

August
2007

NEWS FROM C'VARC

President's Message Are You Ready?

While I was vacationing in Ohio this year I stopped by the Red Cross disaster preparedness exhibit at the Clarke County fair and had a nice conversation with the lady staffing their booth. She had an example of simple preparedness ideas that I found interesting and useful. I am sharing them in an article in this issue.

They were emphasizing the idea that nobody should expect FEMA, or any other agency to be there to help them for at least 72 hours after a major disaster, and that the help they get at that point may be very limited and not cover all of your needs.

One need only look at Hurricane Katrina to understand how shell-shocked the system might be in the case of a titanic disaster. A major earthquake in Southern California would dwarf the scale of the events in Katrina where there was warning and a partial evacuation, and many of those who remained were centralized where they could have been served more easily by a coordinated response.

We would like to see as many of you as are able to volunteer for AES/RACES and help in case of need, but even more important than that is for you not to be a victim yourself (you or your family).

...see MESSAGE on page 2

Inside this issue

2007 Event Calendar	2
CVARC Summer Picnic	3
One Non-Stealthy Delta	3
Field Day at Other Clubs	4
ARDF Events	4
Echo-Link Repeater	5
Keeping Supplies Organized	5
ACS Activation	6
2007 CVARC Officers	2
CVARC Online, Membership Rates.....	8

August Speaker: PSK31 with David Danner

Dave was born in Alhambra California in 1934. He was fascinated by photography and electronics in the 8th grade. In 1948 he purchased his first Simpson 260 multi-meter which he still uses.

Dave began college at the University of Redlands and got his ham license (K6AIX) in 1952. He worked for the U.S. Navel Ordinance Test Station in Pasadena during the summers of 1953 - 54 in underwater acoustics.

During the years of 1954 – 56, Dave and a student friend provided all contract photography for the University of Redlands. In his spare time Dave designed and constructed the University's first AM radio station, KUR. The first program director became Mrs. Danner in 1957.

After graduating 1956, with a BS degree in Engineering -Physics, Dave worked for the Bendix Corporation, North Hollywood, and CA. Traveling throughout the world, Dave trained navies in the use of helicopter sonar equipment.

In 1970 Dave became the Resident Engineering Director for the Thomas Organ Division of Whirlpool Corporation in Sepulveda, CA. He was responsible for all manufacturing testing and quality control.

In 1982 Dave became the Test Engineering Manager for Micom Communications Corp. in Chatsworth. In 1993, because of Dave's background in RF, he changed to the compliance engineering field obtaining all FCC, UL, CSA, and TUV product licenses for Micom. After Micom was sold to Nortel Networks, Dave continued to do all power supply design and RF EMI

MESSAGE, continued from front page...

The first thing you have to do to be able to help is to be ready yourself. Do you have the necessary supplies laid up for you and your family? Do you have some extras laid up to be able to help neighbors who weren't as ready? Are your supplies and your "go-kit" located where you can access them even if your house suffers major structural damage and the doors won't open? Do you have tools to shut off the water and gas valves in case of leaks? How many day's supply of water do you have on hand?

As we learned during the pandemic flu presentation the Health Department gave a while back (our May 2006 club speaker was Steve Johnston), a flu pandemic may represent the worse case scenario. More basic long-term survival strategies may be needed for that.

Thanks,

Neil AF6CD

Still looking for a new Social Coordinator and Newsletter Publisher

We now have only two empty slots on the board – the Social Chair and the Newsletter Publisher. I am currently acting as the Newsletter Publisher, but will have to cut back on my involvement. If a new publisher is not found, the newsletter will drop in size, number of articles, and perhaps frequency. I don't want to see that happen because so many members of the club benefit from it, but I cannot keep the current pace up.

If you are able to help, please contact me or one of the other board members.

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

(Speaker, Continued from Page 1)

compliance for all computer based products.

In 1971 Dave obtained his California Teaching Credential and proceeded to teach "Electronic Keyboard Repair", "Basic Electronics", and Computer Repair in Los Angeles Unified School's Occupational Training Division. He continues to substitute in these subjects today.

An active ham for over 55 years, Dave loves the challenge of a new technology. He has remained active in HF, VHF, and UHF and Microwave bands over the years. He has worked most modes of operation: AM, FM, CW, RTTY, ATV, Slow Scan TV, Packet, and PSK-31. As an avid home-brewer at one time all his station was home brew. He is the technical member of LA county Disaster Communications System K6DCS repeater staff. (147.225+ 84.8PL) And by the way he continues his photographic hobby in-between QSO's

2007 Event Calendar

- 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:
af6cd@arrl.net

CVARC Summer Picnic is Here!

