

April  
2007

# NEWS FROM CVARC

## President's Message A Body in Motion....

Change is one of the facets of life that I enjoy most. I look at change as the cure for boredom, and something that keeps me from getting too set in my ways. Some of it is self-imposed, but other parts I couldn't avoid unless I was willing to crawl into a cave and stay there.

At the last meeting Mary Ho and Rick Barrett were elected to replace board members whose situation had changed and were unable to complete their terms in office. The newsletter chairman role still remains open and it is a wonderful opportunity for anyone that enjoys communicating with others.

In a group of amateur radio operators I would think that would be easier to find than our experience indicates. I would like to commend the job to anyone who would like to try it. I served as newsletter publisher for two years before running for President and enjoyed it thoroughly. The task is not all that difficult, makes a big difference to and for our members, and is a good mix between all of the different types of work to be found in an officer role in the club.

...see MESSAGE on page 2

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## April Speaker: VHF/UHF IS LINE OF SIGHT???

The CVARC Speaker for May is Peter Heins, N6ZE. He will share a Collection of Ad Hoc Empirical Comments including:

- Types of Propagation (with emphasis on modes possible from Thousand Oaks)
- Actual Recordings of 6 & 2 Meter DX
- N6ZE's VHF/UHF experiences (and accomplishments) from Thousand Oaks
- Transceivers, Antennae, & Feedlines
- On-Line & Printed Aids

Peter is an avid UHF/VHF weak signal operator and contest participant, particularly in the UHF and VHF bands. He enjoys meteor scatter, moon-bounce, and all of the other long distance VHF/UHF propagation modes. He recently participated in the VHF & up Spring Sprints achieving a score of 64.

As a pilot, Peter travels frequently and takes his radios with him and has operated from an amazing number of places. By watching the beacons and keeping records of propagation he has gained a fine appreciation of how varied the paths and modes RF takes between points can be.

Please join us for an interesting and informative presentation!

*Neil Waybright, AF6CD & Rob Hanson, W6RH*

MESSAGE, continued from front page...

If anyone is interested in finding out more about what the job entails, I'd love to help you understand and get a feel for exactly what you would be doing. A key point to remember is that the club defrays the costs you incur so there is no cost to you in the end. You also get to work with every other board member to get their story out to the members so the club functions effectively. You don't even have to write all (or even a majority of the stories yourself.

There are two additional board roles opened by Mary and Rick's move to Secretary and Technical Chair respectively. The by-laws say "The Social Coordinator shall be responsible for planning, organizing and conducting social activities for the Club. He/she shall assist and coordinate with the Vice-President in implementing these responsibilities and serve as chairperson of the social committee." The Social Chair coordinates social activities. It is really that simple. What social activities? Food and social activities for members during field-day, the annual CVARC picnic, the Christmas party and anything else they would like to inject themselves into.

The remaining position open is one of the Member-at-large positions. We always have at least one member at large, and get to have another for each additional fifty members. Since the club roster is around 80 members at present, we get two. The outgoing past-president shall be appointed by board to a member-at-large position if he is not member of the board, but that wasn't a problem this year. The member-at-large's primary role is to make sure we are listening to the membership and helping making their voices and interests heard, They help us to keep from getting too focused on our specific individual roles and bring new blood and new viewpoints into the board. Please consider becoming a member-at-large. I held that role for a couple of yours as well, and it was one of my favorites.

Thanks,

*Neil AF6CD*

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## Welcome to "New" Boardmembers

I would like to make sure we welcome Rick Barrett and Mary Ho to their new roles on the board. Rick moved from being a member-at-large (where he was doing a great job) to being our new technical coordinator. The by-laws say "The Technical Coordinator shall be responsible for Club efforts in main-taining a high level of technical knowledge and skill within the Club and be a resource available to the Club and member stations to maintain their equipment's technical performance characteristics. He/she shall be the Club representative to other amateur organizations and the community on technical matters such as radio and television interference and QRM."

I would also like to salute Mary Ho for stepping up and moving from the social coordinator role to fill the critically important role as the club secretary. There are three positions that CVARC must keep filled in order to maintain our incorporation. They are President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Filling this position was vitally important and I appreciate Mary helping out. The by-laws describe the role of the secretary thusly: "The Secretary shall keep record of the proceedings of meetings, maintain a roster of members, carry on necessary Club correspondence and ensure notice is provided to members announcing special meetings of the Club. He/she shall retain the official copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, which shall be available for inspection by members at reasonable times. The Secretary shall be responsible for the archiving of records and data. The Secretary shall keep current and provide to officers a procedural manual."

