

May

QUA CVARC

2015

A Monthly Publication for the Members of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

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The CVARC club meeting is held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of the Month, (except for December) at: The East County Sheriff's Station 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

The East County Sheriff's Station ("ECSS") facility is just off the 23 freeway from the Olsen Road off-ramp, north, between Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley.

President's Message by Tim Wheeler, K6POI

When you sign up for an event... You are not only helping the organizers to help a community or a charity... You are training yourself to use your radios under emergency conditions. Beyond that, you'll enjoy working as a team with your fellow club members. It's a Win for everyone!

Lots of radio activity this month and next...

Rob Hanson is organizing a Boston Marathon Qualifying "Mountains 2 Beach Marathon" starting in Ojai and finishing at the beach in Ventura... the morning of Sunday, May 24th. Details at - mountains2beachmarathon.com and by contacting Rob at w6rh@hotmail.com.

You may help the "Meals-On-Wheels" organization by providing emergency communication for their "Love Run" in Westlake, the morning of Sunday, June 7th. More details are at - loverunwestlake.com. Zak needs 6 rest stops staffed with 2 operators each. Contact Zak at - n6pk@arrl.net.

AND... Adrian, K6KY, is planning for Band Captains to recruit operators for the various modes and bands for the 24 hours of Field Day coming up on June 27 & 28... with a set up on June 26. He'll be our Speaker for this Thursday's General Membership Meeting on May 21st. Before the 7:30 meeting, you are invited to enjoy dinner with our speaker at the Szechwan Garden restaurant in Moorpark. See your Social Committee's, Michelle's and Mark's, article elsewhere in this edition of QUA CVARC.

Stay involved with CVARC activities... Where everyone's a winner!

Thanks, 73 & C U Thursday,

Tim Wheeler, K6POI

Join Us for Dinner at Szechwan Garden

Join your fellow CVARC Hams and guests this month for the pre-club meeting dinner at 5 pm with our speaker at Szechwan Garden 484 E. Los Angeles Ave in Moorpark, at the SW corner of LA Ave and Spring at 5 pm, phone: 805-517-1930. We have reserved the group room to the left of the entrance under CVARC/Michelle. Hope to see you all there!

Mark KK6IKX

Michelle KK6RBW

Trivia Corner

For the answer to the April Trivia Corner question to name the vendor who provided long wave Morse Code communications to the White Star Line, best known for what ill-fated ship that sank on April 15, 1912?

The vendor was the Marconi Co., named for the founder who operated the first Morse code radios as installed on the Titanic.

For May's Trivia Question: what was the name of the wavelength on which early CW was transmitted by marine stations in their ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications?

CVARC VE Session Report – April 12, 2015

The April CVARC VE session served 10 candidates; Among those who earned new licenses or upgrades were:

Name	Call	New License Class
George J. Kirstner	AI6IM	Extra
Mark J. Swain	KK6PNX	General
Leslie Mainwal	KK6TKP	General
Richard A. Morgan	KK6TKO	General
William L. Aaron	KK6POP	General
Wendy D. Joffe	KK6TKM	Technician
Melinda A. Bowman	KK6TKL	Technician
Lloyd A. Vide	KK6TKK	Technician
Amy Roemelen	KK6TKN	General
Kelly Roemelen	KK6TKQ	General

The next CVARC VE session will be held Sunday, June 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the East Valley Sheriff Station.

CVARC VE sessions are sanctioned by the ARRL VEC and are conducted by a team of experienced Volunteer Examiners. Participating Volunteer Examiners at the June session included; Noel Van Slyke, K6NVS; George Tamayo, WD6EJO; and Ken Sandberg, KS3I. CVARC Volunteer Examiners donate their time to help advance Amateur Radio and their assistance is greatly appreciated. VE sessions are one of the components that help CVARC qualify for the ARRL's special service club designation.