The time for our annual CVARC Summer Picnic at Dover-Hendrix Park is here again. This is your chance to get your spouse (or significant other) out to meet hams in a fun, traditional summer venue. My XYL won't come to field day but she enjoys the summer picnic and the chance to meet everyone.

There are some planning items left to do and we will be discussing the picnic plans at the club meeting. We also need volunteers to make the event a success. Please come and find out the plan! For those that are on travel and can't make it, the details will be posted on the web site.

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

One Non-Stealthy Delta (Loop Antenna) by Tom Stough, W0UFC

For every amateur who puts up a high-frequency antenna, many factors of space, time, money and (especially if one lives with others) aesthetics must be considered. In my case, I wanted a single, all-band wire antenna that would give reasonably good performance. At first, I used the time-tested G5RV. This was made with the usual combination of 450-Ω window line and coaxial cable to the shack. Various hanging methods were tried to fit the 102 ft. length into the available space on my small lot. What worked best was the arrangement in Figure 1, with one end tied to a tree and the other bent to follow the property line, then tied to another tree.

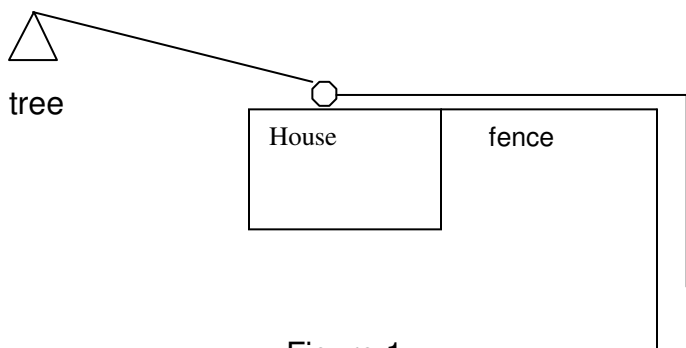


Figure 1

As anyone who has ever used a G5RV knows, it can be a tricky beast to tune. I am fortunate in that I use a Yaesu FT-890 transceiver, which has the most forgiving automatic tuner I've ever found. Few hams are this lucky. Many G5RV users end up using a manual tuner to "tame" this antenna design. Once tuned, the G5RV will give adequate, but not stellar, performance. It is quite cheap, however, for how well it works and the frequencies it covers.

After reading Steve Ford's article on "One Stealthy Delta" (QST, May 2002, p. 47), I was intrigued by the idea of a Delta loop antenna. Here was a design that promised a wide frequency range and broadside gain. The basic multi-band Delta loop is one wavelength at the lowest frequency, fed with balanced line and tuned. Readers interested in the theory behind long loops may consult the Web page of L.B. Cebik, W4RNL at <www.cebik.com> or the ARRL Antenna Book in the CVARC Library (he also has an article in the August QST).

In Ford's antenna, a remote automatic tuner is used in place of balanced line. I decided to stick with my MFJ-941E manual tuner with its built-in balun. I also used Pythagoras' theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) to determine the unknown lengths of the wire hanging in space.

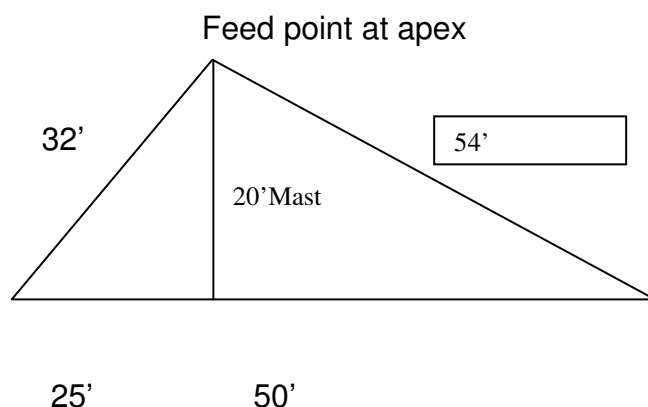


Figure 2

The sum of the loop's segments was 161 ft. This represents a bit more than one full wavelength on 40 meters (about 143.5 ft, using the formula $1005 / f$ [MHz]). I was disappointed, but not surprised, to find that I couldn't fit a full

wavelength for 80 meters into the space available. Readers familiar with loops will also note that I fed the antenna at its apex rather than at a bottom corner, as per usual practice. The *ARRL Low Power Communication* book suggests that the effective height will be increased by apex feed, so this is what I did. I decided to try the antenna as built on 40-10 meters.

