

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2006

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

As a young lad I remember going to visit my brother-in-law and from a distance being able to see his huge antennas. We would watch as they appeared even larger as we approached his property located in a rural area of a nearby town. He would talk of speaking with people of other countries as if it were an everyday occurrence. We would gather in his "shack" which he called his "radio room" and be amazed by what we would both see and hear. His equipment would whistle in an ever changing pitch, and emit other sounds that were strange to me as he adjusted the dials. Finally, we would hear a voice respond with his call sign W7NRV, a contact was made, and the excitement continued. He let me borrow a receiver and I would listen to distant QSO's. My friends thought that listening to WWV and being able to accurately set their watches to the second was about as high-tech as things could get. He sparked an interest in becoming a ham and I began to learn the Morse Code. At this stage of my life, however, the theory was pretty much Greek to me. In addition, oscillator type circuits known as Colpitts, Hartley or Pierce were not making things any easier.

Another remembrance and encouragement to becoming a ham was visiting a local radio amateur as part of a scout troop activity. I remember that we passed around the microphone and we each received an opportunity to be involved. In later years our High School offered a "Vocational Electronics" course. This was a 2-hour block class. The first hour discussed theory and the second hour was lab. Each student built a radio and scrounged up a TV to work on. We learned "hands on" how to apply our knowledge of electronics. As of yet I was not licensed but again my interest was sparked in getting one and began studying for my General class. Early in the class it was decided to study for and take the

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**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Thursday, **January 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 **Keith Hoyt K6GXO**. Keith will tell us about his DXpedition to TI5N to work the DXCC contest from Central America. It will not only cover DXing but a nice tour of Nicaragua. Nicaragua is located in the high lands of Central America and features some of the most beautiful country in Latin America.



Keith K6GXO

From The Veep

Bill Feldmann N6PY

It's been a while since I've had to write an article for the Short Circuit so please bear with my poor writing. It's great being back on the AVARC board again. I've been able to get some interesting programs for our general membership meetings in the coming year but as you all know it's hard to get people to drive up to the AV on the busy 14 freeway to give programs. But I've been fortunate in having many members help out by committing to give programs. At our next meeting Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, will be giving a very interesting one on a DXpedition to Nicaragua to work the DX World Wide Contest.

I am trying to get programs that will expose all of us in getting more involved with other interesting aspects of ham radio such as building QRP radios, VHF and UHF Dxing and contesting, understanding the newer digital modes such as PSK31, building simple and effective antennas, collecting and restoring vintage radios, along with activities such as supplying communications for car rallies and participating in the clubs Field Day activities. So hopefully you will all find the programs informative and interesting and any suggestions concerning our programs would be greatly appreciated by myself. Also it really helps if members would individually express their personal appreciation to program presenters after the program. Remember these people are doing these programs for no personal gain and a nice word or two will go a long way to pay them for their effort.

Since last being a board member my life has been very busy and interesting with lots of skiing, hiking and motorcycle trips along with restoring numerous vintage radios and writing articles about them.

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC General Meeting

Date: 16 December 2005
 Location: EOC, City Hall
 44933 N. Fern Ave.
 Lancaster, Calif. 93534

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

The President called the meeting to order at 1930hrs. The minutes and treasurers report from the last meeting as written in the newsletter were voted on accepted. The treasurer stated that we have \$739.99 in checking and \$1023.60 in our savings account. The President quickly finished up the club business, and everyone moved to the dinner line. There were approximately fifty people present for our Christmas Pot Luck dinner. There was more than enough food for all, and everyone settled down for a good meal.

Later, after the dinner, we had our drawings for the Christmas gifts. Ev-

eryone present received a gift. Rob Williams, N6XTT, brought in a new ICOM 7000 for demonstration in the EOC. The meeting ended around 2100hrs.

Submitted by
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
 Secretary, AVARC, 2005

AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 5 Jan 2006
 Location: Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster, Calif.
 Board Members Present:
 Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Club President
 Bill Feldmann, N6PY, Vice President
 Don Jackson, WA6KKP, Treasurer
 Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary
 Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms
 Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK, Board Member
 Albert Almeida, N6JZ, Board Member
 Rich Stocking, N7OP, ex-President
 Adrienne Sherwood, WA6YEO

Keith Hoyt and his wife
 And Dale Snider, KØBGL

The meeting was called to order at 1930hrs by Eugene. The first subject brought up was Newslines. We need to try and get some more help running Newslines. Anyone who has a computer interface to radio can run Newslines. We need to select someone to head up Field Day, which will be June 23-25 this year.

The club seems to be losing members and several suggestions for how to retain and also get more members were discussed. The idea of sending out E-mails was chosen and will be explored. The meeting ended at 2030hrs.

