

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

June 2005

## From The Veep

### Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

ARRL Field Day is just around the corner. This is the AVARC's chance to show the general public, public officials, and hams who usually limit their activities to 2m, some of the other modes, bands, activities, etc. that hams enjoy, and the potential emergency communication capabilities of the amateur radio service. Please invite your friends and neighbors to the north west corner of Lancaster City Park located on 10th street west at Avenue K-8 on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26, for our Field Day event.

Bill N6PY will have some of his classic tube type equipment set up (affectionately known as boat anchors), Pat N6RMJ will set up a microwave station, and Vern KØLVS will demonstrate a heliograph, just to name a few of the highlights of this year's Field Day.

I will set up a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Everyone who wants to see if HF SSB is something they might be interested in is encouraged to stop by and make a few HF QSOs. The club gets extra credit for GOTA contacts made by folks under 18 years of age, so bring your kids! Contesting is a lot of fun, and Field Day is very much like a contest. Stop by the GOTA station and make a couple of contest type contacts - you will enjoy it.

Folks who would like to be more involved in Field Day are encouraged to contact our Field Day coordinator, Karen Stocking KD5PLF, at our June 23 meeting or at 949-1039. Volunteers are always welcome!!! I can always use help at the GOTA station, helping folks make successful contacts on HF. If you can work on Friday afternoon, helping assemble the club's antennas, you will be most welcome.

This month's club meeting will feature Pat N8RMJ, who will get us up to speed on the amazing world of UHF and VHF communications. I am looking forward to seeing you at the club meeting on June 23, and then the following weekend for Field Day!

73,

Dan KG6PQA



**UNITED  
WE STAND**

### Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 23, 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 **Pat Coker N6RMJ**, who will be presenting a "show-and-tell" on microwave radio. He will bring some of his microwave radios and explain the building of them. This should be a very interesting presentation, so be sure to join us!



## From The Secretary's Desk

### AVARC GENERAL MEETING

Date: 27 May 2005  
 Location: EOC, City Hall  
 44933 N. Fern Ave  
 Lancaster, Calif. 93534

The President, Rich Stocking, called the meeting to order at 1930hrs. There were only about 30 members present for this meeting. General business was completed and the minutes from the last meeting were voted on and accepted. The treasurer reported that we had \$1511.74 in checking and \$734.99 in the savings account.

The night's presentation was given by Randy Estrella, KR6DR, on Forensic T-Hunting. It was a very interesting presentation and a shame more members were not present. The meeting ended a little after nine.

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

### AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 2 June 2005  
 Location: Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster, Calif.  
 Board members present:  
 Rich Stocking, N7OP, Club President  
 Dan Rowlan, KG6PQA, Vice President  
 Don Jackson, WA6KKP, Treasurer  
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary  
 Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms  
 Claude Brown, K7TEN, Board Member

Bruce Mowers, N6SFV, Board Member  
 Vern Eubanks, KØLVS, Ex Officio  
 And guests:  
 Adrienne Sherwood, Gary Barr, and my wife Marita Holland

The President was little late opening the meeting which started at 1920hrs. There were enough members present to constitute a quorum.

Rich reported that the power trailer and the Sheriff's trailer are ready for Field Day.

Adrienne requested help with the news letter, which was discussed, and Gary Mork and Gary Barr volunteered to help.

Dan reported that next month's guest speaker would be Pat Coker, N6RMJ.

It was again agreed to have the next board meeting at Shakey's and the meeting ended around nine o'clock.

Submitted by  
 Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ  
 Secretary AVARC 2005



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### Army/Air Force MARS Ops Needed for 49er Days Parade

On Saturday, July 30, 2005, there will be a 49er Day Parade in Lake Hughes, CA followed by an afternoon/evening festival called 49er Days to be held at the Lakes Community Center, 17520 Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes. The lineup for the parade starts at 9:30 a.m. and the parade takes off at 11 a.m. The total length of the parade is about 2 miles.

As a ham since June of 1971 and an Associate Member of NAVMARCORMARS for almost 34 years, I would like to do something to promote amateur radio as well as MARS operations for this event. I decided in memory of my husband, William D. Karabinus, WA6RAM/NNNØQMY, that I would decorate my car with magnetic sign logos on each side and patriotic bunting, etc. I would like to make this an all-MARS operation if we could find both Army MARS and Air Force MARS representatives to join me in the parade. A little publicity never hurt either MARS or amateur radio.