Please join me in welcoming them to their new roles!

*Neil Waybright, AF6CD*

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## 2007 Event Calendar

May 17.....	CVARC Meeting
May 19.....	Sea to Summit Bike Race
May 18-20 .....	Dayton Hamvention
May 26.....	TRW Swapmeet
Jun 5.....	CVARC License Classes End
Jun 10.....	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Jun 12.....	CVARC License Classes Begin
Jun 21.....	CVARC Meeting
Jun 23-24 .....	ARRL Field Day
Jun 30.....	TRW Swapmeet
Jul 3.....	Moorpark Fireworks Comms
Jul 19.....	CVARC Meeting
Jul 28.....	TRW Swapmeet
Aug 7.....	CVARC License Classes End
Aug 12.....	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Aug 14.....	CVARC License Classes Begin
Aug 16.....	CVARC Meeting
Aug 25.....	TRW Swapmeet
Aug 25.....	CVARC Summer Picnic
Sep 7-9.....	ARRL SW Div. Convention, Torrance
Sep 20.....	CVARC Meeting
Sep 29.....	TRW Swapmeet
Oct 9.....	CVARC License Classes Begin
Oct 14.....	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Oct 16.....	CVARC License Classes Begin
Oct 18.....	CVARC Meeting
Oct 27.....	TRW Swapmeet
Nov 15.....	CVARC Meeting
Nov 24.....	TRW Swapmeet
Dec 4.....	CVARC License Classes End
Dec 8.....	(Tentative) CVARC Holiday Party
Dec 9.....	FCC License Exam at CVARC
Dec 29.....	TRW Swapmeet

Please submit suggestions for additional dates to:  
kg6qel@yahoo.com

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### Field Day is Quickly Approaching

It is hard to believe, but Field Day 2007 is almost here. This year Field Day occurs on Saturday and Sunday June 23rd and 24th with setup Friday June 22nd. Much of our planning for Field Day must be completed at our May CVARC General Meeting since our June club meeting will occur only one day before Field Day set up!

We have arranged with the City to hold Field Day again this year at the Thousand Oaks Park & Rec. facility (the old City Hall) at 401 W. Hillcrest Dr., on the hill above the Oaks Mall.

Field Day set up will begin at noon on Friday June 22nd and proceed into the evening. Last

year we took a break from setup activities Friday evening around 6 PM for a pot luck dinner. It was such a success that we decided to do the same this year. CVARC will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring your own drinks and a side dish to share.

Saturday evening dinner at the site has become a CVARC Field Day tradition. The cost for dinner will be \$12.50 per person. Everyone enjoyed Bandits BBQ last year. Our current plan is to have Bandits BBQ again this year featuring BBQ tri-tip, chicken, baked beans, cold slaw, etc. Turn your money for dinner into our CVARC Treasurer Roy Deschene (KE6UMW). Roy will be collecting money for Field Day Dinner during our May 17<sup>th</sup> club meeting. This will be the last club meeting that you will be able to sign up for dinner, since our order must be placed with Bandit prior to our June 21<sup>st</sup> club meeting. Those who can not make it to the May meeting can still sign up with Roy for dinner prior to the June 14<sup>th</sup> CVARC Board meeting.

Salsa & Guacamole Contest! Yes, you heard it right. This year we will hold a salsa & guacamole contest Saturday afternoon or evening. There will be a \$25 gift certificate awarded to the salsa or guacamole dip voted to be most tasty by CVARC Field Day members. So bring your favorite salsa or guacamole dip. Our CVARC Secretary, Mary Ho (KI6COG), suggested the contest based on similar contests in other organizations that were a lot of fun. Mary will publish the rules for the contest in the June CVARC Newsletter and on the CVARC web page.

The Field Day logging software turned out to be a great success, so we will use it again this year. The software belongs to CVARC and is licensed to our club call sign AA6CV. There is no limit on the number of users, so each Band Captain can have his station connected via wireless local area network into the logging software server. The software requires a laptop computer with an 801.11B/G network interface. We will demonstrate the software during our June club meeting.

At our May club meeting we need to get a good idea of how many stations we will be fielding, who the Band Captains will be, and who will be participating. So plan to sign up during the meeting.