Submitted by Jeff Reinhardt AA6JR, CVARC VE Session Coordinator

CVARC CALENDAR FOR MAY-MID-JULY, 2015

May 24 - Mountains to the Beach Marathon-Ojai Rob Hanson
w6rh@hotmail.com <http://www.mountains2beachmarathon.com>

June 7 - Love Run-Westlake Village 7am-? <http://loverunwestlake.com>

June 13 – 15 - ARRL June VHF Contest 1800 UTC Sat – 0259 Sun
<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

June 20 - Santa Maria Radio Swapfest and BBQ, Orcutt-www.satellitearc.com

June 20 - Kids Day 1800 - 2359UTC <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

June 26 - Field Day set-up and potluck-Newbury Park 12:00 – 8:00 pm Adrian Jarrett g4frz@hotmail.com

June 27 -28 Field Day

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

June 27 - Saturday Night BBQ-Field Day site

June 29 – July 5 - Spirit of 76 QSO Party-0001Z-2400Z

July 3- Moorpark Fireworks Rick Tate kq6no@arrl.net

July 11 – 12 - IARU HF World Championship 1200 UTC Sat – 1200 UTC Sun

Go to <http://www.cvarc.org> Calendar tab for updated information, links to rules, event websites and contact information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You will notice two PDF's attached to your newsletter this month of May. The first is the newsletter itself. The second is for our Field Day Flyer which you may print and copy in color or forward to friends and family.

Old Ditty Bops – a Cold War Story

Copy and paste in your separate address header:

http://www.army.mil/article/147247/For_t_Huachuca_bids_farewell_to_Morse_Code_training_on_National_Morse_Code/

Thanks Joe [Sprissler, KJ6LXK]: Thank you many times over for sending me the link to the article on military use of CW, surprisingly still. I did NOT know that! [paste link at the lower left into a separate header now please.]

I was fascinated by the machinations back and forth between the services to continue to provide manual Morse code training. The successor to my old command, the United States Air Force Security Service, which operated about 22 sites worldwide to intercept the old Sino-Soviet nets, deemed CW no longer a necessity in/around 2010. The last 292X1 ("ditty-bop") manual Morse intercept operator designated airman retired then as a Master Sergeant, I believe. It was said that if needed, the NSA still had some old war horses who could copy code; mostly hams.

On learning that the Air Force would take over manual Morse training, I ran straight away to the Air Force recruiter's office on TO boulevard to re-up. They would have taken me on a waiver for my age since I made E-5 under four years' service but then they saw my cane and shook their heads. I told them that I used my hands and fingers to copy CW on a PC; not my feet. It did not sway them. They threatened nicely to throw me out of their second story office until I offered to buy their choice of Margarita's or beer at Dos Amigos so we walked down the stairs to the restaurant and after too many rounds, parted on that note; none too sober. They seemed to appreciate the libations but perhaps not my solo singing the Air Force song, "Off we go, into the wild blue yonder..."

In reality, I was one of thousands who graduated from technical school at Kessler Air Force Base, Mississippi, as a 292X1 manual Morse intercept operator ("ditty-bop"). Long ago, someone named us that as we had a tendency to bounce up and down in our chair while copying CW if the guy we copied had a good fist. The school ran two classes a day (A Shift in the morning and B Shift in the afternoon), year round from about 1950 until 1991. We marched to class in formation every week-day on parade, complete with a drum and bugle corps. It was great fun! We had about 25 guys in a class. They first taught us how to touch type on a mill (made by Royal Typewriter), then audio tapes to learn copying CW and finally how to tune the receivers we would use on the line "sitting rack."

We had a pair of receivers, rack mounted, an intercom to talk to each other when handing off someone else's lost target net or

calling for a DF shot, answering the block sergeant to prove we were NOT asleep, plugs for our headsets with a four foot cord that mated the short military style headset plugs to the longer, more traditional communications headset plugs. Those cords made for great whips.

Those of us who intercepted radar plots sent in CW had to have a Davis Grid Map to read the progress of aircraft being tracked by the communist radar stations. It's like the game,

"Battle Ships." The nets assigned a track number to each aircraft and sent dinomes or trinomes to ID the aircraft type, altitude and speed together with such exciting info as "radar lock on," "request permission to fire," "the target has violated our sovereign border," and the really scary, "target destroyed!" Yes, there were a few shoot downs, none of which were ever disclosed until our mission was de-classified in 1993, under the historical review act that governs all government agencies including our primary clients, USAF HQ and the NSA. I imagine they took comfort in the 1991 collapse of the USSR but are now squirming in their seats given the latest Russian antics to escalate tensions in Europe.

