

The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.av.org>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2005

President's Corner

Rich Stocking N7OP

Happy New Year to Everyone! Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday period. Travel was definitely more difficult this year due to the winter weather covering most of the country.

Our family of hams loaded up and QSY'd to Zero and 5 land (Western Colorado and Northern New Mexico). On the trip we saw lots of snow and rain. We felt like that would probably be the only snow we would see for the year. We were wrong.

This last big storm that hit the Antelope Valley definitely delivered ample moisture. Our neighborhood has collectively stopped making fun of our eccentric neighbor "Noah." Maybe a big boat in a heretofore dry lake is not such a bad idea? The small river we have running down the sides of Highway 138 has to end up somewhere. When was the last time Lake Los Angeles was really a lake?

We did however get enough thick wet snow out in Antelope Acres to make a snowman, before the following rains melted him. My first harmonic Katie, KD5PLE, missed the snow as her week long school science trip to KH6 land had her viewing volcanoes in the tropical sun while we shivered. I don't think that the "Pineapple Express" that hit us was a fair trade. She got sun; we got rain, snow and more rain.

After all this rain passes, everyone

(Continued on page 3)



UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 27, 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 well-known antenna and tower expert **Skip Bolnick KJ6Y**. This promises to be a fascinating presentation, so



Skip KJ6Y on the job at W8DX

From The Veep

Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

Our December meeting/holiday pot luck dinner was a great success. If you were unable to join us please try to join us this year (2005)

We are planning the club speakers and activities for the year at this time, so if you have ideas or suggestions please let me know. One thing we should pay more attention to is disaster preparedness in light of the earthquake/tsunami in Asia, and closer to home, last year's fires and this year's rain, floods and landslides.

There are a lot of new people moving to the Antelope Valley, judging by all the new houses being constructed. Among these folks, some are probably hams. We need to publicize our activities better to attract them to our club. If you have any ideas, let me know.

This month's meeting (Jan 27) will feature Skip Bolnick KJ6Y. Skip is an expert on antennas and towers. His program comes highly recommended. I hope you can join us at the Texas Cattle Co. in Lancaster at 6:00 PM for dinner, and at 7:30 PM at Lancaster City Hall for our meeting and Skip's presentation. Bye for now and 73s.

Dan KG6PQA

From The Secretary's Desk

Minutes of the AVARC General Membership Meeting

Date: December 16, 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 42 members (and several guests) present, constituting a quorum of at least 10% of the total eligible voting membership. After the Pledge of Allegiance, it was moved and seconded 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). Motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Announcements:

1. Claude, K7TEN, announced that the Club had received a donation of five copies of Ham Radio For Dummies which would be sold to raise money for the Club. All copies were sold and proceeds given to the Treasurer.
2. Keith, K6GXO, announced that the Club still has the Cushcraft R-8 vertical antenna for sale. It was donated to the Club to be sold and all proceeds will go to the Club. Anyone interested should make an offer.

Program: The program was our annual holiday and Christmas pot luck dinner. Everyone had a great meal and enjoyed the Spirit of the Season. The fellowship and pleasant conversation abounded and only a group of Hams could talk away the entire evening in joyous merriment. "And they heard us exclaim, as we drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all and to all a Goodnight." (apologies to Clement

Moore)

The next General Membership meeting will be held on January 27, 2005 at this same location and time. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on January 6, 2005 at 7 p.m. at Shakeys Pizza, Lancaster, CA. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**Submitted by
Claude A. Brown K7TEN
Secretary, AVARC, 2004**

AVARC BOARD MEETING

Date: 6 January 2005

Location Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster, Ca.

Board Members present:

Rich Stocking, N7OP, President
Dan Rowlan KG6PQA, Vice President
Don Jackson WA6KPP, Treasurer
Bob Holland KG6DHQ, Secretary
Gary Mork WA6WFC, Master at Arms
Harold Bragg K6HAB, Board Member, and his wife

Other members present:

Dale KØBGL and his wife
Keith K6GXO and his wife
Dave KX6Z
Elizabeth KG6JDH
Claude K7TEN
Vern KØLVS

The President opened the meeting at 7:35 with at least five board members to constitute a quorum.

