

News From...



CVARC

Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box. 2093 Thousand Oaks CA 91358-2093

Web site: <http://www.cvarc.org>
Robert "Neil" Waybright, Publisher



July 2006

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By Steve Champion, AE6NX

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When I talk to fellow hams about their computer usage, the subject of junk email often comes up. Most of us are plagued by spam to some extent. There are a number of approaches to the problem, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

Some users maintain multiple email addresses and are careful about their distribution. One private address is reserved for close acquaintances. Other disposable ones are used for any commercial (or otherwise public) transactions. Once you get into the habit of selecting the right address for each email this method is not too difficult to administer, and when one of the "public" addresses becomes too plagued with spam it can be discarded. Unfortunately, there is a certain amount of "leakage" of the private address when people forward emails or include you in a long *To:* line, but it is possible for a private address to remain so for a remarkable length of time.

Other users rely on the spam filtering of their Internet Provider. Some providers are reputed to have very good filtering. My own provider, Verizon does have filtering in place, but I have never found a significant proportion of the spam caught in that net.

If you have a broadband connection, it is feasible to filter the mail after it reaches your machine. I use a free program called POPFile (<http://popfile.sourceforge.net/>). It uses a Bayes algorithm to sort mail based on the frequencies of words found in the messages. Initially the program has no statistics to go on, but after you show it which "bucket" you would place some emails in, it learns very quickly. I use it to mark mail with four tags which I call *Ham* (personal mail), *List* (mailing lists that I subscribe to), *Splist*, (spam from companies who legitimately have me on their list) and *Spam* (junk mail). Once messages are marked, it is simple to have my email client place them into different folders. This makes it easy to take care of important mail before even looking at the rest. Now that I have been using the program for a while it is sufficiently accurate that I have it put mail marked with the *Spam* category directly into the *deleted* folder. I occasionally glance through the headers on this mail before purging the deleted folder, but I very rarely find any real mail there. When I'm not busy, I look

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July 20th Club Meeting "A Photo Tour of CBS Television City"

At the July meeting, Jonathan Fox (KT6LA) will present a photographic tour of CBS Television City. Tours of the facility at Beverly and Fairfax in Hollywood are not normally available. We will get an inside look, however, at the CBS Television Network production facility. This technical tour will cover everything from the ground floor to the roof. Popular TV shows produced here include *The Bold & Beautiful*, *The Young & Restless*, *Price is Right*, *Late Late Show*, *Tyra Banks Show*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and *American Idol*. See what it takes to put together

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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
Ares 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

President	Steve Champion	AE6NX	(805)493-2564	steve@stevechampion.com
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Member-at-Large	Mary Ho	KI6COG	(805)494-9241	
Member-at-Large	Dave Davis	KG6WRG	(805)479-8879	kg6wrg@yahoo.com



The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Meeting location is at the East Valley Sheriff Station, 2101 E. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks. 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 14	Introductory New Ham Class	Technician Class @ LDS, contact ke6wvz@aol.com
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 20	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Apr 22	Arbor Day	CVARC/ARES radio demo at N. Conejo Creek Park
June 13	Cruisin' The Conejo Bike Ride	This is a major yearly CVARC field activity
June 18	CVARC Club Meeting	General CVARC Club Meeting
Jun ??	Orienteering	Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition
Jun 15	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 20	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Aug 8	Technician Class Begins	3rd Technician License Class of year begins
Aug 17	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Aug 13	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Sep 21	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Sep 26	Technician Class Ends	Class completes with two weeks to prepare for FCC license exam
Oct 8	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Oct 10	Technician Class Begins	4th Technician License Class of year begins
Oct 19	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Nov 16	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Nov 28	Technician Class Ends	Class completes with two weeks to prepare for FCC license exam
Dec 9	CVARC Christmas Party	Club Christmas party at the Cameron Center
Dec 10	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Dec 14	CVARC Club Meeting	Club Christmas party meeting

Next FCC License Examinations On August 13th

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 August 13th. 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.

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one of these productions.

Jonathan, who has only been a ham for about a year, has been in broadcasting for 36 years. Starting out, while attending the New Jersey Institute of Technology, his first radio experience was on a 33,000 watt FM station covering parts of NJ, NY and PA. The first TV experience was at a CBS affiliate in Atlanta, GA as a transmitter engineer. Following college graduation, he joined the Engineering and Development department at CBS in New York. The Broadcast Center in NY, CBS News - Washington and CBS TVC in Hollywood were some of locations of his work. Eventually, Jonathan decided to make Los Angeles his home and he is now the Audio Maintenance Supervisor of CBS TVC.