The guys who copied crypto used on the line sitting rack copied five letter encrypted "words" at five words, double space, and another five words for a total of ten words per line. The messages were preceded by three or four letter callsigns who interchanged dinomes and trinomes to authenticate messages as real or practice. The Russian Cyrillic alpha characters were copied as various punctuation marks, e.g., "&."

Those of us who had above average skills (i.e., could copy in excess of the school graduation requirement of 18.6 words per minute [wpm] and the line minimum of 22 wpm; most of us achieving 25 wpm) could copy PVO (Russian Air Defense of the Homeland) radar plots. We had to use a Western Electric Co. teletypewriter that was finicky at best. They were a blizzard of brass rods, levers, plastic keys that stuck, a damned bell we either turned off (if we knew how) or just broke off (oops, Sarge, sorry). They produced readable copy on six layer paper with carbon paper in between sheets - track fed. We used the tracks that were perforated to make tails to hang on each other with a paper clip bent open in an "S" shape and once hung one on the command's major general's belt loop. He thought it was funny. Our Mission Supervisor (a senior NCO) and our Flight Commander were not so amused but let it go since the general laughed.

Every hour, our block sergeants would collect the six layers of paper, and eight level paper tapes that produced baudot coded punched data from a track fed gizmo on the upper left side. Those went to the day ladies who worked like human beings during the week to perform initial analysis. We also called them anal-ists or lab monkeys. They were mostly lifers who chain smoked and asked stupid questions to keep their easy duty.

My first rack was a Russian net in Czechoslovakia. I was later moved to an all-Russian net operating out of Russia with a net control station in Moscow. Our antennas were entirely made of heavy cable strung between towers of about 33' to 330' in dipole, folded dipole, and log periodic arrays. We had several that covered every frequency between 1-30 megahertz. Our targets favored on or near the ham bands of 80, 40 and 20 meters.

We had four flights who ran continuously 24/7/365 with one flight on swings, another on mids, days and one on four days break. The receivers we used were a pair of Collins Radio Company R-390A's. In technical school, we waited as a class until everyone's background investigation for a preliminary "SECRET" security clearance was completed so we could unlock the cover over the R-390A receiver on each position they used to train us. Imagine, a receiver itself was classified "SECRET" as was the antenna farm, both a ham's dream with RF line amplifiers available to improve the signal strength as well as distribute the RF to as many as ten receivers for each line amp of which they

had lots. We could hear all the way from Eastern Europe and across most of Russia. Moscow came in especially well, especially my guy so when most of my flight mates were searching for something to copy on day shifts when we routinely had comm outages due to QRN, I was bopping along copying my target.

Once trained at Keesler, we awaited our final clearances, "TOP SECRET CRYPTO" without which we could not be assigned to a line operator's position overseas. I pulled some strings (my dad was a full colonel on active duty in the USAF as liaison officer to Dept. of the Air Force HQ from the Rand Corporation, Santa Monica) and got assigned to the 6910th. Security Wing in Darmstadt, Germany, 26 kilometers south of Frankfurt-am-Main in the central part of what was then West Germany. First termers were not considered sufficiently experienced to be sent to the 'Nam. As a result my nearly 3 1/2 years' European drinking escapades are still told in stories and myths by the Germans, by the way.

I should have stayed in the Air Force but once one was assigned to Security Service, there was no getting out to another command given what they spent on each of us to get such a high security clearance (rumored not to exceed

\$10,000 a tidy sum in 1967) coupled with specialty training even if we finished college on duty to earn a commission.

