “CVARC Year of Antennas”. Why? Well they may not be the flashiest part of your station, but it is a critical part of your system, and the place where you can get the most bang for your buck. The best radio is nothing more than a pretty shelf adornment without an effective antenna, and a few milliwatts can talk to the world with a good one. Antennas are something that the average ham can build,save some money, and have the satisfaction of turning raw materials into a functional product.

We are starting the year at our January meeting with information on the Moxon antenna. I am intrigued by this antenna, and plan to build several. Don’t know what it is? Then come find out.

We have an amazing grand prize for the raffle this month. Arrow Antennas, www.arrowantennas.com, has been more than generous, and has donated a VHF/UHFsatellite antenna with duplexer. This is the antenna used by several of ourpast speakers for contacting the Hamsats. These are about \$150 dollars when you figure tax and shipping.

A number of members are buying the Arrow dual band j-pole antenna as part ofa group buy. If you are looking for a good price, we can put you on thelist.

It isn’t too early to start thinking about Field Day. If you would like tohelp with planning, please contact a board member.

I would like to express my thanks to the 2011 board members. You all did agreat job, and CVARC is bigger and better because of your efforts. Our newmembers will continue the trend, and will make 2012 the best year ever!

January Speaker Steve Hammer, K6SGH

On January 19, 2012, we will have Steve Hammer, K6SGH as our guest speaker. He will speak on the Moxon antenna.

The Moxon is a 2-element yagi with the element tips bent towards one another. An insulator separates the tips that create a gap to generate a directive pattern unique to the Moxon. It is small in physical size and very lightweight. It can be mounted on a tree, pole or on the ground. It has an outstanding front-to-back ratio.

The Moxon antenna is easy to build and usually does not require any adjustment if made according to the dimensions specified by the software available on the Moxon website. A typical Moxon rectangle can be built in a few hours, using X or H type of spreaders made from bamboo, fiberglass, PVC or a variety of other materials.

Steve was first licensed in 2002 and currently holds an Extra License. He has been involved in various DXpeditions. The first was to Kure Atoll and then from the Clipperton Atoll. This exciting adventure is fully documented on his website (Google K6SGH). He has operated from the lowest point in the western hemisphere: The Devil's Golf Course, Death Valley Ca. and participated in two Nojoqui Tarantula Migration DXpeditions.

He ran the website, downlink and internet portions of DXA. The DXA application provides a real time display of a DXpedition log.

He runs the MoxonAntennaProject.com website. The Moxon Project will be the area of discussion at the January meeting.

(Introduction courtesy of Zak N6PK)

Join Us for Dinner Diane Wainwood, KJ6JEJ

Join your CVARC friends to open the new year (2012 is "The Year of the Dragon") with a Chinese dinner at the Mandarin Buffet--5:30 PM on January 19, 2012, before the meeting, and hope our speaker will join us! Mandarin Buffet is "all you can eat" from four or five buffet tables, for only \$11.99 per person. Chinese entrees and dishes include everything you can think of, and if you're not a Chinese food fan, there are also stations with pizza, pasta, and dessert. Easy directions: Exit Hwy. 101 at Moorpark Rd. and go South, i.e., left at the bottom of the off-ramp, (away from the Janss Mall); go under the freeway, turn left at Rolling Oaks Drive, and take the first driveway on the left. The buffet is at the end of the driveway, with lots of parking. A reservation for 16 is under "CVARC - Diane". My phone is 805-241-6967; Buffet phone: 805-777-8820. See you there!

"Newbie" Net Grows Diane Wainwood, KJ6JEJ

YOUR INVITATION! The Newbie Net is On-the-Air

You're invited to join other new (and fairly new) CVARC hams and Elmers on "The Newbie Net", an excellent opportunity to practice good operating procedures, overcome "radio shyness", and get acquainted with other new operators (and some Elmers, too). After a two week holiday break, we've resumed operation on Sunday evenings, from 7:00 to 7:30 PM, on the BOZO Repeater, 147.885, negative offset of 127.3. We had our best turn-out so far on January 8, 2012, with 13 check-ins, including an out-of-state visitor! We'll be listening for you on Sunday evenings (I try to send a reminder e-mail through the CVARC Discussion group). If anyone else would like a turn as net control, please let me know—it's an excellent opportunity to learn a lot from "supervising" Elmers, who are invariably kind and helpful in their feedback!

