

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2005

President's Corner

Rich Stocking N7OP

It must be getting closer to Field Day! The warm spring breezes and bright sunny days give all the signs that summer will soon be here. This weather also makes me want to sit by a dusty road and watch Rim of the World rally cars having fun in the Angeles forest. What a great time of year!

It also seems that every spring at least one of my radios does something to remind me that I do not have a photographic memory when it comes to complex function key sequences. (I've been told we all have photographic memories...just some of us didn't remember to get film.) My VHF/UHF mobile decided that voice was not the mode of choice and it would prefer 9600 baud packet. It also decided that it should disable all microphone functions.

Trying to remember the section of the manual that covered high speed packet and all the function key steps to get it in and out of that mode; while somehow remembering to drive at the same time seemed unwise so I did the safe thing and waited until I got home in the driveway. After 20 minutes of still not succeeding, I capitulated and went to the computer/radio room to find the manual. After a simple read and the proper amount of chagrin, the very simple procedure was executed.

What does all this have to do with Field Day and events like Rim? Well, every year we dust off the gear, tune up the generators, antennas and check all the towers. The ability to effectively communicate in an emergency is central to our club's stated purpose as is the training and practice we get at events like Rim and Field Day. Knowing how to successfully operate in an emergency

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 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 **Paula Gibeault N6QQQ**, **Mike Jones K6IL**, and **Gary Mork WA6WFC**, who will be updating us on plans for this year's Rim of the World Rally, and **Karen Stocking KD5PLF**, who talk about Field Day plans. These are two of the most important activities in the life of AVARC, so be sure to attend!



Karen KD5PLF at AVARC Field

From The Veep

Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

Finally it looks like winter is over and we can start looking forward to spring and summer. At this month's meeting we will be doing some preliminary planning for our Field Day event. If you weren't able to participate in last year's Field Day you missed an excellent event. Please be at this month's meeting (March 24) to join in the planning and volunteering for this year's Field Day.

I am trying to figure out a 40', inexpensive, quick and easy to set up portable tower and rotor with a low cost, high performance, multiple band antenna on top for this year's Field Day. I'm sure I'm the first to think of this concept hi hi.

Paula Gibeault and Mike Jones will be updating us on this year's Rim of the World rally at our March meeting.

Field Day and Rim of the World rally are two events that are a lot of fun and give us a chance to use our communications equipment under unusual conditions. If you want to participate in the Rim of the World rally, go to their web site "rimoftheworldrally.com" and click on their volunteer page. Till next time.

73s,
Dan KG6PQA

From The Secretary's Desk

AVARC GENERAL MEETING

Notes from February 24th General Meeting

The President called the meeting to order at 1930 hrs, again with a very large turnout of members. The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as written and we moved on to the insurance for the club, which the City of Lancaster accepted. Rich stated that we have not heard from the Mayor about what to do with the radio room at the EOC. The donation from Keith N6GXO was discussed, and it was voted on by the general assembly to donate \$75 of it to "Newslines." Field Day will be on the 25-26 June and the Mayor of Lancaster will be there.

Paula N6OQQ mentioned the Rim of the World, which will be coming up May 6-7. Debbie KF6BZP stated that she will no longer be able to do Newsline and requested help.

Edgar Brown N6OU gave a very nice presentation on telescopes and astronomy with the meeting at 2115hrs.

Board Meeting of March 3rd

The board meeting was held at Shakey's on Ave "I" again and

started at 9130hrs. All board members were present except Claude Brown.

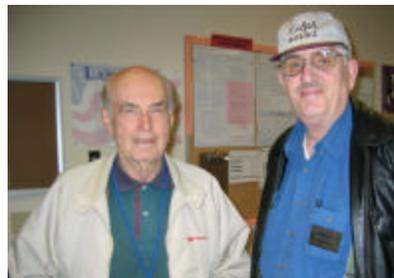
Rich told us that the application is in to the park for field day. We had a motion from Keith to raise the donation to "Newslines" to an even \$100. The motion was voted and carried Don Jackson the treasurer said that the new treasurer's report was as follows:

\$2,068.91 in checking
\$ 734.99 in savings

The next board meeting will again be at Shakey's on Ave "I". The meeting ended at 2010hrs.

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

Our February Meeting



**Pictures by
Al Almeida N6JZ**



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President's Corner...

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requires preparation for the unexpected (or the more frequent "senior moments?"). Maybe I should also make up some small cards that have most of the important function sequences for my mobile and keep them in the vehicle? Seems I heard others talking about such memory aids and said "Nawwh, I know my radio." Well maybe my non-computerized single button per function radios will still work? Where did I put those 3 by 5 cards?

Anyway, start thinking about Rim and Field Day. The FD chairman will be planning some work parties and other activities to get us ready. The Park is reserved. I am also planning on working a way to effectively get us up on 160M. We haven't had much activity there over the last few years.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the board meeting. It was a good crowd at Shakey's.

The next AVARC meeting will be on the 24th.

CU there.

73,
Rich N70P



TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS

Morse Code - Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872) trained as a portraiture artist, and is known for several master paintings to this day. However, in 1832 while returning from extended European study, a scientist traveling on the same ship taught him the latest electrical science. Over the next few days, the idea of using electricity to achieve long distance communications gelled in Morse's mind, and he dedicated the rest of the return voyage to documenting his thoughts on a telegraphy system based on electrical principles. By the time his ship arrived in NYC, the amateur inventor had documented all essential elements of his invention, eventually patented in 1840.

Morse and his assistant Alfred Vail devised the Morse code such that the most common alphabetic characters (E, T, O, N, A, R, I, S, H) were assigned the shortest symbol lengths. For example, "E" the most common letter in English language text, was assigned the shortest length symbol "dot" (called "dit" in modern international Morse code). The original Morse Code of 1840 was unnecessarily complex, with 3 different "dash" or "dah" lengths, and an extended "space" as an integral sub-component of some Morse code character symbols. For example, the letter "O" was "dot <space> dot", and could be confused with the transmission of a letter "T", or 2 transmissions of the letter "E".

"Hi Hi" – laugh track for a modern ham's joke. There is more than one folklore about the origin of this commonly used voice and CW prosign. Some would have you be-

lieve the "dididit didit, dididit didit" sounds like a subdued chuckle, and most everyone agrees today, that it does have a pleasant swing on CW. The only believable explanation is that early landline telegraph operators would transmit "ho ho" ("dididit ditdit, dididit ditdit" in American Morse), which roughly translates to "Hi Hi" in modern international Morse code.

Vern
KØLVS/6

ORIGINAL MORSE CODE	INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE
A	A
B	B
C	C
D	D
E	E
F	F
G	G
H	H
I	I
J	J
K	K
L	L
M	M
N	N
O	O
P	P
Q	Q
R	R
S	S
T	T
U	U
V	V
W	W
X	X
Y	Y
Z	Z
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
0	0
Period	Period
Comma	Comma
Interrogation	Interrogation
Colon	Colon
Semicolon	Semicolon
Hyphen	Hyphen
Slash	Slash
Quotation marks	Quotation marks



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