A Band Captains is responsible for setting up a station. We typically have stations operating 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters running CW, SSB, or Digital. Usually a station operates on a single band and in a single mode. The Band Captain provides the station radio, antenna, batteries, laptop computer for logging, table, and chairs. The Band Captain is also responsible for assembling his team of operators that will help him run the station throughout the 24 hours of Field Day. If you would like to be a Band Captain but have trouble supplying some of these items, no problem, simply talk to one of the CVARC Board members and tell them what you need. You can still be a Band Captain even if you do not have all of the equipment.

We need a lot of operators. So plan to join the Field Day fun and excitement, even if you can only stop by and operate for an hour or so. Every one is invited. Hope to see you there.

*Ken Larson, KJ6RZ*

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## **Crusin' the Conejo Was a Blast**

I worked on the communication support team for the Cruisin' the Conejo bike ride again this year, and as always, it was a blast. Cruisin' is the longest effort I work each year, and I certainly enjoy it. The best part of it is that you can be involved in parts of it that are on the radio nearly the entire event (e.g. helping at the net control station), moderately (such as the SAG-wagon riders), or only a limited extent (warning station teams).

The teams assembled at 6:30 – 7:00 at the start/finish line at the Skyworks parking lot between Rancho Conejo and Wendy in Hillcrest in Newbury Park. Amateur radio operators were teamed up with experienced members of the Conejo Valley Cyclists and everyone was

briefed by Mike Bass, N7WLC, the CVC event communications coordinator on the routes, communications plan, routine and emergency procedures and we set out to our positions and routes.

Jerry, my CVC counterpart, drove (as is usually the case). The teams are expected to be in a vehicle that has room for at least two damaged bikes and two bike riders in addition to its "crew", The Bike club members are more likely to have a vehicle that fits that description so they usually drive (though folks like Rick Tate KQ6NO have a large enough truck). We were assigned SAG-wagon (Support and Gear) duties on the second leg of the Metric Half Century (37 miles, or 50 km) route on a circuit between the rest stops at Oak Park High School and the corner of Portrero and Westlake Blvd.

There are five different "courses" for the Cruisin' the Conejo event this year:

**Short Cruise** - a 21 mile short-cut cruise of the Conejo

**Metric Half Century** – 35 mile moderate tour

**Challenging Metric Century** – 62 mile very challenging climb of the Santa Monica Mountains (4500 feet of climbing)

**Moderate Metric Century** – 68 mile course with only 3000 feet of climbing

**Full Century** – 103 mile route of the challenging metric with side trips to add the extra miles and additional climbing to make it 6000 feet of climb.

Many of these rides share segments and there are only 8 rest stops that cover the entire bunch. We spent the day patrolling our route, rendering assistance to riders, ferrying back riders whose bikes were too badly damaged to continue and generally being helpful. It ended up being a wonderful day and 1220 riders had a safe and fun event, in part due to the participation of volunteers who worked hard to make it that way. Join us next year for Cruisin' and for other events throughout the season....

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

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## Upcoming Club Activities and Opportunities for Volunteers

There are still several opportunities to get out and show your support for local events and organizations. Ken Larson, KJ6RZ, our communications coordinator can get you in touch with the right parties for these events.

The Sea to Summit bike ride follows in another week on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Field Day follows the next month at the end of June, and Comm Support for the Moorpark 3<sup>rd</sup> of July celebration follow. That marks the end of our busiest season of volunteer efforts, and the real efforts supporting fire season and other real disasters follows. Hopefully we won't be too busy at that this year, but most years we do get several workouts....

*Neil Waybright, KG6QEL*

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### News From the ARRL Newswire (reprinted with permission of the American Radio Relay League)

#### AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS SERVE THOSE DISRUPTED BY KANSAS TWISTERS

Amateur Radio volunteers responded after an EF5 magnitude tornado with winds exceeding 200 MPH swept through southwestern Kansas over the May 5-6 weekend, essentially wiping out the town of Greensburg. The town, population 1500, lost its hospital, schools, churches and all of its business and infrastructure. A National Weather Service meteorologist called the tornado "one of the most destructive tornadoes in the last 10 years."

A team of Amateur Radio volunteers entered the area Saturday morning and began setting up communication, according to District 6 Emergency Coordinator Godfrey Flax, KC0AUH. District 5 Emergency Coordinator Robert Hanke, WG0Q, activated ARES in Pratt, Stafford, Reno and Barton Counties. Hams deployed to Greensburg and Haviland, and net control operations were established in Pratt.

