

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



October 2006

President's Message – Holiday Party, Mark Your Calendar!

By Steve Champion, AE6NX

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The venue for last year's CVARC Holiday Party worked out very well, so we will be using The Cameron Center in Thousand Oaks again this year. The party will be held on Saturday December 2nd, starting at about 7pm.

The Holiday Party is one of CVARC's biggest events, and anybody who was at last year's event can attest that a fun time was had by all. Even if you don't usually turn out for CVARC events, please come to the holiday party and re-acquaint yourself with the club and club members. This is one CVARC event that most of the spouses show up for, so please encourage yours to come.

Rob Hanson, our Social Committee Chair has some great food lined up. The club will be providing the main part of the meal. Members are asked to bring a side-dish or dessert to share. Please contact Rob for details and ideas.

We will have two raffles and some really good raffle prizes. There is a "White Ticket" Raffle with a Grand Prize consisting of an HF rig with power supply and a second prize of a Dual-band Mobile rig. The red tickets from the monthly raffles throughout the year have been saved. They will be tossed in with any red tickets bought on the night of the party and there will be a draw for a 2m hand-held rig, plus some other small prizes. Raffle tickets can be obtained at the October and November club meetings.

Last year, we had a Holiday Party Auction for the first time. It was a great success, not just in raising some money for a good cause, but also in that it was a lot of fun for everybody involved. Because of that success, we will be having an auction again this year. People have been very generous with their donations, so you will find some good bargains. Jeff Reinhardt has volunteered to be our auctioneer again, so you can expect some belly-laughs as well!

(Continued on page 4)

October 19th Club Meeting Electronics in Space

Our previously planned guest speaker, Steve Jensen will be unable to present on the planned date so we have made alternative arrangements. Steve Champion will talk about "Electronics in Space". He will describe some of the difficulties encountered in space and how designers get around them. Steve had worked as a Digital Hardware Design Engineer for about twenty years, most recently for a company in Chatsworth that manufactures, among other things, computer systems for satellites. Please join us for another interesting presentation.

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	147.765 -	127.3	no call
Area 7	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	146.985 -	127.3	WB6ZTX
Area 8	7:00 - 7:30 pm	Voice	146.535 Simplex		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
Vice President	Greg Lane	K7SDW	(805)498-0454	k7sdw@verizon.net
Secretary	Ben Champion	AE6NY	(805)493-2564	ben@benchampion.com
Treasurer	Mike Pershing	KD6IJF	(805)493-1934	mpershing@earthlink.net
Editor/Publisher	Neil Waybright	KG6QEL	(805)517-2962	kg6qel@yahoo.com
Operations	Ken Larson	KJ6RZ	(805)495-9435	kj6rz@verizon.net
Education	Karl Moody	AE6TO	(805)523-0622	ke6wvz@aol.com
Public Relations	Jeff Reinhardt	AA6JR	(818)706-3853	aa6jr@pacbell.net
Technical	Hugh Bosma	AE6YC	(805)498-1987	hrbcrb@aol.com
Social	Rob Hanson	W6RH	(805)376-9350	w6rh@verizon.net
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 13	Santa Barbara Hamfest	8:30 am—1:30 pm at 150 N. Kellog Ave, Goleta
Aug 13	FCC License Exam	Begins 8:30 am at East County Sheriff's Station
Aug 17	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Sep 17	CVARC Summer Picnic	Picnic at Conejo Valley Community Park in T.O.
Sep 21	CVARC Club Meeting	Visitors welcome. See web site for speaker
Sep 22-24	ARRL SW Division Convention	at the Marriot Mission Valley in San Diego
Sep 26	Technician Class Ends	Class completes with two weeks to FCC 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 2	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

Next FCC License Examinations On December 10th

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 December 10th. 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.

