

The Short Circuit



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

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

May 2005

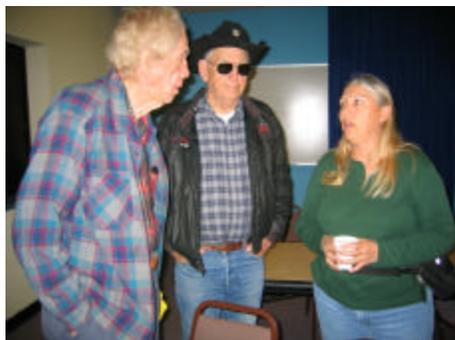
Last Month's Meeting



Phineas Icenbice W6BF addresses the members of AVARC on the subject of GPS



After the presentation, W6BF draws quite a crowd, including Bill Feldmann N6PY and Tully Becker WB6CYP.



During the break, John Mason K6MLU enjoys a chat with Ron Hammel K6WLC and Margie Hoffman KG6TBR.

**Pictures by
Al Almeida N6JZ**



UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 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 **Randy Estrella KR6DR**, who will be talking to us about T-hunting and forensic RDF. Randy is very knowledgeable in these areas, and has been a featured convention speaker on many occasions. This should be a very interesting presentation, so be sure to join us!



Randy Estrella KR6DR

From The Veep

Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

This has been a busy month for me. We spent a week in Florida visiting with family and attending my granddaughter's graduation from St. Petersburg College. Because of this trip I was unable to join the Rim of the World this year. I hope those of you who were able to join the fun did so.

I enjoyed Phineas Icenbice W6BF's presentation on GPS last month, and have since discovered that our president Rich Stocking N7OP is very knowledgeable on GPS systems also. Maybe we can prevail on him to do a presentation about modern GPS systems sometime.

Work continues at my QTH on a portable antenna/tower system for Field Day. It will be ready on time if all goes well. If you don't usually participate in Field Day, plan on doing so this year. It's a lot of fun.

This month we have Randy Estrella KR6DR scheduled to do a program on T-hunting and forensic RDF. Randy's presentations are always very interesting and informative. He has recommended going to www.homingin.com for more information on this fast growing sport.

Until next time...

73,
Dan KG6PQA

From The Secretary's Desk

AVARC GENERAL MEETING

Date: 28 April
 Location: EOC, City Hall
 44933 N. Fern Ave.
 Lancaster, Calif. 93534

The President called the meeting to order at 1930hrs with over 40 members present. We went immediately to the guest speaker Phineas J. Icenbice Jr. (W6BF) who gave a fine presentation on the operation of GPS systems. The presentation ended at 2030hrs after quite a few questions.

When the break was over we carried out our general business. The last minutes were voted upon and accepted. The insurance for the club, which costs \$345, was voted on and carried. Don Jackson the treasurer was not present, but he did send in a treasurer's report as follows: Checking was \$1937.23, with \$734.99 in savings.

Submitted by
 Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ

Tehachapi Club Needs Local Speakers

The Southern Sierra Amateur Radio Society is seeking speakers or demonstrators for their monthly meetings (second Thursday of each month except July). If you would like to present a program, contact Ted, KA6PTJ, twyman@tminet.com, or 661-822-6581.

Secretary, AVARC 2005 AVARC BOARD MEETING

Date: May 6th
 Location: Keith Hoyt's (K6GXO) home
 Board members present:
 Rich Stocking N7OP, Club President
 Dan Rowlan KG6PQA, Vice President could not attend
 Don Jackson WA6KPP, Treasurer
 Bob Holland KG6DHQ, Secretary
 Claude Brown K7TEN, Board member
 Gary Mork WA6WFC, Master at ARMS
 Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Trustee
 Vern Eubanks KØLVS
 Dale Snider KØBGL and several other guests were present

The President opened the meeting with at least five board members present to constitute a quorum. We voted to write the check and pay the club's insurance. Keith mentioned that if anyone would like to take over as trustee of the club's call to please contact him.

Dale attended the LA. Council of Amateur Radio Club's meeting and let us know that the DWP is not interested in BPL and that Edison would probably follow.

I am sure we would all like to thank Keith and his wife for the food they provided. Thanks!



Submitted by:
 Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ

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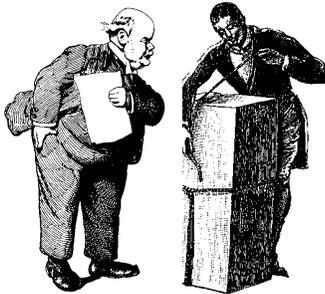
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TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS

Pre Electrical Wireless Systems

“One if by land two if by sea” – When patriot agents learned British soldiers were moving on Concord to destroy a militia armory, the sexton of Boston’s Old North Church hung two lanterns aloft in the belfry. “Two lanterns” - it was a simple code conveying only two bits of prearranged information. The British were enroute to Concord, and their route was via a boat crossing of the Charles river, rather than an overland march.

Pre-electrical “wireless” systems (typically visual signaling systems, though drums and trumpets were also used) from ancient Greek signal torches to native American smoke signals, shared the same shortfall of the patriots’ one/two lantern system. The system could only transmit a prearranged one or two bit alert, and only over very short distances between signaling nodes.

Couriers traveling by foot, horse, or ship could carry complete orders and reports; however they were extremely slow when great distances were involved. These limitations of courier and ineffective visual signaling over long distances had strategic implications on world affairs. For example, the famous Battle of New Orleans in which Gen. Andrew “Old Hickory” Jackson’s outnumbered and ragtag forces embarrassingly trumped

the British forces, was fought two weeks after the US and Britain ended the War of 1812.

With the invention of the telescope by Hans Lippershey in 1608, the range of human eyesight was extended and signaling nodes could be located farther apart. More importantly, a greater signaling vocabulary could be exchanged since the receiving signalman could observe greater detail on the transmitting apparatus.



The first useful visual signal network was the Chappe Semaphore (also known as the Chappe Telegraph), a French network of signaling towers at 10 mile intervals. Initial links of that network were set up in France as early as 1793. The Chappe system did not spell out words; the angular positions of a central pivoting arm and two paddles (see accompanying figure) needed to be decoded from a secret codebook of 8000 words and phrases.

While slow from today’s perspective, the network did contribute to French military victories. Napoleon even had portable Chappe towers constructed to use on the battleground. Claude Chappe coined the term “telegraph” (distance writing), which is still in use today.

The last fixed semaphore station was taken down in 1880. It connected an offshore island with a telegraph station on the coast of Sweden.

Vern



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2005 Officers



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