According to ARRL Kansas Section Manager Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, repeaters that remained on the air were some distance from the affected area. He and other hams were monitoring 3.920 MHz Saturday in case there was HF.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) was conducting logistical nets at 9 AM, 3 PM and 9 PM each day on 3.920 MHz, and HF and 2 meter operations were been established in Haviland. Kansas and Western Missouri SATERN Coordinator June Jeffers, KB0WEQ, says SATERN members will be utilized in Kiowa County to support Salvation Army canteens and the service center in Haviland.

Twelve people died as a result of the severe weather, 10 of them from Greensburg, which is located some 45 miles east of Dodge City in Kiowa County.

The entire town evacuated Friday night, and more than 400 people took refuge in shelters in Haviland and Pratt. The Salvation Army dispatched canteen units from Dodge City and Hutchinson. A shelter was also opened in Mullinville. On Sunday night, the Red Cross requested radio operators to provide communications between the hospital in Pratt and the shelter in Haviland.

President Bush declared Kiowa County a major disaster area, making federal aid available to people and communities affected by the storm. "Our hearts are heavy for the loss of life in Greensburg, Kansas," the president said Sunday. "It's going to take a long time for the community to recover."

#### HAM RADIO INSTRUMENTAL IN PACIFIC MARITIME RESCUE

Amateur Radio played a critical role May 4 and 5 in rescuing two people from a foundering sailboat that had been en route to Colombia. Members of the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) and Intercontinental Net on 14.300 MHz were involved in getting the man and

woman aboard the 35-foot s/v Sailabout to safety after they ran into trouble some 700 nautical miles southwest of the Galapagos Islands in the South Pacific.

The couple, identified as Gunnar Hansen and Grethe Haraldsen, both Norwegian nationals and neither an amateur licensee, put out a Mayday call on the Intercon/MMSN 14.300 MHz frequency the morning of May 4 after Sailabout sustained damage to its bow -- possibly as a result of losing a forestay, which helps to keep the mast upright -- and started taking on water. Thanks to its efficient pumps, the sailboat remained afloat.

The main concern was for the mast, which supported the antenna for the vessel's HF radio. Fortunately, it remained standing. The conversation on the MMSN reportedly was widely monitored by others in the sailing and cruising communities. The Sailabout had only recently been equipped with an HF SSB transceiver.

According to an account Assistant MMSN Manager Tom Job, VE3II, posted on the net's Web site <http://www.mmsn.org/events/sailabout.html>, handling the incident involved multiple stations and relays to contend with problematic propagation. Sonny Sides, N5OTB, on s/v Valentina, and Doug Reinthal, W7DUG, relayed the Sailabout's Mayday on 14.300 MHz to Intercon Net Control Station Wes Mullenax, KI0A, in Texas. Because of poor propagation, however, KI0A had rough copy on the vessel's signal, so he turned the frequency over to Fletcher Henderson, KA4BPR, in Alabama. Another report credits Ernie Polack, 6Y5RP, in Jamaica with intercepting the Mayday and assisting via intermittent radio contacts and relays during the first few hours of the event to get information to the Coast Guard. Compounding the urgency of the situation were six to eight-foot seas and winds of 16 to 18 knots.

Amateur Radio relays alerted the US Coast Guard at Alameda, California, to the Sailabout's predicament. At the Coast Guard's request, relayed via ham radio, Hansen set off

the vessel's Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Job says Henderson -- assisted by several other stations -- passed critical information to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard contacted and attempted to divert two vessels to the Sailabout's assistance, although only one, m/v Belnor -- a Norwegian freighter -- eventually reached the distressed vessel.

Another boat, s/v Damarri, reported some 50 miles distant, learned of the situation. MMSN says Sailabout was able to get under way and changed its course toward Damarri, which was sailing into the weather in an effort to rendezvous with Sailabout. Once on scene, the Damarri's crew kept watch through the night from a safe distance to avoid collision in the rough seas but did not attempt to take Hansen and Haraldsen aboard. At the time, the distressed vessel was contending with 14-foot seas and 25-knot winds. When outside radio contact essentially became impossible, the MMSN secured for the night.

The m/v Belnor arrived the next morning and took the couple aboard, while Damarri's crew confirmed the rescue via radio. The couple was reported to be in good health and spirits but had to abandon their vessel. The Belnor was believed headed for Panama.

Throughout the ordeal, various Amateur Radio stations -- some of which simply stood by if needed -- made themselves available to update the Coast Guard, which never had direct contact with Sailabout.

SOURCES: MMSN/Intercon Net; Jack Richards, W4QVA; SailboatOwners.com, Aftenposten, S/V Sailabout Web site.

