

The Short Circuit

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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2004

The President's Corner

Rich Stocking N7OP

While spending a few years at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, I had the pleasure of meeting K3CXZ (now K6WRA), Dick Adler. He served as an Electrical Engineering Professor on the faculty and was the trustee for the club station K6LY. Dick Adler took me under his wing for a few months of dedicated antenna modeling tutelage. This time frame spent waiting for an upcoming transfer to Scotland in the fall of 1997 remains a very memorable time in my life. The phones in his office would regularly ring with the legends of the antenna modeling world. W7EL, Roy Lewallen, K6STI Brian Beezley, and the phenomenal LB Cebik, W4RNL would routinely call and converse at length with Dick. The old answering machine in his office routinely overflowed, clogged with the most interesting technical questions on antennas.

I had wrangled my way into his office, as I really wanted to learn antenna modeling from the very best. Building NEC models of frigates and other naval platforms were cheap payment for the exposure to this skill set. His crowded office, stacked to the ceilings with equipment and dusty volumes of antenna textbooks, pamphlets and brochures was a treasure trove of knowledge. Dick, a crusty natured, no-nonsense, workaholic would dig into the very essence of any new antenna published in even the most obscure publication. His passion for de-bunking mythical performing antennas and for pursuing new techniques enabled him to be the repository of reams of opinions and

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**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 26, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Lancaster City Hall, 44933 N. Fern Ave. in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions. This month's meeting will feature our own **Rich Stocking N7OP**, on the subject of antenna theory and modeling. This promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation. Please join



N7OP guides antenna into place atop WA6PZK/WA6YEO tower

From The Veep

Charles Turner K6ARU

February 2004- ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS and ANTENNAS. This month our president, Rich N7OP, will talk about antennas and his experience with antennas. We will have an informal discussion and Q&A on antennas for the meeting, and I'm sure us hams have plenty of experience to share (HI HI). Here are some good antennas references; *ARRL Antenna Book-20th Edition*; any year of the *ARRL Handbook*; Bill Orr's HF antenna handbook; Bill Orr-*Radio Handbook*; *Lew McCoy on Antennas* just to name a few books here.

I have noticed that there are books on radio, guides about radio and its history, value, manufacturers, reviews and so on, but none on antennas. Just of lots of books over the years to how to make ham antennas. I think this would be a good opportunity for someone to make a multi-volume antenna buyer sourcebook, based on the same outline as the radio products.

Yes there are more antenna designs, types, and manufacturers out there than radios. WOW! Which one do I need? Base, mobile, HT's, which one is the best? Which feed line do I used? And so on and so on! As soon I passed my novice/technician license in 1988 and while waiting for it to come in the mail, I made my first antenna construction, a 2 meter 1/4 wave vertical made out of SO-239 connector and coat hanger wire, and a 2 meter J-pole out of the 13th Edition (1977) of the *ARRL Antenna Book*. When my license came in the mail I went on the air on 2 meter FM simplex national frequency 146.520 and called CQ with a 2 watt HT. I made my first contact over 150 miles on that 1/4 wave antenna, and I was very thrilled. Now I wanted a bigger antenna and the best antenna - oh no, I'm hooked

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President's Corner...

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lengthy dialogues. His professional antenna studies and measurement techniques have also provided many national security capabilities that will probably never be totally revealed.

Following that intense exposure to which many consider the premier authority on antenna modeling I was hooked on the concept. Sitting in dark and gloomy, gale swept northern Scotland I had time to practice the techniques I had garnered. This was also somewhat practical, as most antennas tend to blow away in those northern climes. The requirement to operate with stealthy hidden antennas also prompted me to design antennas that would yield gain, directivity and most importantly win contests while keeping me out of trouble with the Royal Air Force (RAF) Housing authorities. I spent many a winter night "building" all the antennas I wanted to construct once I returned to the USA, the land of open spaces and aluminum farms. If I had the room to really build all those designs I probably could never afford the materials.

In 2002 I met another antenna modeling legend, Ron Nott, K5YNR whose folded unipole designs are extensively used in the Broadcasting industry. His oral explanations and design theory discussions on the folded unipole were the basis and a cited credit for my first ARRL antenna article. While I model many antennas, systems and the like for my employers, that first ARRL Antenna Compendium article remains a source of pride for giving something back to the hobby.

With this little bit of history behind me I look forward to sharing with everyone a program on antenna theory and modeling at the next meeting. I hope to share this love of antennas and modeling and provide information of how to do this cheaply (or even for free). My skills pale in comparison to the legends I have been fortunate to meet but I will give it my best shot. Bring your questions, your ideas, and let's see what we can share.
CU soon,

New Board Member to be elected

Don Moore, W6DMM, will be unable to complete his term of office, and he has requested we find a replacement for the duration of his term. The bylaws call for filling vacancies by "...nomination and election by the members at the next general meeting." Therefore, there will be a special election at the 26 February meeting to fill his vacancy. If you wish to nominate yourself or another individual, please contact a member of the Board before the meeting, or speak up when nominations are requested from the floor.



From The Veep...

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and that won't be easy to find which one I want.! It's part of what antennas are about. Hopefully, we can clear up some of the confusion about ham antennas at the meeting. Also if anyone wants to bring their small/portable homebrew antenna to show/demo they are welcome to do so.