(Continued from page 1)

A "one-off" event like this is a great opportunity for members who are too busy to be able to commit a lot of time to the club through the year to participate. Please contact Rob, our social chair if you are able to help out. We will need some people to help with the set-up for the event. This basically consists of turning up a bit early and helping to set up tables and chairs.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

73 de AE6NX



Results from the August 13 and October 10th, 2006 CVARC VE Session

by Greg Lane K7SDW & Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR

The August 13th VE session was small with only a few attending, but a number were added to the amateur radio licensee ranks that day:

NAME	CALL	NEW LICENSE CLASS
Gary S Rever	KA6QPT	General
Carl E Fairbairn	KI6ELB	General
Mathias L Kolehmainen	KI6EST	General
Matthew L Shemenski	KC6URU	General
Lawrence Horner	K6WXZ	Technician

The October 8 CVARC Exam session saw over 20 candidates participate, one of the highest turnouts in several years.

We're pleased to report the following results:

Candidate	Call	New license class
Donald Penfield	KI6FUY	Technician
Brant Mock	KI6FUW	Technician
M. Robert Mock	KI6FUV	Technician
John Stephenson	KG6MRD	Element 3 credit
James Hollister	KI6FUY	Technician
David Morton	K0CMD	Extra

Ed Eynon	KI6FUT	Technician
Samir Abed	KI6FUS	Technician
Robert Beaudine III	KI6FUR	Technician
Albert Febraro	KI6EKY	General
John Heeg	KI6FUP	Technician
Stephen Coler	KI6FUO	Technician
George Tamayo	WD6EJO	Extra
Tim Lemmon	KI6FVA	Technician
David Mellinger	KI6BYC	General
Kenneth Hendrickson	KI6DJT	General
Jeffrey Barsamian	WB6KYI	General
Daniel McKendrick	KI6FUZ	Technician

Special thanks to all the VEs who help make the CVARC Exam session possible.

Next scheduled VE session is Sunday, December 10th at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station on Olsen Road.

CVARC Officers Nominated for 2007

A club can not operate without the enthusiastic cooperation from it's members. CVARC has been lucky that our members from various backgrounds and experiences have been willing to serve as Board members for the Club. I wish to encourage each and every one of you to think of when or how you can be a benefit to the Club. We all share a common interest in Ham Radio; thus, to share the compassion of this hobby is entrusted to each of us.

The CVARC by-laws explain each of the Board members duties and responsibilities can be found on our web site www.cvarc.org . Please take time to review these "job" descriptions.

My experience for the last 9 years with the club has shown me that an organization such as ours is as good as the commitment of the members to attend and serve the common interest of ham radio. We cover the A, B, C's of the hobby each year as best we can to bring to the membership those activities to the for front for your entertainment and enjoyment.

I am pleased to have been a Board member for these 9 years and have indicated a willingness to serve as the Van Chairman next year and retaining the Club's Trusteeship of AA6CV.

Here are your well qualified members that have indicated a willingness to serve.

Nominations will remain open through October and up until the November meeting. At the November meeting the nominations are closed and a vote is taken. If you wish to be nominated or help the Board in any fashion please contact me or another member so we can add you to the list.

Please consider a secondary position to fill for any of those positions which may post more than one candidate. The more the merrier, so please, pitch in a nomination.

Nominations slated for 2007:

President: Neil Waybright, KG6QEL
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Ben Champion, AE6NY
Treasurer: Roy Deschene, KE6UMW
Editor/Publisher: Steve Champion, AE6NX
Operations: Ken Larson, KJ6RZ
Education: Karl Moody, AE6TO
Public Relations: Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR
Technical: Hugh Bosma, KF6HHS
Social: Dave Davis, KG6WRG
Member-at-Large (1): Eddie Pierce, KQ6K
Member-at-Large (2): Johnathan Fox, KT6LA
Member-at-Large (3): Rick Barrett, KE6DKF
Member-at-Large (3): Mary Ho, KI6COG

Greg Lane, K7SDW, Nominating Committee Chairman

N6ZE's Operating Dream: Spending 2 Full Days on 6 & 2 Meters (While Driving to Seattle) **Peter Heins, N7ZE**

I recently took a '2 day holiday' to bring a vehicle from Thousand Oaks to Seattle, WA. Because my favorite amateur radio activity is 'Weak Signal' VHF/UHF operating, otherwise known as communication which uses SSB or CW instead of utilizing FM Repeaters, I decided to make the 1200 mile trip without using repeaters or HF.