Once I turned on the transceiver, it was obvious that the closed loop had much better noise performance than the G5RV it replaced, exactly as predicted by established theory. It performed about as well on 40 meters as the G5RV, but exhibited gain on 20 and 17 meters, including working Australia and New Zealand to the west. (Above 17 meters, there has seldom been enough propagation or activity lately to draw many conclusions.) So far, so good.

Now—how to add 80-meter capability? Given my small lot and the desire not to add yet another wire, I remembered that it is possible to create a $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength open loop. I cut the wire near the bottom center of the loop and added an insulator, jumper wire and alligator clip. This allows for band-switching by climbing on my fence. When tested on-air, it was found that the open loop performed about as well on 80 meters as the G5RV, or perhaps a bit better. So, the stated goals have now been achieved. My decision to try apex feed on the loop was fortuitous, as it allowed the easy insertion of the jumper wire later on. The mast is fiberglass on top for antenna and feedline isolation and metal on the bottom for strength.

My next improvement on this loop: increasing the height of the mast from 20 ft to 40 ft. In addition to the longer length, the shape will be closer to an equilateral triangle which should also improve its performance.

If you need a cheap, all-band antenna, I encourage you to give this loop design a try. Feel free to contact me at tastough@yahoo.com.
73 ES GUD DX.

Field Day at Other Clubs

During my vacation I was able to stop in and visit with the Hams at the Jackson County West Virginia Amateur Radio club booth at the Jackson County fair in Ripley WV. It was a lot of fun talking to them about field day and how it went for their club. They have a relatively small group, but they set up in a field at one of the member's farms and worked a lot of long distance. Something I found fun was that they have so much room that they don't take their field day antennas down and have **multiple full-sized** 160m, 80m, 75m and 40m antennas up year-round! I told them I could only dream of a site like that.

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Mark your calendar for ARDF events

Lots of opportunities for on-foot foxhunting fun are coming up in the next few weeks. This coming Saturday, August 11, there will be a session at Lake Los Carneros County Park, just west of Santa Barbara. Expect a 3-kilometer ARDF course on two meters with an excellent map. No pre-registration is necessary, just come on out.

One week later on August 18, the venue will be Topanga State Park, northwest of Santa Monica. This session will feature another five-fox two-meter ARDF course with a fine map, plus some two-meter transmitters for beginners and an 80-meter transmitter. No pre-registration is necessary.

Make plans to attend the ARRL Southwestern Division convention, September 7 - 9 at the Marriott Hotel in Torrance, California. There will be a special all-on-foot convention transmitter hunt for both beginners and experts on Sunday afternoon at a nearby park, with prizes for the finders of foxes. You can pre-register for this hunt at the special foxhunting booth among the exhibits on Friday or Saturday. Also attend the two forum presentations on direc-

tion finding, one by medallist Jay Thompson W6JAY, including a video of last year's championships, and the other by me.

Then the big event takes place -- the USA and IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships at South Lake Tahoe, September 14 - 16. It's open to anyone at any foxhunting skill level. You can camp out in the cabins and hobnob with ARDF experts from USA, Germany, Australia and perhaps other countries. You might take home a medal or two! For even more fun, participate in the ARDF training camp, led by medal-winner Bob Cooley KF6VSE on September 12 - 13 in the same area. Pre-registration is a must, and you can do it now.

Details of all these events, directions and registration information can be found at www.homingin.com.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Champion Radio Society Echolink Repeater

The Champion Radio Society is still looking for a temporary home for the CRS Echolink repeater while Steve is working in England for a couple of years. Its current maintainer has other commitments that will prevent him from housing it and keeping it on the air while Steve is away. We have three possibilities so far, but are looking for even better options.

We want to keep it as an Echo Link node, so support will require a licensed ham (a technician class license will do), ability to erect a 2m antenna, 110VAC electrical power, and a 7x24 available broadband internet connection. The repeater is only ten watts, so interference should not be much of an issue, and there is enough technical elmering available to help the host keep it in tip-top condition. Operating and maintaining a repeater is a task that can really help you move up to the next level in technical skill over the next year or so.

If you are able to help, please contact anyone on the board.