Next month we will talk about the other half- radios. Finally, we need a volunteer or volunteers ASAP for the AVARC Wednesday night net control operator. Help with Newsline is also needed. Please contact any of the AVARC board members for the net script and information to get started because we are out of net control operators, so if you hear no net on Wednesday night you'll know why!

73,

Chuck Turner

Membership Dues Notice

If you have not paid your 2004 dues, please renew right away by postal mail, or by paying our membership chair, Bruce, N6SFV, at the next meeting. AVARC is a nonprofit educational organization under IRS Part 501©3.

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Janet Margelli
Manager
KL7MF

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From the Secretary's Desk

AVARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Minutes of the AVARC General Membership Meeting

Date: January 22, 2004

Location: EOC, City Hall, 44933 N. Fern Ave., Lancaster, CA 93534

The President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with 45 members and 2 non-members present, constituting a quorum of at least 10% of the total eligible voting membership. After the Pledge of Allegiance, it was moved by Randy, KR6DR, and seconded by Howard, K6HAB, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion carried. The Treasurer reported that all signatures have been updated on the bank account to new officers. The checking account balance is \$1,608.59 and the savings account balance is \$731.97. It was moved by Keith, K6GXO, and seconded by Randy, KR6DR, that the Secretary's minutes of the last General Membership meeting and the last Board of Director's meeting be accepted as printed in the last issue of the Short Circuit (newsletter) with the correction of Don Moore, W6DMM, being absent from the last Board meeting. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Adrienne, WA6YEO, announced the next VE test session would be held on Monday, Feb. 2, 2004 at the Kumon Center in Lancaster. It is a GLAARG session and VEs are needed. Walk-ins examinees are welcome.

Keith, K6GXO, announced Icom day at HRO is Jan. 31 and a planning meeting for the DX Convention in Visalia is the same day at 11:30 in Hawthorn. Also, there is a UHF/VHF Sweepstakes this weekend and remember the SW ARRL Convention in Arizona on August 27-29. See Keith for more information.

Tully, WB6CYP, announced that a Get Well card was being circulated for Al Boyd, W6RFQ, who was injured in an automobile accident.

Elizabeth, KG6JDH, announced the need for new control operators for the Wednesday night Club net.

Pat, N6RMJ, announced an open house at M² on March 27, in Fresno.

Vern, K0LVS, announced pre-printed letters on bills addressing antenna structures, (H.R.m1478), and the Radio Amateur Frequency Protection Act, (H.R. 713 and 537) were available for AVARC members to sign or take and send to Congress.

Program: Howard Burkhart, KB6MYE, from Torrence, CA presented the program on emergency disaster preparation including contents of an Earthquake Emergency Kit, preparation, "do's and don'ts".

The next General Membership meeting will be held on February 26, 2004 at this same location and time. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on February 5, 2004 at 7 p.m. at Claude's, K7TEN, QTH in Lancaster, CA. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Claude A. Brown,
Secretary, AVARC, 2004

AVARC Board Meeting

Date: February 12, 2004

Location: Claude's QTH, Lancaster, CA 93536

Members Present: Rich Stocking, N7OP, President; Chuck Turner, K6ARU, Vice President; Dave Alpert, KX6Z, Treasurer; Claude Brown, K7TEN, Secretary; Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms; Vern Eubanks, K0LVS, Past President; Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Trustee;

Members Absent: Don Moore, W6DMM, Board Member; Elizabeth Alpert, KG6JDH, Board Member

Others Present: Justin Stocking, KD5PEV

The President opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. with at least five Board Members being present to constitute a quorum.

1. The Treasurer, Dave, KX6Z, reported a present balance of \$1,696.24 not including the membership renewals and dues just received.

2. Rich, N7OP, will present the program

titled, Antennas and Antenna Modeling, at the next Club meeting on February 26.

3. Rich, N7OP, reported that a twin axel flatbed trailer with a 15 kw generator was donated to the Club in December by David Khroman of Lancaster, CA. The trailer will be an important and valuable asset to Club activities and emergency operations and is greatly appreciated. We are looking for help with minor electrical and mechanical maintenance for this unit. Volunteers can contact Rich.

4. Vern, K0LVS, was contacted by an individual interested in getting licensed and wants to talk with a licensed amateur. Anyone willing to work with this individual should contact him through Vern.

5. The application for our use of the Lancaster City Park for Field Day has been submitted to the Parks and Recreation department.

6. Chuck, K6ARU, says the completed and final signature card reflecting officer changes for 2004 has been submitted to the bank.

7. Keith, K6GXO, reported on his methods and successes in getting QSL cards from contacts who did not respond to his SASE with QSL. Also, he is looking for the 1999 log for Field Day contacts so he can QSL. Anyone with information as to its location please contact Keith.

8. Due to the expected but extended absence of Don Moore, W6DMM, Vern, K0LVS, will contact him or his wife to see what Don prefers to do regarding his Board Membership position and net controller function. Dave, KX6Z, reminded everyone of the need for additional net controllers to take the Club's Wednesday night net and Amateur Radio Newline presentation.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be determined at the next General Membership meeting to be held on February 26, 2004. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Claude A. Brown,
Secretary, AVARC, 2004



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2004 Officers



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Vice President	Chuck Turner	K6ARU	945-9097
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