I could travel to any non-communist country on break except the UK which required special approval given their horrible weather that usually delayed visits beyond our allotted four days. In those days, we had to cross the English

Channel on a car ferry as there was no tunnel as now. My wife worked at the base nursery so we had a bit more money than most first termers. I also made Staff Sergeant (E-5) so we could afford a new VW bug that allowed us safer transportation than the older clunkers most of the single airmen had to drive. Our car was even equipped with a pair of huge yellow fog lamps and a tungsten bright rear red lamp to make our car more visible in the fog or snow to the Germans whose strategy was to turn on more lights when the weather got bad and drive faster to get off the roads at home.

So as not to miss out on the compliments of a substantial USAF presence in their midst, the English allowed us a direction finding site at Chicksands Priory, just outside of London. The site's antenna was an AN/FLR-9 receiving array of three concentric rings of verticals that fed their signals into a comparator which indicated the elements with the strongest signal strength. That, compared to their place on the compass rose produced a lobe; two stations reporting was a cut (we had more in Brindisi, Italy and Karamursel, Turkey to name a few) and three a fix. Using triangulation, we could narrow a fix down to a 4.2 mile radius. When working in the DF department I commented to the NCOIC that 4.2 miles was pretty big. He replied, "...not for a nuke!" (Oh, so that's why we wanted to know where they were. Our good friends in Strategic Air Command who flew big bombers that carried lots of really big bombs seemed pleased when we found the locations of net stations and especially their net HQ's, or so we were told to keep us working accurately.)

USAFSS as a ditty-bop was more fun than work although the constantly changing shiftwork every four days became a pain but it did allow four days off every 14 days with 24 hours in between shifts so most of us had a grand time. The single guys mostly got drunk but the married airmen like me traveled and lived like tourists on break. Good German food could be found if you knew where to look and the chance to learn decent conversational German was excellent.

So now I am aged, haggard and slightly crippled but I always began to head copy CW whenever I heard it long before I was relicensed in 2011. Old ditty-bops never die; they just fade away with the rest of the QSB.

Thanks for tolerating my happy memories of CW. Greg, Norm and Adrian have done their best to help me regain some of my old copy skills but it is surprisingly more challenging than I

expected because I was never trained to send CW; only intercept it, i.e., copy. Oh well...

Cheers,

de - - m
N6TEA
Mike Slate

[With thanks to Joe Sprissler for the link that prompted my many happy memories as a USAF ditty-bop.]

Amateur Radio Exam and Study Guide Websites

<http://www.qrz.com>

On the right column under “Ham Study”, go to “Practice Tests”

<http://www.eham.net>

On the left column under “Resources”, go to “Ham Exams”

<http://www.KB0MGA.net>

Log in is required

<http://www.radioexam.org>

Practice Exams

Tax Deductible Donations to CVARC

CVARC is an IRS-certified 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are deductible pursuant to the IRS rules. If you have working radio equipment and ancillary equipment that you can and wish to donate to the club, please contact one of the board members and we will be happy to talk to you about the process. Many companies will either grant or match employee’s gifts to non-profit organizations like CVARC.

Please determine if your company is among these and contact a board member so we may help fund and grow CVARC. We cannot accept certain donations, and have to place some restrictions around them (no hazardous materials, nothing we could not sell, etc.). If you are interested, look me up, or any other board member, at one of the meetings or contact us via email (our addresses are on the next to last page of the newsletter).



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

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

ARRL Member expiration date (on QST label): _____

ACS#: _____ ARES# _____

Date: _____ Update Roster Only? _____

Family Membership \$30: Names/Calls

You will automatically receive the newsletter via E-Mail. If you wish
to receive a paper copy by mail, check here: _____

New or Renewal: _____

Single Membership \$25 _____

Family Membership \$30 _____

Multi-year _____ years @ \$20/year = _____

New Ham (licensed in last 12 months) \$10 _____

Single Membership & full-time student \$10 _____

ARRL Membership Renewal (incl. 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/ACS: _____

Disaster Action Team: _____ Earning a ham license _____

VE Sessions in Santa Barbara

[Ed. Note: For those who might be anxious to test on a Saturday in Santa Barbara instead of a Sunday at the East County Sheriff's Station, here is their schedule. While CVARC VE Sessions are every other month on a Sunday, Santa Barbara's are every other Saturday. It's a beautiful drive, too. Please contact Tom Saunders to obtain a PDF application which regrettably could not be copied for this newsletter.]

