

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

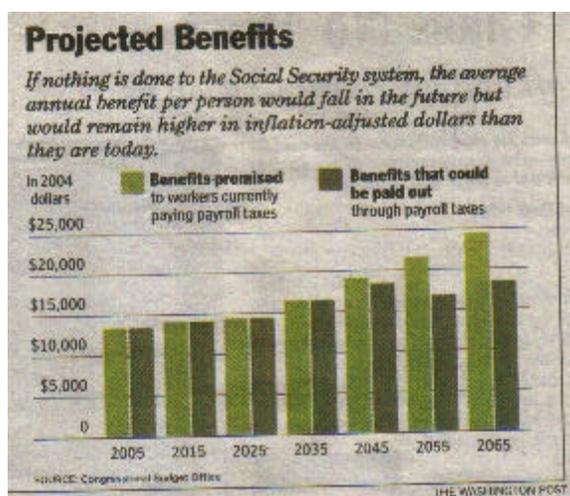
February 2005

## From The Veep

Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

In recent years the FCC has made many controversial decisions. Two of the most troubling to me are their "cheerleading" for instead of regulating our major media outlets and their don't confuse me with facts attitude when it comes to broadband on power lines.

Right now a few giant media groups (News Corp, Time Warner, Viacom, Disney, Comcast, etc.) have too much influence on our lives. They control what's in the papers, on the radio, and on TV. When they push one point of view while restricting another, it's hard for us to get enough information to make good decisions. A good example currently is the point of view that Social Security is bankrupt and must be radically changed now. In fact the SS program is in good shape for decades to come (see GAO chart for worst case scenario)



BPL noise is a well documented threat to RF communications. There are many excellent articles on this subject in QST and CQ magazine as well as on the News Line report.

The ARRL is working hard for us on this issue. If you are not a member please consider joining. Their magazine QST is well worth the price of membership.

Does FCC chairman Michael Powell's resignation mean the FCC will be returning to its traditional role of regulating communications?? I hope so! Till next time.

73s

Dan KG6PQA

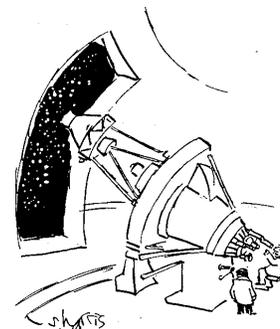


**UNITED  
WE STAND**

## Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 24, 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 **Edgar Brown N6OU**. His presentation, "What We Can See", will feature amateur astronomy, a topic that is of great interest to many of our club members. You won't want to miss this one!



"Actually, they all look alike to me."

## From The Secretary's Desk

### AVARC GENERAL MEETING

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

The President called the meeting to order at 1930 to a large group of members and guests with standing room only. After the Pledge of Allegiance, it was moved and seconded to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the last General Membership meeting and also the minutes from the last Board of Director's meeting as printed in the last issue of the Short Circuit. The motion was carried. The operating plan for the next year was also voted on and accepted by the membership.

The new Treasurer, Don Rowlan, KG6PQA, reported that we be at a short fall of \$180 by years end. Suggestions were made to try to get more members to accept the newsletter on line to save printing costs, and also that more "Adds" could be included in the newsletter for the amount of \$50 per year.

The club president brought up that, K6SLH, Dan Schrader, would not be able to continue as a board member so an election was held and Claude Brown, K7TEN, was chosen to replace Dan

The Mayor of Lancaster, Frank C. Roberts, K6EDF, was also present at the meeting. Harold Bragg showed the Mayor the "Ready Room" at the EOC, and it was decided that it would require a lot of work to get it back in usable

condition. It has not been decided at this time how this was to be carried out.

The guest speaker was KJ6Y, Harold Bolnick, who gave a very good presentation on how to erect towers and mount antennas.

Submitted by  
 Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ  
 Secretary, AVARC 2005

### AVARC BOARD MEETING

Date: 3 February 2005  
 Location Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster Calif.

Board members present:  
 Rich Stocking, N7OP, President, and his family  
 Dan Rowlan, KG6PQA, Vice President

Don Jackson, WA6KKP, Treasurer  
 Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary  
 Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms

Harold Bragg, K6HAB, Board Member and his wife  
 Claude Brown, K7TEN, Board Member  
 Bruce Mowers, N6SFV, Board Member  
 Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Trustee  
 Gary Barr, WA6TWT, guest

The President opened the meeting at 7:30 with at least five board members present to constitute a quorum.

