

News From...



CVARC

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box. 2093 Thousand Oaks CA 91358-2093
Web site: <http://www.cvarc.org>



March 2006

President's Message – A Possible Move for CVARC

By Steve Champion, AE6NX

Articles:

President's Message

CVARC meetings have been held at the Elks Club for a long time now, so it is with mixed feelings that I announce that the Board is considering a change of location. Our relationship with The Elks has been good and the rent is very reasonable. Occasionally their activities become a bit rowdy and drown out our speaker, but that is the exception rather than the rule. However, we think that the new location will, in many ways, be better suited to our needs and the rent is even better.

March 9th Club Meeting,
Spark Gap Radio

CVARC T-Shirts for
Field Day

The new location being considered is the Community Meeting Room at the East Valley Sheriffs Station, where CVARC/ARES Licensing Examinations have been held for years. The room is immediately adjacent to the ARES/RACES Radio Room, and although that is not the same as having a full-time club shack, there will be the possibility of operating from that location on club nights should the need arise.

Try ARDF in Topanga
Park

Katrina Report Singles
Out Hams as "What
Went Right"

A disadvantage of this move would be the need to move our meeting to the Third Thursday of the month instead of the present Second Thursday. However, our current date conflicts with the Simi Settlers so the change would allow their members to visit our meetings and ours to visit theirs.

VE Session Results

Clearly the location will be a longer drive for some of our members, but for those in Moorpark, Simi Valley, and Northern Thousand Oaks it will be closer.

Changes in the
CVARC Web Site

If you have any questions or comments about the move, please send me an email at steve@stevechampion.com or call me on (805) 493-2564.

Cancelled Due To a
Lack of Interest

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March 9th Club Meeting Spark Gap Radio

Our speaker for March will be Steve Jensen. He will show how radio got its start in spark gap transmitters and receivers, showing his grandfather's spark transmitter and some history related to it. He has partially restored the spark rig to the point that he can operate the spark exciter (very noisy). Spark transmitters were a crucial step in the hobby and were amazing devices. Steve will help us understand and appreciate some of that history as only someone who grew up around it can. Here is a photo of the transmitter we will be looking at:

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Ventura County Area 2 ARES/RACES members are encouraged to check in every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm on the Area 2 Check-in Net. Specific ARES/RACES times and frequencies are as follows:



Radio
Amateur
Civil
Emergency
Service

Area	Time	Mode	Frequency	PI	Repeater
County	7:30 - 8:00 pm	Voice	146.880 -	127.3	WA6ZTT
County	7:30 - 8:00 pm	Voice	224.020 -	127.3	WB6ZTR
County	Before 6:30 pm	Packet	145.710	No pl	Hospital Net
County	RACES Simplex	Voice	147.570	No pl	
Area 1	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	147.930 -	127.3	WB6WEY
Area 2	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	146.850 -	94.8	Grissom K6AER
Area 2	Simplex	Voice	147.555	No pl	
Area 2	Backup Repeater	Voice	147.885 -	127.3	Bozo - N6JMI
Area 2	220 Repeater	Voice,	224.700 -	156.7	K6HB
Area 2	Amgen Repeater	Voice	449.440 -	131.8	KE6SWS
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 -	No pl	N6FL
Area 6	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	147.975 -	127.3	N6AHI
Area 7	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	146.985 -	127.3	WB6ZTX
Area 8	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	145.280 -	100.0	KN6OK
6 Meter	6:45 - 7:00 pm	Voice	52.980 -	82.5	K6SMR

Net Control operations for the weekly ARES/RACES Area 2 check-in net is run from the ARES/RACE communications center at the East County Sheriff Station on Olsen Rd each Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Visitors are welcomed and have the opportunity to operate the station equipment. Contact Jerry Goldman KC6JSO (805) 241-9187 if you plan to attend. RACES members should remember that their RACES card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire simply call Jackie (805) 654-2551 at the Office of Emergency Services in Ventura to renew your card. For questions concerning ARES/RACES call Area 2 Emergency Coordinator Ken Larson KJ6RZ (805) 495-9435 or go to the ARES/RACES section of the CVARC web site at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

2006 CVARC OFFICERS

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Social	Rob Hanson	W6RH	(805)376-9350	w6rh@verizon.net
Member-at-Large	open			
Member-at-Large	open			



The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Meeting location is at the Elks Lodge, 158 Conejo School Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session from 7:00 to 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

2006 EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
Jan 12	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Feb 9	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Feb 12	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Feb 13 - 17	School Club Roundup	ARRL School Club Contest
Feb 14	Introductory New Ham Class	Technician Class @ LDS, contact ke6wvz@aol.com
Feb 18 - 19	ARRL International CW DX	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
Mar 4 - 5	ARRL SSB DX	ARRL International SSB DX Contest
Mar 9	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Mar 12	CLU CROP Walk	Annual CVARC/ARES T.O. Charity Walk
Apr 2	Westlake Street Fair	Radio support for Westlake Rotary Club (morning)
Apr 9	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Apr 13	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Apr 22	Arbor Day	CVARC/ARES radio demo at N. Conejo Creek Park
May 11	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
May 13	Cruisin' The Conejo Bike Ride	This is a major yearly CVARC field activity
Jun ??	Orienteering	Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition
Jun 8	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Jun 11	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Jun 24 - 25	Field Day	CVARC annual field day event, don't miss it!
Jul 3	Moorpark Fireworks	Comm support for Moorpark's 3rd of July Fireworks
Jul 13	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Aug 10	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Aug 13	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Sep 14	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Oct 8	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Oct 12	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Nov 9	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Dec 10	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Dec 14	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting

If you have corrections, please email them to the editor at kg6qel@yahoo.com

Next FCC License Examinations On April 9th

CVARC hosts FCC License Examinations at 8:30 AM on the second Sunday of even numbered months at the Ventura East County Sheriff Station on Olsen Rd. (near the Reagan Library). The next exams will be held on Sunday morning April 9th. CVARC conducts exams for all license classes. Exam candidates must bring a form of government issued photo I.D., the original AND a photocopy of any existing license or Certificate of Exam Element Completion, a Social Security (or government issued Taxpayer I.D.) number, and \$14 ARRL VE Exam fee (cash is preferred). No advance reservation is necessary, walk-ins are welcome. Advance notice is needed for special circumstances, such as reading the exam to sight-impaired candidates. If you have any questions, contact CVARC VE Coordinator Jeff Reinhardt at 818-706-3853.



This photo was taken in approximately 1918 at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln Nebraska. The gentleman seated in the middle of the photo is Steven's grandfather, John C. Jensen. His call was 9YD. The piece sitting on the table and the telegraph key that he is holding is the part that Steve has up and running again.

Please join us in what is sure to be an interesting and informative presentation.

CVARC T-Shirts for Field Day

by Steve Champion

Attention all you Artists out there! We are thinking of making some CVARC T-Shirts and other items available for Field Day this year. Of course the ARRL T-Shirts are great, but we thought it might be nice to make some CVARC ones available. If you would like to submit a design for consideration, please email a picture to steve@stevechampion.com

The design should include some reference to CVARC and to Field Day, and possibly the club callsign AA6CV. It may be submitted in any format, although the ideal for best reproduction would be a 100dpi image, 10 inches by 10 inches, in RGB JPEG.

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The move is yet to be finalized, so until there is an official announcement please continue to come to the usual location. I'm very much looking forward to seeing Steve Jensen's talk this month and I hope to see you all there.

73 de AE6NX

Steve Chay

Try Ham Radio Foxhunting in Topanga Park

It's the fastest growing form of ham radio competition! It combines ham radio technology with good exercise outdoors. It's suitable for anyone of any age, with or without a ham radio license. We call it "foxhunting," but it's also known as "radio-orienteeing" and ARDF. It's popular in two dozen countries around the world and there are national and international championships every year.

You can try foxhunting for yourself in Topanga State Park on Saturday, March 18. Bring the whole family, because there's no age limit. There will be some easy hidden transmitters to get you started, plus an international-rules course where you can find out whether you're a potential champion. If you're a runner -- great! If not, don't worry. There will be plenty of walking and trotting on the course.

There is no charge for the beginner course. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques of on-foot direction-finding. A limited amount of radio direction finding gear will be available for loan. If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it.

Foxhunting begins at 10 AM. You may start out at any time up until 12 noon. Courses close at 3 PM.

Topanga State Park is in the Santa Monica Mountains. From Highway 101 in Woodland Hills, go south on Topanga Canyon Boulevard Highway 27) about 8 miles. From Pacific Coast Highway, go north on Topanga Canyon Boulevard to just past Old Topanga Canyon Road. Either way, watch for a "Topanga State Park" sign and turn east onto Entrada Road. (This is a dangerous corner.) Go about a mile, bearing left at the fork. We will gather at the end of the parking lot in the shaded picnic area. Look for the orange and white orienteeing flag.

Talk-in on 146.97 MHz simplex. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$5 per vehicle.

On the Web, you'll find ideas for equipment, the international rules, and more news of foxhunting events, including the USA ARDF Championships coming in April and the World ARDF Championships in September. Go to www.homingin.com to get started.

Joe Moell K0OV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator

Katrina Report Singles Out Hams as "What Went Right"

The Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina was released a couple of weeks ago (http://katrina.house.gov/full_katrina_report.htm or <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/katrinareport/mainreport.pdf>). The White House released its review of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, which, "identifies the systemic problems in Federal emergency preparedness and response revealed by Hurricane Katrina - and the best solutions to address them." The President released his staff's report (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/>

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CVARC VE Session results from the Exam of February 12

NAME	CALL	NEW LICENSE CLASS
Peter Higgins	KI6BTZ	Extra
Mary Ho	KI6COG	Tech Plus
William Cavan	KI6COF	Technician
Rhonda Lim	KI6COE	Technician
Richard Grove	AE6WZ	Extra
Elisha Kramer	KI6BTDF	Tech Plus
David Mellinger	KI6BYC	Tech Plus

Congratulations to all the successful candidates and special thanks go to the Volunteer Examiners who make it all possible.