Technical Corner

Mike D'Amore – N6MDA0

Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) batteries are the type used in marine applications. They are sealed, require no maintenance and can be mounted in any position. *Sears* sells AGM batteries as do many marine suppliers. You can use AGM batteries for emergency power backup as I do now.

Here are links to information on the Samlex SEC – 1215 battery charger used to charge my Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) battery:

<http://www.samlexamerica.com/products/subcategory.asp?CategoryID=8&packagetype=1&title=Automatic%20Battery%20Chargers>

<http://www.amazon.com/Samlex-Sec-1215a-Advanced-Automatic-Battery/dp/B004U7UXOM>

This charger can charge three (3) separate battery banks at the same time. As it goes into a maintenance mode when the batteries are charged, it can be left on 24/7. This charger is used to maintain the AGM battery at the Thousand Oaks EOC. Although I never have, this unit can also be used as a straight 12 VDC power supply.

I do have a small gas generator, and in the case of a power outage, I would plug the charger into the AC outlet on the generator. Although the generator does have a 12 VDC output, it is my understanding that putting the DC output of a generator directly into an AGM battery for charging is not recommended!

Mike D'Amore – N6MDA0

Amateur Radio Magic

Rob Hanson, W6RH

"The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio," from the ARRL is an 8-minute video that follows some of the innovative, imaginative and fun ways Hams use radio technology in new and creative ways. The presentation is directed toward the DIY (do it yourself) movement, which is inspiring a new generation of creators, hackers and innovators. The message should be helpful for existing members to shape the ways they understand and talk about ham radio. The host, Diana Eng, KC2UHB, is no stranger to the DIY, Fashion and Ham Radio communities, and is a great addition. Several CVARC members participated in this production, but did not end up on screen. Check the credits at the end.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vIDwVhx7miQ#!

or

<http://tinyurl.com/arrl-diy>

CVARC VE Session Report – Dec. 11, 2011

The December CVARC VE session hosted 14 candidates who tested for 18 elements. Among those who passed elements were:

Name	Call	New License Class
Dean I. Nedelman	K6DIN	Extra
Joseph E. Lewey Jr.	KJ6TDZ	General
Joseph J. Sprissler Jr.	KJ6LXK	General
John P. Kraljic	KJ6RBV	General
Sandy E. Snowbarger	KJ6SYV	General
Jason M. Hulette	KJ6TEA	Technician
George C. Iafate	KJ6TEB	General
John T. Reynolds	KJ6RZB	General
Collin K. Stiteler	KE6VZ	Extra
Byron H. Hesser	KJ6CRK	General
Bryce A. Chanes	KJ6TEC	Technician
Marc C. Hanley	KJ6NOJ	Extra
Richard A. Celic	KJ6RYV	General

During all of 2011, six CVARC VE sessions served 62 persons. Of those tested, 30 earned Technician licenses. There were 21 General class tickets issued and 6 earned their Amateur Extra class designation.

CVARC VE sessions are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners who help others become part of Amateur Radio. The December exam was administered by:

Hugh Bosma, AE6YC; Ken Sandberg, KS3I; Rob Hanson W6RH; Noel Van Slyke, K6NVS; Andy Ludlum, KI6NON; Robert Waybright, AF6CD and George Tamayo, WD6EJO.

VE sessions are one of the components that help qualify CVARC for the ARRL's special service club designation. The next VE session is scheduled for 8:30 AM Sunday, February 12, 2012, at the East Valley Sheriff station.

CW Classes

CW Classes start at K7SDW's QTH on January 16, 2012, Monday and Wednesday, January 18, for six weeks. Sessions start at 7 PM, so show up by 6:45 PM to get settled in. Sessions are done by 9 PM. If you show up late, just come on in and take a seat.