Preview of August Club Meeting Speaker Adrian Popa returns for “Relativity”

Adrian Popa will be our speaker for the August 17th CVARC Club meeting. He was a real crowd pleaser last year in March when he spoke on Communications Satellites. Adrian will be speaking on Einstein's Theory of Relativity. After working for over 50 years in the aerospace and automotive industries, Adrian retired from HRL Laboratories LLC (formerly GM Hughes Research Laboratories) in Malibu, CA in August 2000 where he was the Director of Programs in the President's Office. Since retiring he has been consulting for Boeing and has been working with 5th grade math students at the Conejo School and also at the Braille Institute in Santa Barbara where he has developed sensors to aid blind science students. Adrian also has answered over 400 physics and engineering related questions submitted by students and teachers to the Washington University Medical School's, award winning MAD SCIENCE website <http://www.madsci.org>.

Adrian received his BS in Engineering with honors from UCLA in 1969. In 1991 he graduated from the USC Graduate School of Business Administration. He has been a visiting lecturer at Caltech, UCLA, USC and at the Chalmers Institute for Technology in Gotenberg, Sweden. He has 10 patents and is a co-author of two editions of the CRC/McGraw-Hill Handbook of Laser Science and Technology (1980), (1991). Adrian has published his work in several leading journals and periodicals including the Scientific American Magazine. He was an Army aviator during the Korean War era and is a Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

Next Technician License Class Compiled By Karl Moody, AE6TO

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, (CVARC) sponsors amateur radio license classes throughout the year. The Technician Class license, which is the entry level license for amateur radio is presented four times a year and each class lasts for eight weeks. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and are free. The only cost related to this class is the cost for the Ham Radio License Manual which is \$24.95 plus tax. Students who wish to purchase this manual through the CVARC class may do at the time of class registration. This book is a brand new course manual presented by the Amateur Radio Relay League and replaces the Now You're Talking, fifth edition, lesson manual which was the official study guide through June 2006. The new manual covers the new FCC test requirements for all Technician exams after July 1, 2006.

Classes are taught in Thousand Oaks in classroom facilities provided as a community service by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The current classes are held at 3645 Moorpark Road, in Thousand Oaks. This is on Moorpark Road, one block North of Olson Road.

Classes are open to all ages, and CVARC is proud to report that our graduates include 7 year old children and 84 year old adults. There are no age limits imposed by the FCC on the Amateur Radio license, and both men and

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women participate in the magic of radio.

Whether you are interested in radio communications with other amateur operators around the world, or just want to have your radio license for emergency preparedness, the Technician Class license is your entry to amateur radio. If you are interested, or want to know more about amateur radio, call Karl Moody at (805) 523-0622 for information regarding the next class.

Class Schedule for the balance of 2006

Start Date	End Date	Date of FCC Exam following class
August 8th, 2006	September 26, 2006	October 8, 2006
October 10, 2006	November 28, 2006	December 10, 2006

CVARC Field Day 2006 ARRL Annual Field Operations Event Neil Waybright KG6QEL

Field Day 2006 is behind us, the points are being tallied and submitted, and we look back and decide “how did it go this year?” Field day attendance from both club members and the public was little light this year, but we still put in a respectable showing as you can see from the pictures on the web site (www.cvarc.org/fielddays.html). Take a few minutes to look through and find familiar faces, look at the setups and the rigs. There are some of our club members that this is about the only time of the year you see them.

Field Day has many goals, but the main one is emergency preparedness. The ARRL says “The event is designed to test operators skills in setting up and operating radio communications equipment in situations where electrical power is limited or unavailable”. It is run as a contest to make it a little more “fun” for those who like to be competitive, but the rules are by-and-large designed to further the main objective. That is why you can get some points even for just getting on the air from your house and operating there from regular wall power, but more points are given for field operations. With an eye toward sustainable operations you are rewarded for operating in a manner that conserves your available power resources (QRP), and even more points for operating with power that is indefinitely sustainable (solar, water power, etc.). The rules are not perfect, but they are pretty good, and best of all, you can work to influence them if you have a better idea of furthering the event’s objectives.