## Ventura County ARES/RACES Times & Frequencies

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



Area	Time	Mode	Frequency	Shift	PL	Repeater/Notes
Area 1	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	147.930	–	127.3	AD6SV
Area 2	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.850	–	94.8	K6AER Grissom
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	51.940	–	82.5	WB6RHQ
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	224.700	–	156.7	K6HB
Area 2	7:10-7:30pm	Voice	449.440	–	131.8	KE6SWS Amgen
Area 2	(Simplex)	Voice	147.555		None	Simplex
Area 2	(Backup Repeater)	Voice	147.885	–	127.3	N6JMI Bozo
Area 3	7:15-7:30pm	Voice	147.915	–	127.3	WB6ZTQ
Area 4	7:15-7:30pm	Voice	146.970	–	127.3	WB6YQN
Area 5	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	145.400	–	None	N6FL
Area 6	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	147.765	–	127.3	None
Area 7	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.985	–	127.3	WB6ZTX
Area 8	7:00-7:30pm	Voice	146.535		None	Simplex
County	7:30-8:00pm	Voice	146.880	–	127.3	WA6ZTT
County	6:45-7:00pm	Voice	52.980	–	82.5	K6SMR
County	7:30-8:00pm	Voice	224.020	–	127.3	WB6ZTR
County	Before 6:30pm	Packet	145.710		None	Hospital Net
County	(RACES Simplex)	Voice	147.570		None	Simplex

Net Control operations for the weekly ARES/RACES Area 2 check-in are run from the ARES/RACES communications center at East County Sheriff Station (on Olsen Road) every Tuesday starting at 7:00pm.

Visitors are welcome and have the opportunity to operate the station. Please contact the Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Jerry Goldman, KC6JSO at (805) 241-9187 if you would like to attend.

RACES members should remember that their RACES card is issued for only two years. When your card is due to expire, please call Jackie at the Office of Emergency Services in Ventura, (805) 654-2551, to renew it.

For questions concerning ARES/RACES, please call the Area 2 Emergency Coordinator, Ken Larson, KJ6RZ at (805) 495-9435 or go to the ARES/RACES section of the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

### 2007 CVARC Officers

President.....	Neil Waybright.....	KG6QEL.....	(805) 517-2962.....	kg6qel@yahoo.com
Vice President.....	Rob Hanson.....	W6RH.....	(805) 376-9350.....	rob@w6rh.com
Secretary.....	Mary Ho.....	KI6COG.....	(805) 494-9241.....	abele7213@mypacks.net
Treasurer.....	Roy Deschene.....	KE6UMW.....	(818) 887-4039.....	RoyfD@aol.com
Public Relations.....	Jeff Reinhardt.....	AA6JR.....	(818) 706-3853.....	aa6jr@pacbell.net
Technical.....	Rick Barrett.....	KE6DKF.....	n/a.....	ke6dkf@verizon.net
Operations.....	Ken Larson.....	KJ6RZ.....	(805) 495-9435.....	kj6rz@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor.....	-OPEN-			
Education.....	Karl Moody.....	AE6TO.....	(805) 523-0622.....	ke6wvz@aol.com
Social.....	-OPEN-			
Member at Large.....	Jonathan Fox.....	KT6LA.....	(818) 889-1156.....	kt6la@arrl.net
Member at Large.....	-OPEN-			



CVARC is recognized by the ARRL as a Special Service Club (SSC). To be a part of the ARRL's Special Service Club program, the club must regularly show that it is actively involved in certain areas, including:

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



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

Address Correction Requested

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### CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC Web Site at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the Web site, you may like to join the CVARC Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CVARCDiscussion/>

The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, except December. The meeting location is the Community Room at The East County Sheriff Station, 2101 E Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks. Meetings start at 7:30pm with a pre-meeting social and technical assistance session from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Meetings are open to the public, and members are encouraged to bring their friends.

“News from CVARC” is published monthly (on the Monday preceding the CVARC club meeting) by the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, AA6CV PO Box 2093, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-2093. It is mailed free of charge to all members.

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its Board, or its members.

### CVARC Membership Rates

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings, and we do not pressure newcomers to join. If, however, you would like to support the club and its activities by becoming a member then we will be very pleased.

The simplest way to join (or to renew) is to write us a check bearing your address, and give or send it to our Treasurer. Make the check payable to “CVARC” and please put your callsign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, Callsign, or Address changes may be emailed to the Treasurer.

Current annual rates are: Regular Membership: \$25. Family Membership: \$30. Special discounts are available for; New members just licensed: \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year.