Sign-ups are requested ahead of time as I limit up to six each for the Monday and six each for Wednesday sessions. First come first served.

To sign-up, send me an e-mail or telephone me:

k7sdw@verizon.net or 805-498-0454

Students need a key and code practice oscillator, pad of paper, pen or pencil and a willingness to stick to the program. This is a beginners CW class to learn the code.

Also, I am working on setting up for those of you who have some slow code under your belt but want to get back into the swing of things to set up nightly local CW QSO's anywhere from 7.110 through 7.120 Mhz. To be a part of the QSO group, please join the CVARC discussion group so that a list of interested CW beginners can begin scheduling their nightly CW QSO's with others that have decided to partake. A separate Yahoo Group could be established for this, but I would encourage those who are getting back into CW to check out <http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/> for a web page that shows where straight key folks hang out, as well as digital folks.

73 de Greg K7SDW

"Help Wanted" Butternut HF9V Antenna Project

Your newsletter editor would greatly appreciate the help of some other club members to set-up his brand new Butternut HF9V in the vacant lot adjacent to his ground floor apartment north of Amgen on Rancho Conejo Blvd. The lot is 115' to 150' wide by 455' deep, fenced, and free of any structures, power lines, trees or ground clutter but for some low lying weeds and gopher mounds. The lot is owned by the same developer who built and operates the Arroyo Villa Apartments, Shapell Industries, Inc. It serves as a permanent sound barrier between the apartments and the adjacent Alcoa Fasteners such that it can never be developed.

This writer is partially disabled and cannot safely bend, lift, twist or walk and maintain balance without a cane. Rob Hanson, W6RH, graciously agreed to serve as crew chief. So far, there are three others involved: Ron Mauceri for outside help, Adrian Jarrett for in the shack support and yours truly, inside. It is anticipated that small crews for the main mast installation, antenna feed line, radials and another small crew for the grounding system must be recruited. Adrian Jarrett and your author will handle the final

power-up, including the new linear amplifier, from inside the shack.

Before the volunteers would arrive, the antenna will be mechanically assembled and "Dig-Alert" markings applied to the ground. Installation will involve mounting the ground mast 30" below ground in concrete, laying a radial field of 64 pre-cut radials, 65' in length, bolted to a DX-Engineering radial plate mounted just below ground level in a sprinkler box, attaching coax to be routed within corrugated PVC tubing, a 1:1 current choke at the shack entrance in a junction box to include a lightning arrestor. A Rig-Expert AA54 antenna analyzer is available to fine tune SWR's for each band to include graphical SWR plots displayed in hand.

Three 8' ground rods must be installed in a flower bed that has been watered for the past eight years, so it should allow for easy penetration. The rods will be connected together, about 16' apart with 2" copper strap and bonded to the apartment building's Ufer ground via a convenient all copper cold water pipe inlet that is in turn part of the building's entirely copper water pipes as the service entrance mains is otherwise unavailable.

Gasoline powered implements will be rented from Home Depot: a one man auger for the main mast, a sprinkler wire trencher to bury radials about 2" deep below the ground's surface, and a pipe trencher to bury the coax 12" below ground plus a wheel barrow to carry two five gallon water bottles for ready mix concrete and miscellaneous tools.

DX-Engineering advised this operator on the proposed installation and deemed it optimal. For those familiar with the Butternut HF9V, the optional 160 meter coil will NOT be installed as it's too sensitive to tune, interferes with the 80/40 meter bands and provides precious little propagation on its intended frequencies, per Scott Myers, moderator for the Butternut Yahoo Users' Group. Neither will a tilt mount be required as the antenna is but 26' tall and weighs only 12 pounds.

Lunch will be provided. It is estimated to be a four hour job with sufficient help working well together.

If you are interested, please contact this editor, Mike Slate, N6TEA at (H) (805) 498-9590 or (C) 818-917-6868. By e-mail, m Slate@yahoo.com or mike.slate@verizon.net will reach me. Thank you for your consideration.