Field Day has other facets as well. Since we are able to work on more than one thing at a time, Field Day is used to promote amateur radio in the general public. A related goal is to improve relations with local government officials and agencies to help them recognize the benefits ham’s can provide their constituents in the event of local disasters. This is why we choose the club Field Day site in areas that seem less than perfect for UHF signal propagation, HF antenna erection and less than ideal ground conductivity. We can lose a few contact points that we might have otherwise have gained to further another important goal of the event, and of CVARC in general. An additional benefit with our current location is that we are set up right outside of a large government building with good communication capabilities (the former Thousand Oaks City Hall).

Another goal and benefit of Field Day is getting hams active and operating together. If the numbers are similar this year, somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 amateurs will be active participants this year. We don’t really have any other events of this magnitude in the hobby able to galvanize that kind of support and cooperation. Having operated on several bands this year, I was again impressed with the patience, courteously and respect shown by operators from around the entire North American continent tried to make contacts. I was part of a small pile-up over a station

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through the headers of the *Splist* category, and then read only the relevant stuff.

Before I started to use POPFile, I found that spam was becoming increasingly annoying. My current email address has been very widely published for a long time now, so that is not surprising. Now that the mail is sorted reasonably accurately into categories, I find that the irritation is reduced to a tolerable level. This may be partly that I have become accustomed to spam, but I think the program has helped considerably. At one time I thought that I understood the principle behind the program, but I have noticed that the emails containing esoteric word lists (which I think are specifically intended to get past Bayesian filters) are *always* correctly categorized as spam. This tells me that something subtle is going on, but I'm inclined not to look that particular gift horse in the mouth!

Whatever approach you have adopted, I hope that you have been able to "tame the dragon" in your inbox, and that you will share your tips and tricks with us all.

73 de AE6NX



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operating somewhere in Alberta Canada. We all patiently worked the station and provided our "exchange" (call sign, number of simultaneously operating stations, class and section). Our exchange was "AA6CV 7A SB" since we operated under the CVARC AA6CV club call sign, we had a maximum of seven simultaneous stations, operating class A (club/non-club battery), and we were operating from the Santa Barbara ARRL section.

There is a social part of the Field Day event as well. All of us breaking bread together at Friday night's pot-luck after erecting antennas, pitching tents, driving stakes, and such was a great experience in sharing a common experience. Saturday evening was similar, but even bigger with many of the families being there. The opportunity for XYLs and kids to meet our amateur radio colleagues was fun and rewarding.

Another part of the Field Day experience I particularly enjoy is learning little tid-bits of operating and preparation lore from old-timers with years of experience and wide exposure to other environments. Pete Heins (N6ZE) mentioned in an email to another group what his "color" is and how he unobtrusively marks all of his cables, adapters, radios, etc. with a small dab of dark blue Testor's model paint with a Q-tip so he is able to quickly and accurately determine which parts were his when disassembling any joint effort setups in the field. If you have a larger group, it wouldn't be too hard to come up with a color and pattern (red white and blue triangle, green square, etc.) that would be unique. A great idea to file away for the future. I sure wish we had thought to do this when a group of us worked together to wire-up Flory Elementary School for the NASA Space Station contact last year. Sorting out everyone's cables and contributions afterwards was more time consuming than it would have been with this.

I saw another at another event a few years ago was a five gallon paint bucket and lid ("Homer buckets" from Home Depot work as well), re-fitted with a upholstered thick compressed foam pad that was used to store much of the hams emergency kit. Four buckets, a card table, a few batteries and the mobiles in his car and he would be headed for the field with everything he needed, including several days water, emergency rations, blankets, air mattress, sun screen, changes of clothes, etc. The buckets are air, water and vermin-tight, are conveniently sized, don't weigh too much, have built-in handles and can be used as seats that are a great height to work with the card table as operating and logging positions.

I hope to start a series of articles in the near future on these operating tid-bits and ideas to document and share them and encourage others in the club to bring forward great ideas that they have developed, or were taught so we all benefit from the experiences of others. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please contact me (my call sign at ARRL.net) and I will start a dialog. Please plan on joining us next year at Field Day and seeing for yourself. There is something for literally everyone. You don't have to camp all night to participate and enjoy!

No Such Thing as a Free Lunch....

It is often said that there is no such thing as a free lunch, but sometimes it seems like there are some pretty good deals to be had. One ham radio related bargain that I'd like to alert you to is vistaprint.com's "Free" Postcards offer. You have probably seen their Business Cards, but you may not know that they periodically offer 100 custom postcards which can be had for a "shipping" charge of about \$5.25. These can make nice, inexpensive QSL cards.