Jeff:

Please publish our VE sessions in your newsletter.

The time and place of 2015 VE Sessions are listed below.

Time : 8:30 AM, Saturday morning.

Dates : July 11, September 12, November 14 (second Saturday morning of odd months).

Place : Santa Barbara County Health Services, 300 N San Antonio Road

How to Get There : Take 101 Northbound, exit Turnpike Road. From 101, turn right on Turnpike and take next right to Calle Real. Travel 1/2 mile on Calle Real and turn left on San Antonio Road. County Health is 1/10 mile on right. The test is given in the southwest corner of the building.

Tom Saunders

Mobile (805) 452 - 0840

Home (805) 967 - 7351 Ext 1

FAX (805) 364 - 5120

tsaund@cox.net

Ventura County ACS/ARES Times and Frequencies:

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

Please note that the detailed list of ACS/ARES frequencies, repeaters, off-sets, etc. is available on the Internet.

The official frequency list is updated regularly and is available at: <http://vc-ares.org>. [Please note that these frequency charts are notoriously difficult to edit. If you see an error, please bring it to the Editor's attention. Thank you.]

For quick reference, you may wish to pick a local repeater with their offsets/PL from the abbreviated list below:

146.805 – 100.0 Simi Valley AD6SV
147.885 – 127.3 Thousand Oaks – BOZO N6JMI
147.915 – 127.3 Camarillo WB6ZTQ
146.970 – 127.3 Oxnard WB6YQN
145.400 – NIL Ojai Valley N6FL
147.975 – 127.3 Ventura N6VUY
146.385 + 127.3 Santa Paula & County Wide SOUTH MOUNTAIN WB6ZSN
145.460 – 127.3 Moorpark K6ERN
146.880 – 127.3 Red Mt / County / SMRA County Wide WA6ZTT
146.850 – 94.8 Thousand Oaks – Grissom N6EVC
224.700 – 156.7 Thousand Oaks – Grissom K6HB
223.960 – 141.3 Thousand Oaks – Rasnow Peak N6CFC
445.580 – 100.0 Simi Valley K6ERN
449.440 – 131.8 Thousand Oaks (AMGEN) W6AMG
447.000 – 103.5 Camarillo Springs K6ERN

For questions concerning ACS/ARES, please go to the ACS/ARES section of the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>.

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

Visitors are welcome and have the opportunity to operate the station. Please contact Zak Cohen, Area 2 EOC, whose info is listed below, to arrange it.

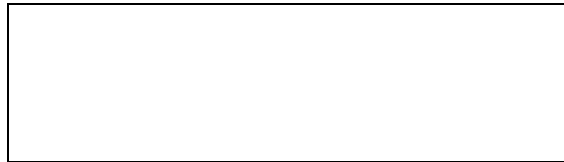
2015 CVARC Officers

President.....	Tim Wheeler.....	K6POI.....	(805) 222-0023.....	k6poi@yahoo.com
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Member at Large.....	Andy Ludlum.....	KI6NON.....	(818) 370-3402.....	ki6non@arri.net
Member at Large.....	Charles Pember.....	KG6CLT.....	(805) 495-6701.....	crpember@aol.com
Educational Director.....	vacant.....			



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

E-Mail Address Correction Requested



VIA E-MAIL MONTHLY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL MEETING



CVARC Online

For up-to-date information and back issues of newsletters, please visit the CVARC website at <http://www.cvarc.org>. In addition to visiting the website, 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.

"QUA 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 e-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 call sign and/or email address, if you have one, on the memo line of your check. Name, call sign, or address changes may be e-mailed to the Treasurer. Current annual rates are: Regular Membership \$25. Family Membership \$30. Special discounts are available for new members (licensed in the last 12 months) \$10. Full-time Students: \$10. Regular members renewing for multiple years: \$20/year. Family members renewing for multiple years \$25/year.