I used an FT-100 & ¼ wave whip for 6 meters; on 2 meters, I utilized a Kenwood 2 meter multi-mode transceiver, 100 watt brick amplifier, & horizontally polarized omni directional loop antenna.

The 2 meter APRS station consisted of a Garmin GPS, Kenwood handheld radio with built in TNC, & 5/8 wave whip. My special thanks to Mike, N7WLC, for introducing me to the APRS mode of communication, lending me his equipment, and setting everything up for me!

With the exception of working Eddie, KQ6K, on the Bozo 147.885 Mhz repeater at the start of my trip, I never even attempted to make another QSO with FM simplex or repeaters. Eddie & I did subsequently work on both 6 & 2 meter SSB however.

"Weak Signal VHFers" sometimes use an internet propagation logger or postings on the web sites of the Western States Weak Signal Society (wswss.org) and the Stanford Weak Signal reflector (w6yx@stanford.edu) to announce roving plans or portable operating plans so to maximize the awareness of the activity.

As I passed Gorman, I had a great view of a flare-up of the Day Fire a few miles to the West of I-5. (The only photos I took on the entire trip were of the fire.)

I had a great 1 hour chat on 2m SSB with W6GMT (Grid DM05)(*) in Bakersfield. I began to work him as I was descending the I-5 from Fraiser Park. We also worked briefly on 6 meters. I didn't work anyone else on 6 meters during the 1200 mile drive because Sporadic E propagation had ended for the year and dirty power lines caused a lot of QRN noise. We had a great time discussing 6 meter propagation and his 6 meter operating experiences during his summer as a campground docent about 100 miles from Duluth, MN (DN27). On 2 meters, 'GMT runs about 100 watts and uses a crossed yagi which he primarily uses for Amateur Satellite work.

As I drove, I would periodically call CQ; just after passing Modesto, I had a long series of QSOs with guys up in the Gold Country to the East of Sacramento. Highlights included QSOs with Norm, KC6ZWT, whom I've worked on both 144 Mhz and 222 Mhz from T.O. as well as a long chat with my friend David, WA6DAC, who formerly lived in Newbury Park! David was very helpful by providing directions for route changes as I transited metro Sacramento during rush hour. I talked with 3 or 4 other stations from the Sierra Foothills also (CM98) and worked one station until I was about 60 miles South of Redding (DN01). With the exception of 'ZWT, the stations were using 10 – 50 watts and small loop antennas.

On my final leg, day 2, I drove 640 miles. As I drove

North of Redding, the APRS continued to hit hot spot nodes in almost every small town! It sure made it easy for the Robin, my XYL, and N7WLC to check on my progress at the mapfindu.com url. From her office, Robin could check my speed and location; her fellow workers really enjoyed seeing the red car with N6ZE logo keep appearing on the map! They thought it would be a good way to keep track of their children or spouse! Maybe they will all become students in the next licensing class.

About 60 miles south of Portland, I established contact with Dave, N7DB, (CN85) in Boring, OR. Dave is a very well known and very active 6 & 2 meter operator. We talked most of the time on 2 meters until I went 'out of sight' behind a mountain near Kelso, WA (CN86). I also worked a couple of others in the Portland area. Dave was my navigator as I negotiated the freeways to continue North over the Columbia River to Vancouver, WA: he told me when to change lanes and routes and additionally warned me about traffic bottle necks because I happened to pass through greater Portland during evening rush hour!

Just past Olympia, I began to work locals in the Seattle area and maintained contact all the way to my Whidbey Island destination (CN87), just North of Seattle. The Northwest Weak Signal 2 meter net meets at 8PM on Tuesday evenings so I worked a few of the other check-ins and also heard about 75% of the net participants. I even heard 1 station in Eugene (CN84) at a distance of over 200 miles.

