

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

HTTP://WWW.AVARC.AV.ORG

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2005

President's Corner

Rich Stocking N7OP

I took a look back at last October's Short Circuit Article to see what was happening a year ago. Seems the same theme was happening then as now, natural disasters, communication outages, evacuations and shortages. The QST articles for the past two years seemed to be very much the same, details of Hams helping out when commercial and government communications systems had failed or were unavailable. The relevance of our hobby seems to be proven over and over with each subsequent disaster.

Our club provides a common point of reference for each of own family's disaster preparedness plans. Over the last few years we have had guest speakers talk about emergency preparedness and as a club we participate in many "training" exercises such as Field Day, Rim of the World Rally, MS Walks, etc. I was particularly heartened by Adrienne's plan to conduct Ham Radio Classes to bring more volunteers into our hobby. All of these individually contribute to our individual readiness and more importantly the service we can provide to our communities.

The scenes of large scale evacuations followed by reporting on how unprepared the average citizen was to meet a few weeks of power outages,

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**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 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.

We will have our Anchors Away ham radio swap meet at this meeting.

Elections will be held for next year's officers and board members.



From The Veep

Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

Hi. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, but this month we are encouraging everyone with an interest in amateur radio to attend our meeting. This month is ANCHORS AWAY, our annual ham radio swap meet (old radio gear is sometimes referred to as boat anchors).

This is a chance for us to engage in some of our favorite activities, upgrading our radio equipment, getting rid of things we do not need, and saving a few dollars at the same time.

Who knows, you may be able to trade something you aren't using for something you need. Buying used equipment from local amateurs is a good way for newer hams to put together a radio station and for older hams to try a new mode or band without spending a fortune.

The more sellers and buyers we have at Anchors Away, the better the chance of finding exactly what we are looking for, so help us spread the word about this month's meeting. Invite your friends, neighbors, and anyone else who has an interest in amateur radio

Thanks and until next time...

73,

Dan KG6PQA

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC GENERAL MEETING

Date: 22 Sept 2005
 Location: EOC, City Hall
 44933 N. Fern Ave.
 Lancaster, Calif. 93534

The meeting was called to order at 1930hrs by Rich Stocking, the club president. The pledge of allegiance was given, and the minutes voted on and accepted. The treasurer reported that we had 1262.29 in checking and 734.99 in savings, and that we should end up this year with a surplus. Only about thirty members showed up for the meeting.

The pot luck dinner followed with more than enough food for everyone. Pat Coker, N6RMJ, gave a brief announcement about the WSWSS and San Bernardino Microwave Society meeting to be held Oct 27-30th. If you are interested go to WWW.MICROWAVEUPDATE.ORG for more information.

Nominations were conducted after the dinner with the following members nominated:

President:
 KG6SLC, Eugene Humpherys
 Vice President:
 KG6SLC, Eugene Humpherys
 Secretary: KG6DHQ, Bob Holland

K7TEN, Claude Brown
 Board Members:
 K6GXO, Keith Hoyt
 WA6PZK, Dan Sherwood
 N6JZ, Carlos Almeida
 N6FOD, Frank O'Dell
 K7TEN, Claude Brown
 Treasurer:
 WA6KKP, Don Jackson
 N6ECN, ? Sorry
 Master at Arms:
 WA6WFC, Gary Mork

The meeting ended at 2030hrs. Don't forget that next month's meeting is Anchors Away!

Submitted by
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
 Club Secretary, AVARC 2005

AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 6 Oct 2005
 Location: Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster, California
 Board Members present:
 Rich Stocking, N7OP, Club President
 Dan Rowlan, KG6PQA, Vice President
 Don Jackson, WA6KKP, Treasurer
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ, Sec-

retary
 Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms
 Vern Eubanks, KØLVS, Ex Officio
 Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Board Member
 Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Guest

The President opened the meeting at 1930hrs with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

The only new business was our subscription to World Radio came in and we voted to pay the bill of sixty-five dollars.

Anchors Away and our election will be held on the next general meeting on the 20th of October.

It was agreed to meet next month again at Shakey's on the 3rd of November.

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



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President's Corner...

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water shortages and loss of normal services highlights the need for review of our readiness. Here in Southern California we live with the ever-present threat of the "Big One", the super earthquake that we all know will show up at the most inopportune time. I guess it might be time to dust off the family disaster plan and review how really prepared and ready we are compared to the original preparations.

Remember that this next meeting is "Anchors Away" – that yearly opportunity to find a loving home for that old piece of gear, test equipment, or other thoroughly eclectic ham radio related item. Spring cleaning in October! If someone has that spare 1000 ft coil of hardline coax just laying around the house this might be a great time to give someone a chance to acquire it and take it home for proper burial.

This next meeting is also elections for Officers and Board Members. Please bring your ideas for nominees and of course a sharp pencil for filling out ballots. We will of course avoid hanging or dimpled chads on ballots at all costs. Please use this opportunity to invest in the valuable community resource we all bring through our club's efforts.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting,

73,

Rich N7OP



— TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLV5

NVIS – What is It and Why Should I Care?

With a landmark FCC decision about Morse testing on the horizon, and disastrous events hitting the US like a boxing glove, many hams are asking themselves "What could I do with my new HF privileges?"

The reason that amateur radio exists is to provide emergency communications when called upon. The ARRL amateur's code states a radio amateur's "station and skill are always ready for service to country and community."

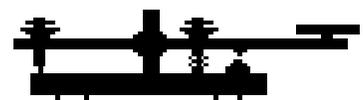
An Antelope Valley Incident unit commander doesn't need to exchange traffic with Boston and Brisbane, but with Burbank and Bakersfield. Regional communications station requirements are quite different from classic DX requirements. One answer for 24/7 regional HF communications is to use Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS). Most hams drool over tall towers and highly directional antennas, but NVIS depends on simple antennas radiating directly overhead. The key to NVIS is choice of antenna and frequency. An NVIS antenna might be no more than a half wave dipole at a reduced height above ground. You should select a 75 meter nighttime frequency and a 40 meter daytime frequency.

In a Jan 2005 QST article Bob Hollister, N7INK, described an easily transported NVIS antenna for 40, 60, and 75 meters constructed of 2 mobile whips connected as a dipole, and mounted horizontally on a

single mast. N7INK's NVIS antenna provides round-the-clock skip-free coverage between the emergency operations center in Bisbee, AZ and a mobile command post dispatched to an incident in Cochise County, Arizona. This setup is perfect for search and rescue missions in the rugged canyons of the area.

Are you looking for a technical challenge to check out your newly acquired HF privileges? Set up a schedule between your Antelope Valley location and another amateur in Riverside or San Diego, anywhere within about 200 miles and with a mountain range in between. Add other station locations as you find them. Have a 40 and 75 meter vertical and low hanging dipole available at each end. Switch between the antennas, and keep good logs of the results. Experiment with short loaded dipoles or with a mobile whip temporarily bent into a horizontal arc. Make a table of the antenna type used on each end of the link; that is, dipole-to-dipole, vertical-to-vertical, local-shortened-dipole to remote-full-length-dipole – in another column list their respective performance over the link. Include date, times (in Zulu), frequencies, and notes for each session. Analyze your data and document the experiment.

A well executed experiment such as this could produce an excellent hamfest presentation.





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
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Dan Schrader	N6SLH	946-7614
Board Member	Claude Brown	K7TEN	948-2672
Board Member	Bruce Mowers	N6SFV	942-5986
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Vern Eubanks	KØLVS	822-8772

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