There are not really any serious catches to this offer. The shipping charge is not outlandish. Uploading your own pictures costs extra (adding \$2.50), but you can make some pretty nice cards by the creative use of their extensive stock photos collection. Like any Internet offer, you must give your email address to take advantage of the offer. So if you are one of the paranoid among us (and we know who you are) then this is not for you!

Below are some thumbnails of cards that I have made for myself and as gifts for friends. The images are small to conserve page space, but should give a general idea. You can see them in color in the online PDF. If you'd like to see actual cards, talk to me at a club meeting. Here are some things that I have learned along the way:

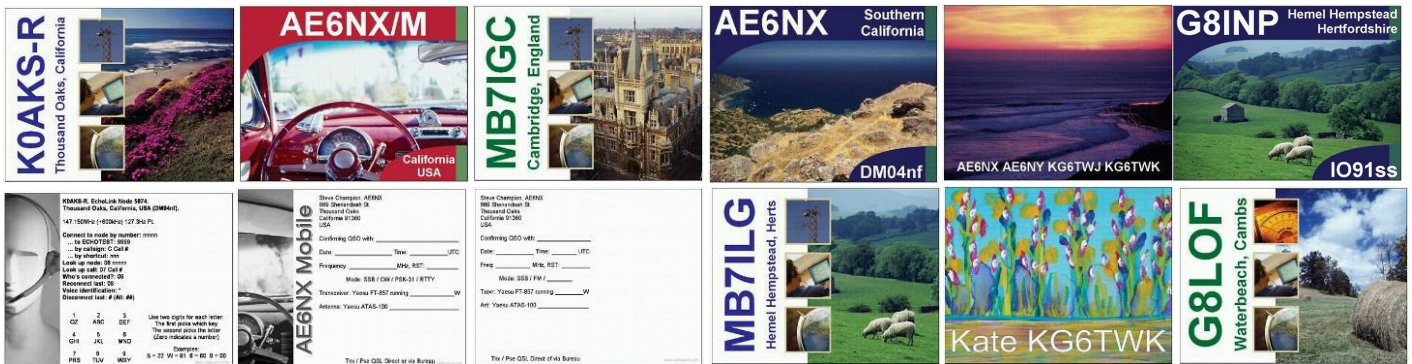
- Firstly, it helps to focus on layout before content. A layout with a main photo and three inset photos has a great many more possibilities than one with a single photo. My method is to find a sample card that provides a good starting point and then to customize it almost beyond recognition. The actual photos and color scheme can be edited. Sample layouts are found using keywords. The four-photo examples below are based on a design found with the keyword "headset".
- When browsing sample designs, there is a drop-down box that lets you select the number per page. Selecting the maximum (48) makes for much faster browsing.
- The web-based editor used to design the card takes a little getting used to, but is quite sophisticated. It is worth spending the time to experiment with it.

- The text blocks in the samples can be deleted and new ones placed as desired. This is easier than trying to change the pre-existing text blocks.
- When searching for stock images, keywords are also used. Technical pictures can be found by looking for "tower" "mast" "headset" "microphone" "meter" "computer" and so on. Photos of particular types of terrain can be found with words like "beach" "farm" "hills" "oaks" "view", or by using a city or state name.
- Many of the samples have a picture back and front. A grayscale image on the back is free, and one that matches or complements the color image on the front looks good. I use two basic back side layouts. One covers the entire back side and uses an image. The other is text only and covers only the left hand side. It does not look as fancy, but it leaves room for a mailing address (for non-bureau use)
- For most applications, the back-side image should contain the usual fill-in-the-blanks QSL information. Look at your QSL card collection for ideas and for variations that you like.
- My final tip is to PROOF READ carefully before committing the design, since an order can't be cancelled or changed once sent. Although the cost penalty of ordering unusable cards is not all that great, you feel really stupid (or so a friend told me!).

I don't know if this "free" offer has been a successful marketing tool for Vistaprint, but they seem to be able to stay in business. At one point their stock doubled in three months, but it has settled down now. It seems to me that they must lose very little, if any, servicing the offer and that enough people go on to use their "paying" services to make it worth their while.

If you try making cards, please feel free to call me for help. And have fun!

Steve Champion



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? _____