

Looking Back On NVCON 2016 And 2017

It's been about nine and a half years now.

The LVRAC staged the second of our two NVCON events at the Eastside Cannery Casino Hotel in 2017.

When we look back on our club's activities, these two events, NVCON 2016 and NVCON 2017, are standouts. They reflect foresight, dedication and a lot of hard work.

The goal of each year's event...

"To follow the traditional ham convention format," says Gerry Wojciechowski, K9ADY.

"The objective was to promote and foster friendship, fellowship and communication in the technical, emergency and new product aspects of amateur radio and to better serve our local communities and public at large."

Prior to 2016, NVCON was held in Reno. When the Reno organizers decided not to hold the convention in 2016, LVRAC leaders went to work on staging a Vegas version.

Jerry Sobel, K0MBB, was the 2016 convention chairperson. There were 27 presenters and workshops covering topics such as DMR, Raspberry Pi, Dstar, Space Weather, Portable Stations and T-Hunting. A few of the more notable presenters... Rick Roderick, K5UR and Gordon West, WB6NOA.

The event's 15 exhibitors included ICOM America, Yaesu and HRO.



The timing of our 2016 event was particularly noteworthy for ICOM. Appearing on the inside back cover of the official NVCON program was an ad for the then virtually unknown ICOM IC-7300. The rig had gone on the market just weeks beforehand.

Today, it often seems as if the 7300 is everywhere, and indeed it is. In May 2024, ICOM revealed that worldwide sales for the breakthrough transceiver eclipsed the 100,000 mark.

NVCON 2016 was so well received the club returned with an encore in 2017. The event was once again staged at the Eastside Cannery Casino Hotel.

Each year's speaker lineup was solid, one accomplished amateur operator after another sharing helpful insights.

Charlie Shepard, K7CBS, served as the 2017 convention chairperson. Chip Margelli, K7JP served as Master of Ceremonies and the banquet keynote speaker was Carole Perry WB2MGP.

Mayor Carolyn Goodman proclaimed April 24 - May 1 NVCON Week. The grand prize was a Yaesu FT-450D, a widely admired transceiver which had been on the market for six years.

Each NVCON provided our friends with non-profit organizations the opportunity to stage an exhibit and tell their story. These groups included..

- Amateur Radio in Space
- Amateur Radio Council of Arizona
- The ARRL and ARRL Nevada Section
- The ARRL DXCC QSL Card Check
- The Las Vegas Repeater Association
- The Nellis Amateur Radio Club
- The Quarter Century Wireless Association
- Red Rock Search and Rescue
- The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
- The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society
- The National Weather Service
- The American Legion Amateur Radio Club
- The Las Vegas Radio Direction Finding Team
- W7HEN (The Henderson Club)
- The Sisterhood of Amateur Radio

Looking back on the two NVCON events, we discover an unexpected challenge our organizers faced.

"We were surprised that with the large number of conference/banquet facilities in town it was extremely difficult to find a facility to accommodate us," says Gerry, K9ADY.

"We encountered a number of reasons, facility rental cost, food and beverage cost and the relatively small size of our anticipated convention. We visited a number of hotels and banquet facilities in and around the valley before we found one.

“One interesting note,” adds Gerry. “The place where the convention was held for both years did not reopen after Covid and was recently demolished.”

The average turnout for each year’s NVCON here in Vegas was 220 attendees from 14 states.

Today, it’s easy for us to overlook or underestimate the amount of work it takes to put on an event such as NVCON. As the years pass, we can look back on the two NVCONs with pride and keep in mind the importance they play in LVRAC history.

We are fortunate indeed to have people like Charlie, K7CBS, Jerry, K0MBB and Gerry, K9ADY continuing to make long-term contributions to our club.

And as for another NVCON here in Vegas down the road... who knows?



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AND THE
NEVADA STATE CONVENTION
A 2027 ??? 6 EL
Close to McCarran Airport and the fabulous Las Vegas Strip

REGISTRATION
EARLY BIRD (ONLINE):
Starts Dec 7, 2015

AT THE DOOR:
Starts Apr 29, 2016
(12:00 pm)
and
Apr 30, 2016
(8:00 am)

FEATURED ATTRACTIONS

- **Featured Speakers**
(Gordon West and Rick Roderick from the A.R.R.L.)
- **Major Equipment Manufacturers**
- **License Classes and Exams**
- **Saturday Night Banquet**
- **Large Tailgate / Swap Area**
- **Presentations and Forum Discussions**
- **R.V. Parking Available**
- **Wide Selection of Tours, Shopping, Shows and Gaming for Extended Stay/Spouses**

For questions, directions and reservations please visit us at:

NVCON.ORG
check frequently for updated information
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Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
www.lvrac.org