Discussed was the paying of the ten dollars dues to the L.A. Council of Amateur Radio Clubs. Everyone present agree to hold off paying until new board members were authorized on the club account.

Keith sold the antenna that he donated

for \$150, and presented the cash to the new treasurer. A discussion was held as to what to do with the donation and it was agreed to wait till the next general membership meeting.

Dan had good luck lining up guess speakers for the next several months.

We finished the meeting at 8:20 and agreed again to have the next board meeting at Shakey's on the 3rd of February.

On Saturday the 8th of January, Rich N7OP, Don WA6KPP (the new treasurer) and myself Bob KG6DHQ were present at Downey Savings so we could be authorized to sign checks on the club account. Saturday the club account had in savings \$734.99 and in checking \$1229.91.

**Submitted by
Robert ~~KL7MF~~land KG6DHQ
Secretary, AVARC 2005**

In Memorium



**Dwight "Dewey" Wygant
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President's Corner...

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check those coax lines for SWR. The normal dry weather that allow coax connector seals to dry out and shrink has been replaced by a good weatherproofing test session. Hopefully there won't be too much cable replacement but I do remember a particularly wet winter in Scotland that cost me quite a few feet of coax due to wicking of moisture.

Thanks to everyone that attended the AVARC board meeting. The attendance at Shakey's Pizza appears to be consistently good. The assumption of new duties by the new Vice President Dan KG6PQA, Treasurer Don WA6KPP and Secretary Bob KG6DHQ was a smooth transition. Our new Vice President Dan also reported that we had a good selection of speakers lined up through May.

We did a trip to the bank to sign signature cards so we now have enough check signers to pay the bills. We will be reviewing a proposed operating budget during the first meeting so that everyone will know our state of the club finances. So far the figures look very close to the projected figures from last year. Remember that the new dues form also allows you to elect to receive the electronic version of the Short Circuit which saves money for the club.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting,

73,



TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS

Spread spectrum - an early history

"Reliable and Secret communications" has been a goal of all military commanders over the centuries. When radio came along, the commanders learned it was far from secret and not necessarily reliable, especially not reliable if an adversary chose to jam the commander's transmissions. Military commanders needed a method to counteract the adversary's effort to jam important radio links.

Unusual inventors - Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler married Austrian weapons manufacturer Fritz Mandal (the first of six husbands) in 1933. As the stunning wife of a weapons czar, she entertained Viennese high society and foreign leaders, including Hitler and Mussolini during the mid 1930's. Hedy and Fritz divorced in 1937, and Hedy immigrated to the US, carrying with her scraps of weapons control technology.

In 1942, Hedy (now married to a Mr. Markey) and George Antheil, a noted music composer, patented a "secret communication system", which included rudimentary anti-jam features. The specific application intended for this patent was to guide torpedoes after launch. The Axis and Allies were both developing radio controlled torpedoes, but they were susceptible to radio jamming. The same governments were working on anti-jam radio and radar too, but that technology was all developed in great secrecy. Anti-Jam radio links can be achieved by rapidly changing the radio frequency of operation (there are other methods). Frequency hopping radio's greatest challenge is synchronizing the random patterns of the transmitter and distant receiver so that they are simultaneously operating on the same frequency.

Hedy and George's patent drew upon George's experience with

player pianos, wherein the piano notes are struck in response to holes on a moving paper roll. The co-inventors suggested using a similar method to rapidly tune the receiver and transmitter frequencies across a selected frequency range.

While the first operational use of frequency hopping radios was not until after Hedy and George's patent had expired, and there were parallel developments of spread spectrum technology, today most scientific historians credit the two with inventing spread spectrum radio.

You have probably never heard of George Antheil before, but nearly everyone knows of the stunning movie star **Hedy Lamarr**, co-inventor of spread spectrum radio.





Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2005 Officers



President	Rich Stocking	N7OP	949-1039
Vice President	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
Secretary	Bob Holland	KG6DHQ	285-0150
Treasurer	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
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Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
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