Thanks,

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

Keeping Emergency Food Supplies Organized

The Red Cross booth at the Clarke County Fair in Springfield Ohio wasn't crowded so I stopped to see their display on disaster preparedness. I quickly noticed that they had something I hadn't seen before. There were 1 gallon plastic milk jugs filled with food stuffs of various kinds. All were "dry" items that would keep for a long time. I was thinking of "ship in a bottle" techniques when I noticed they had a trap-door cut in them that had been resealed with clear tape. Looking over their entire collection, I noted some were sealed with duct tape and on them the trick was clear, but it certainly caught me off guard at first.

Each plastic jug was a clearly identifiable container holding a single day's supply of food for a single person. It is also easy to mark them with a Sharpie permanent marker noting the date they were packed and the earliest expiration date of any of the items inside. The local Red Cross suggested that they be rotated and used by taking them camping, fishing or something similar to consume them before their expiration date.

I currently employ a conceptually similar idea, but I use 5 gallon "Homer" buckets from Home Depot to store my emergency supplies in my garage. They seem a bit more vermin-tight and have other uses after the contents are consumed, but I do like the ability with the jugs to inventory how many day's supplies are left in a quick glance. Either idea is far better than a random collection of canned goods with no idea of when they were laid up, or how long they will remain usable.

They also passed out fliers and had suggestions for the contents of the jugs, including ideas

for “diabetic jugs” for those of us needing low-glycemic index foods. They also suggested that you keep a portion of your prescription medicine supply with your emergency supplies and rotate that inside and use it up regularly. I take a number of different prescription medications and now am keeping a two-week supply in my garage and a two week supply inside. When I am through with my inside supply, I make up another two week supply and take it to the garage and bring my “old” emergency supply in to consume it. This rotation is important because most medicines cannot be stored for long periods at high temperatures.

The 4.5 earthquake in Chatsworth last night helped drive home to me how quickly the need for my supplies could become critical. If it had been a 6.5 similar to the Northridge quake, this story would have been quite different and we would be talking about the ACS activation locally and how hard we were working to help those impacted by the emergency. If it were a 7.5 we would all be hanging on for dear life. It would probably be weeks before we could expect competent and comprehensive help. We would be facing potentially weeks without power, no food, no water and no roads or communications for a very long time.

Kevin, KG6BCL provided me a large gelled lead acid battery this past week and I am getting better prepared every month. How are you doing? Are you interested in swapping disaster preparedness ideas? Are you interested in writing an article or two? Please contact me and let me know.

Neil Waybright, AF6CD

ACS State Mutual Aid Activation

Ventura County ACS/ARES, including our Conejo Valley Area 2 team, were activated Wednesday August 8th under California State mutual aid agreements to assist in the fire which has been burning in the mountains east of Santa Barbara for most of the summer. This is the first time in recent memory that a state

mutual aid activation has occurred. The worry was that a light Santa Ana type wind could drive the fire into the City of Santa Barbara in less than 3 hours.

Bruce Elbert, K6ZB, first learned of the possible activation during the Monday night (August 6th) California Emergency Services Net (CESN) which is held on the 75 meter HF band. Bruce checks into this net each Monday night as part of our Area 2 ACS/ARES duties. John Hudson, California State Southern Region Emergency Coordinator, notified Bruce that a mutual aid activation was being discussed. This information was forwarded to Ventura County ACS/ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Dave Gilmore (AA6VH). Tuesday August 7th the Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services issued a request for ACS/ARES mutual aid assistance. The request was sent to the California Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento in accordance with State emergency management procedures. These are the procedures routinely used by fire departments and law enforcement to request mutual aid. Ventura County Office of Emergency Services was contacted by the State resulting in our ACS/ARES activation. Over the next several days we sent ACS/ARES members to Santa Barbara to work the radios in their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as well as working radio communications at one of the road blocks heading east over the mountains toward Lake Cachuma and the fire area.

One of the critical lessons learned in providing mutual aid is that different folks have different ways of doing things. When we arrived on scene, the Santa Barbara ARES/RACES folks were very busy handling the problems. The very last thing that they wanted to hear was how we do things in Ventura. We had to quickly learn their process. We did that, things went smoothly, and they were glad to have us.

Ken Larson,
KJ6RZ

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.....	jonathan.fox1@yahoo.com
Member at Large.....	Hugh Bosma.....	AE6YC.....	(805) 498-1987.....	hrbrcb@aol.com



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

– FIRST – CLASS – MAIL –



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.