Looking for a New Antenna?

By: Diane Wainwood, KJ6JEJ

Talk about the latest in "stealth antennas"!!! As a proud "Buckeye" (Ohio State University grad), I was interested to see that "wearable antennas" developed there were on one of the ARRL websites last fall. If you're interested in how antennas are now being embedded in clothing, go to tco.osu.edu/tag/wearable-antenna/ for a look at what OSU is working on. Or...just Google "osu research wearable antennas" for a whole list of the latest info.

Amateur Radio Exam and Study Guide Websites

<http://www.qrz.com>

On the right column under "Ham Study", go to "Practice Tests"

<http://www.eham.net>

On the left column under "Resources", go to "Ham Exams"

<http://www.KBOMGA.net>

Log in is required

<http://www.radioexam.org>

Practice Exams

Tax Deductible Donations to CVARC

CVARC is an IRS-certified 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are deductible pursuant to the IRS rules. If you have working radio equipment and ancillary equipment that you can and wish to donate to the club, please contact one of the board members and we will be happy to talk to you about the process. Many companies will either grant or match employee's gifts to non-profit organizations like CVARC.



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:

We cannot accept certain donations, and have to place some restrictions around them (no hazardous materials, nothing we could not sell, etc.). If you are interested, look me up, or any other board member at one of the meetings or contact us via E-Mail (our addresses are on page 7 of this newsletter).

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

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

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label): _____

ACS#: _____ ARES# _____

Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____

Family Membership: Names/Calls _____

You will automatically receive the newsletter via E-Mail. If you wish

New or Renewal: _____

Single Membership \$25 _____

Multi-year _____ years @ \$20/year = _____

New Ham (licensed in last 12 months) \$10 _____

Single Membership & full-time student \$10 _____

ARRL Membership Renewal (incl. 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: _____ Earning a ham license _____

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times and Frequencies [NEEDS PROOFING]

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



Area	Time	Mode	Frequency	Shift	PL	Repeater/Notes
Area 1	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	146.805	-	100.0	AD6SV
Area 2	7:00-7:30 pm	Voice	146.850	-	94.8	N6EVC/Grissom
Area 2	7:10-7:30 pm	Voice	224.700	-	156.7	K6HB
Area 2	7:10-7:30 pm	Voice	449.440	-	131.8	W6AMG/Amgen
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	145.460	-	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 7:00 p.m.

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, at (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.

2012 CVARC Officers

President.....	Rob Hanson	W6RH	(805) 376-9350.....	rob@w6rh.com
Vice President.....	Zak Cohen	AE6JR	(818) 991-2913.....	zcohen@ieee.org
Secretary.....	Eric Peterson	WB6PYK	(805) 479-9953.....	erxpeter@gmail.com
Treasurer (open position).....	Brad Ormsby (acting).....	W6VO	(818) 991-1130.....	w6vo@arrl.net
Public Relations	Dave Singer.....	KI6YVI	(805) 492-6667.....	singers3@verizon.net
Technical.....	Ray Biederman	WB6L.....	(805) 499-1713.....	wb6l@aol.com
Operations	Todd Kleopfer.....	KD6RCM	(805) 844-8708.....	kd6rcm@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	Mike Slate.....	N6TEA.....	(805) 498-9590.....	mplate@yahoo.com
Education (open position)				
Social.....	Diane Wainwood.....	KJ6JEJ	(805) 241-6967.....	winay@verizon.net
Member at Large	Byron Hesser	KJ6CRK	(805) 529-3106.....	kj6crk@gmail.com
Member at Large	Andy Ludlum	KI6NON	(818) 370-3402.....	ki6non@arrl.net
Member at Large.....	Mike D'Amore.....	N6MDA	(805) 496-1073.....	mike.damore@roadrunner.com



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 website at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the website, 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.

“QUA 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 e-mailed to the Treasurer. Current annual rates are: Regular Membership Family Membership \$30. Special discounts are available for new members (licensed in the last 12 months) \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year. Family members renewing for multiple years \$25/year.