If we can find people who are interested, I thought it would be nice to take a booth at the festival afterward and set up a ham/MARS station to show the attendees (particularly young people) what amateur/MARS radio is all about.

If you would be interested in either riding in the parade or operating the station at the 49er Day festival in the afternoon, please contact me. The telephone calls are on my nickel. Send me an e-mail or a note and I will contact you. I would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

73,  
Doris (Dee) Karabinus  
WA6LLC/NNNØTYB  
661-724-2243 or 661-609-3888  
e-mail [DKarabinus@aol.com](mailto:DKarabinus@aol.com)



## TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS and Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

### The Heliograph - Wireless Telecommunication Using the Power of the Sun

Since last month's Trivia 'Tronics article on pre-electrical wireless systems, Dan and Vern have been researching the history of signaling with mirror-reflected sunlight as in the heliograph. We found so many reports of signaling over great distances, that it was difficult to identify the "best distance record". The most acceptable standing claim of "heliograph DX" is by units of the US Army Signal Corps, who in 1894 communicated over a single span of 183 miles between mountains in Utah and Colorado using heliographs equipped with 8 inch mirrors.

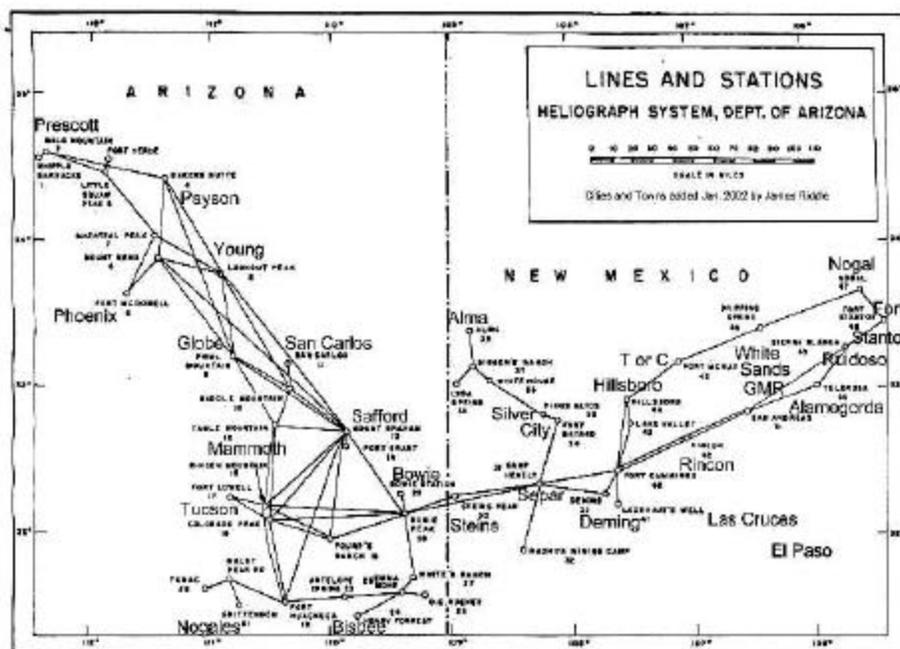
While heliograph was used by civilian and military organizations around the world during the 1800's, the most extensive network we have identified is Department of Arizona Heliograph System, illustrated in the accompanying figure. Landline telegraphy was not practical during these years, because the hostile Apaches would destroy the lines.

Heliograph transmitters have a mirror to form the beam of sunlight, and a shutter or

other mechanism to form the short and long Morse code flashes. If the sun is shining from behind the sending operator, a second mirror is placed strategically to reflect the sun onto the primary mirror. Under ordinary conditions, a flash can be seen about 10 miles per inch of mirror diameter; that is, a 5" mirror could work to about 50 miles! The most proficient operators could copy Morse code by heliograph at a little more than 10 words per minute.

A more complete description of the "works" of a heliograph, including plans to homebrew your own, can be found at KD7AOI's excellent web site <http://my-web.cableone.net/kd7aoi> We will have a home brew heliograph demo at Field Day this year so come out and try your hand at the ancient art of the heliograph.

**Vern KØLVS and Dan KG6PQA**





### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2005 Officers



<b>President</b>	Rich Stocking	N7OP	949-1039
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
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<b>Ex Officio</b>	Vern Eubanks	KØLVS	822-8772

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