Our next exam will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station. CVARC tests for all license classes and no pre-registration is necessary.

Changes in the CVARC Web Site By Neil Waybright KG6QEL

By this point, I am sure everyone has noticed that the CVARC web site is back up and running after an unfortunately long downtime. This outage was frustrating for me, for the board, as well as for our regular users. The good news is that we learned some important lessons and will soon have the ability to recover much faster, and we intend to stay in practice on how to do it.

In the mean time, we are sprucing things up and going through a lot of housecleaning efforts, pruning dead links, finding relocated ones and such. If you happen to find a dead link, please bring it to my attention (KG6QEL@yahoo.net) and I'll try to get it fixed promptly. I have fixed quite a few and have automated tools to help me with the task. The tools aren't good about finding where the new site is when a site relocates. Your help could help a lot.

We have also added a section of links to young ladies sites to encourage more female members and potential members to become active in the club and our efforts. If you have any female radio amateurs in your family or social circles invite them to visit our "YL" links on the "links" page.

Another big change is that this newsletter is available not only in HTML, but as a PDF file you can download as well. That can make it easier to make a copy for a relative or friend. Please let me know what you think at a club meeting, or by email.

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releases/2006/02/20060223.html). His report included 17 lessons the Executive Branch learned after reviewing and analyzing the response to Katrina; made 125 specific recommendations to the President, and identified 11 critical actions to be completed before the first day of the 2006 hurricane season.

The report also included a section titled, "What Went Right" in the Katrina response, which singled out amateur radio operators for particular praise:

"Other organizations worked tirelessly to assist emergency responders that, due to the storm, did not have the equipment and means to effectively carry out their duties. Amateur Radio Operators from both the Amateur

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Cancelled Due To a Lack of Interest

At the end of last year, it was with great sadness that I read about the winding-up of the Poinsettia Radio Club. The club had reached the point where the Board Members were the only people active in the club and they decided to continue meeting informally without the overheads of an organized club.

This scenario may seem to be a long way from describing CVARC. After all, we have sixty or so members and a good turn-out at our monthly meetings. But, on the other hand, in some ways it describes exactly the situation in CVARC. Although the headcount at monthly meetings is always at least a couple of dozen (and sometimes as many as forty) each year it becomes increasingly difficult to fill all of the Board positions. Some of the positions have to be filled by arm-twisting the incumbent into YET another year on the Board, when they really deserve to have a year off. This year we have two vacant "At Large" board positions, and there are also a number of small club-related tasks with which the Board could use some help.

Please consider the value of CVARC to you and see if you can afford to allocate some time to helping with the day-to-day running of the club. The tasks that come immediately to mind (I'm sure there are others) are:

- At Large Board Member I (one meeting each month)
- At Large Board Member II (one meeting each month)
- CVARC Library (bring a tote of books to each meeting and set out on a table)
- Field Day Committee (a few meetings between now and Field Day)

Even if you are unable to find a lot of time to get involved, please let a Board Member know if you can take on small or occasional tasks.

Steve Champion, AE6NX, CVARC President

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Radio Emergency Service and the American Radio Relay League, monitored distress calls and rerouted emergency requests for assistance throughout the U.S. until messages were received by emergency response personnel. A distress call made from a cell phone on a rooftop in New Orleans to Baton Rouge was relayed, via ham radio, from Louisiana to Oregon, then Utah, and finally back to emergency personnel in Louisiana, who rescued the 15 stranded victims. Ham radio operators voluntarily manned the amateur radio stations at sites such as the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Watch Net, Waterway Net, Skywarn and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network." A quote from the bipartisan reports was "FEMA dispatched Amateur Radio operators to hospitals, evacuation centers, and county Emergency Operations Centers to send emergency messaging 24 hours per day." This sounds familiar to many of us because we participate with ARES and RACES in local hospital drills and in the actual evacuations that have occurred in local fires and floods.

The bipartisan Katrina report however, notes that "Contributions by charitable organizations assisted many in need, but the American Red Cross and others faced challenges due to the size of the mission, inadequate logistics capacity, and a disorganized shelter process". This represents an area that we as emergency response providers need to look at and think hard about. I am sure this report is being thoughtfully considered at many levels inside disaster response organizations everywhere, and we hams should join them in looking at how we would scale up our responses to meet the needs of these large scale disasters. At the time of Katrina, experts pointed out that there are credible scenarios of a very large earthquake in Southern California that would be even more difficult to respond to than Katrina was.

I highly recommend you download the full pdf version of both reports I mention at the beginning of the article and search for the words "amateur radio" and read all of the sections that match. It is very informative and will help you justify to yourself all of the efforts you put into community service and disaster preparation.

News from CVARC
Neil Waybright KG6QEL
4818 Avedon Road
Moorpark, CA 93021

Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City, ST Zip _____

Tel: (____) - _____

E-Mail: _____

ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label) _____

RACES # _____ ARES# _____

Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____

Family Membership: _____ Names/Calls _____

Send Information/Application to:
Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
ATTN: Michael Pershing, treasurer
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/RACES? _____

Disaster Action Team? _____

Obtain a HAM License? _____