I finally reached my destination and went QRT about 9:30PM, 36 hours since leaving T.O. Before I fell into bed, I computed that I actually was moving for about 21 hours of the 36 hour enroute time; averaged almost 29 miles per gallon; spent just under \$200 for gasoline & a motel room, AND I was on the air for 21 hours.

(* for further information on VHF Grid Locations, check arrl.org, or the ARRL Handbook, or ask N6ZE!

Bt73
Pete, N6ZE

Not Your Grandfather's Ham Radio Amateur Radio in the 21st Century by Alan Masson, K6PSP

This was the title of the keynote speech given by David

Sumner, Executive VP and CEO of the ARRL, at the Society of Broadcast Engineers SBE-22 Convention that I attended recently in Verona, NY. Also present was Chris Imlay, W3KD, ARRL General Counsel. David compared the equipment of the early years of amateur radio with that in use today, noting that the ARRL will this December celebrate 100 years of voice over radio, first demonstrated by Reginald Fessenden in Canada in 1906. The ARRL's "Hello" radio theme will have its own website www.hello-radio.org. David noted that even after 100 years, the amateur radio and broadcast communities still face some similar challenges in common, such as BPL, in which FCC decision makers seem to be under pressure to make decisions that do not have technical foundations.



Alan Masson K6PSP and the speaker, David Sumner

Among the less-known aspects of amateur radio that David described were the new experimental license for LF work on 505-510 kHz at one end of the spectrum and microwave operation at up to 241GHz. David himself is an active microwave operator on 10 GHz, encouraged by his wife as an activity that gets him out of the house and into the fresh air. His own distance record is 300 miles. He compared the amateur's quest for conditions of anomalous propagation to achieve such results, with the broadcaster's need for reliable propagation.

Several aspects of radio sports were mentioned: ARDF - Amateur Radio Direction Finding - very popular in Europe and increasingly in the US. David showed a picture of three young winners standing on an Olympic-style podium to receive their prizes. HST - High-Speed Telegraphy - is popular in Eastern Europe especially among young operators, rather than the caricature of hams aged 50 and over. Whereas T. R. McElroy was reputed to be the fastest human receiver of code in the

1930s, today's best young operators have doubled his record to over 150 wpm. WRSC - the World Radio Sport Championship - held in Brazil in July - was an event in which 46 two-person teams competed to make the maximum number of contacts in 24 hours. In order to provide them with a level playing field, the organizers erected 46 identical antenna systems consisting of a tower with a log periodic and a 40 meter 2-element beam for each team, distributed across an area of Brazil about the size of Connecticut.

In terms of the latest amateur radio technology, David described the current introduction of SDR – Software-Defined Radio, and the work of Joe Taylor, K1JT, a retired radio astronomer, who has written the WSJT software for reading sub-audible moon-bounce signals at 20 dB below the noise level. David said he was glad that he was speaking to the SBE and not to FCC policy-makers, and didn't need to explain what a decibel was!

FCC Omnibus Report & Order Issued—Without a Codeless HF License Many Hoped For

By Neil Waybright, KG6QEL

The giant new FCC Omnibus Report and Order (R&O) has been issued (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf). The document is quite large, but summaries are available, including from the ARRL (<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/11/100/>). Some highlights include:

- expanded the phone subbands in the 75 and 40 meter bands;
- agreed to allow Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate in the General class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters;
- implemented rules to discourage multiple vanity call sign filings on the same day from the same applicant;
- permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz;

- permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- eliminated certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers intended for Amateur Radio use;
- clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";
- deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations;
- deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times, and
- permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications.

Quite a few other changes were included. I encourage you to read about them at arrl.org or QRZ.com.

Christmas Party Raffle Prizes

The Christmas Party Raffle Prize list is ready to publish!

Grand Prize: Alinco DX-70 HF/6m Transceiver with an Alinco DM-330MVT Power Supply

Second Prize: Alinco DR-635T 144/440 MHz Mobile Transceiver

Red Ticket Raffle: Alinco DJV-17 144MHz 5W 2m Handheld Transceiver

Don't forget the auction that will take place at the same meeting. Last year's event was a blast.

Neil Waybright, KG6QEL

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? _____