Rich first brought up the \$150 that

Keith donated from the antenna sale, and said he will try to remember to put it before the general membership what to do with the money. Next discussed was the insurance rider for the club and it was discussed if we could change the renewal date to January so as not to put a rush on us before field day. The subject of the EOC Radio room was mentioned and someone will check with the mayor's office to see who is responsible to clean it.

Dan announced that this months guest speaker would be Edgar Brown on astronomy.

Don gave us the current Treasury report as follows:

Checking balance	\$1846.43
Savings balance	\$ 734.99
Cash on hand	\$ 2.82

We again agreed to meet at Shakey's on the 3rd of March for the next board meeting. Rich ended the meeting at 8:20.

Submitted by  
 Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ  
 Secretary, AVARC 2005



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## Simple As Simplex

After an amateur has made a contact on a repeater, it is proper to move the conversation to a simplex frequency if possible. A repeater is not meant to be a soapbox. Others who may need to use the repeater will not appreciate you tying up the repeater unnecessarily. The easiest way to determine if you are able to communicate with the other station on simplex is to listen to the repeater input frequency (on reverse). This is the frequency the other station uses to transmit to the repeater, and if you hear his or her signals there you should be able to use simplex. Many amateur radios include a reverse feature. With a push of a button an amateur can listen on a normal transmit frequency. This is a very useful feature for checking to see if you can operate simplex with the another station.

If you want to perform an on-the-air test of a pair of handheld radios, you should select an unoccupied simplex frequency. This way tests can be performed without interfering with repeater users.

The function of a repeater is to provide communications between stations that can't otherwise communicate because of terrain, equipment limitations, or both. Therefore, stations that are able to communicate without a repeater should not use one. This way, the repeater is available for stations that need it. Another plus to using simplex rather than a repeater is that communication on simplex offers a degree of privacy impossible to achieve on a repeater. On simplex you can usually have extensive conversations without interruption.

Remember to select a frequency designated for FM simplex operation or you may interfere with stations operating in other modes without realizing it. Each band has a designated national FM simplex calling frequency, which is the center for most simplex operation. The 2 meter national simplex calling frequency is 146.52 MHz. On the 1 ¼ meter band it is at 223.50 MHz. On the 23 cm band the national simplex calling frequency is 1294.50 MHz.

*"Ham-Shack.com", © 1997- 2004  
Jonathan and Sara Imberi*



## — TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS

### Computer Pioneer - "Amazing Grace" Hopper 1906-1992

No one can claim to have "invented" the computer. There have been many calculators and data tabulating devices built over the years. Charles Babbage's "calculating engines", Hermann Hollerith's tabulating machines, and some other devices were 19<sup>th</sup> century forerunners to programmable computers, which were first used by the military during World War II.

One notable computer pioneer was Grace Hopper, Ph.D. – a pre-war mathematics professor at Vassar College. Despite being overage (34) and underweight (105 lbs) for joining the military, she finagled her way to a Navy commission and an assignment to the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Center at Harvard University, becoming the third programmer on the first large scale American computer.

At the BuOrd laboratories, Grace worked tediously, leading a team working on improving the accuracy of the Navy's shipboard guns. She is credited with coining the term "computer bug" in 1945 when she discovered a dead moth between the contacts of a relay on the Mark II computer.

After the War, Grace was a senior programmer for several giant computer companies, and led the effort to develop the COBOL computer language and several computer compilers. She stayed in the Naval Reserves and was recalled to active duty in 1967 to head the Navy

Programming Languages Group, and was advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral in 1985.

She retired from the Navy in 1986 at 80 years of age; she was at that time, the oldest active duty officer in the US military. This scrappy lady is famous for her in-your-face comment "It is easier to ask forgiveness than to seek permission." One of my greatest disappoints is that I did not meet "Amazing Grace" during my Navy career.

Vern

KØLVS/6





### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2005 Officers



<b>President</b>	Rich Stocking	N7OP	949-1039
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Holland	KG6DHQ	285-0150
<b>Treasurer</b>	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Claude Brown	K7TEN	948-2672
<b>Board Member</b>	Harold Bragg	K6HAB	256-7465
<b>Board Member</b>	Bruce Mowers	N6SFV	942-5986
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Vern Eubanks	KØLVS	822-8772

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