Submitted by
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
 Club Secretary, 2006



TriviaTronics

By Vern Eubanks KØLVS

Ohm's Law – $E=I * R$

Last month's "TriviaTronics" discussed Alessandro Volta (1745-1827). Besides inventing the battery, Volta noted that electrical properties possessed quantifiable properties. Georg Simon Ohm (1789-1854) improved the characterization of electricity by describing the relationships between electro-motive force, electrical current, and resistance.

Using the primitive measuring devices of the day, he demonstrated that as the resistance in a circuit increased, the current decreased by a proportion-



Georg Simon Ohm

ate amount (the terms amps, volts, and ohms did not exist). To achieve a change in resistance, he used wires of various diameters and lengths.

Ohm's law was one of the first and probably the most important early quantitative descriptions of the physics of electricity. When Ohm first published his work in 1827, he was ridiculed and even terminated from his teaching job. The idea that someone, especially one from a modest family, could demonstrate electrical principles and postulate a new theory was ludicrous.

From the Veep...

(Continued from page 1)

Now I'm retired I don't know how I found time to work. One not too pleasant personal experience last September was a close call with skin cancer. But with good medical treatment by some great doctors at Kaiser and a little more care by myself in the future to use lots of sunscreen when out of doors I will be just fine.

Again it's my pleasure to again contribute to our great AVARC.

73,

Bill N6PY

Our Last QSO

by Keith Hoyt K6GXO

In the January 2006 issue of Worldradio you will find on page 41 an article entitled "Ben's Last QSO" written by one of the Antelope Valley hams, Bob Walker, KB6R. Bob is a friend and I was interested to learn things about him that I never knew. In addition to being a learning experience the article also reminded me of the last QSO I had with another friend who passed away several years ago. The details of our friendship and his passing have continued to haunt me.

Nick Percival, 9Y4NP, lived in Port of Spain, Trinidad and was the chief pilot for BWIA (British West Indies Airways) based in Trinidad. He and I first became acquainted via the Hauser 2 meter repeater when he was in Palmdale to take delivery of an L-1011 aircraft for BWIA and return it to Trinidad. He came to Palmdale often and our friendship blossomed. Nick was a very friendly and outgoing person. He was also an avid DX-er so we had a lot in common. On one occasion I received a call from Nick who said he was again in Palmdale and was coming to pick me up and take me for a tour of an L-1011 which was almost ready for delivery to BWIA. I learned a lot about the L-1011 and the Lockheed facility that day, thanks to Nick.

On occasion Nick and I would set up a schedule to talk, usually on 20 meter SSB after he had arrived home from Palmdale. A four-hour time difference meant it was usually early in the morning for him. But one night, when I knew Nick

should be at home, I was very tired and had shut down my rig early for the evening. Before I went to sleep that night I had a strange feeling that I should turn the rig back on. When I did that I also pointed the beam east and tuned high in the phone band, which I normally would not do at that late hour. Wonder of wonders there was 9Y4NP calling K6GXO (me!) in the blind. I answered his call, which surprised him and found that he had only made that one call. It was early in the morning in Trinidad but Nick wanted to talk with me.

Nick told me that he was going to take some time from his job and take his XYL to New Zealand and Australia. After that he might visit his daughter in British Columbia. The reason for taking it easy for awhile, he said, was because he had a leg that was bothering him.

That was the last time I talked to Nick. Several months later I found his callsign listed in the Silent Keys column of QST. When Nick had been calling me in the blind that one night and wanting to talk he was beginning to suffer from Lou Gehrig's Disease. The disease hit him hard and fast and he was soon gone.

Was that last QSO due to ESP between close friends? You decide.



President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

Novice exam as a class project. A few of us passed and I received my Novice call sign of WN7JOR. However, being a typical youth, other interests were competing for my time (and money). In high school the activity of fox hunting was directed at the two legged variety and had nothing to do with RF. Eventually all of my money went out the exhaust pipe of my car and I never did get on the air as a Novice. This was back when the Novice license was good only for two years and was not renewable.

Years later my interest was renewed and I again began studying for my General and brushing up on my extremely rusty code. When I learned that I must now first pass my Technician exam I abandoned my General study to concentrate on the Technician class. Not missing any on my Technician exam I was encouraged to take the General. When I passed my General the pressure was on to take the Extra. After all I had already paid my money and the exam would be a "freebie". I didn't pass the Extra at that session but received the call KG6SLC as a General. A few months later I passed my Extra class. My call did not change in the upgrade.

I have enjoyed being a member of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club and assisting in activities such as the Rim Rally, Treeline Rally, Disaster Communications Service and participating in the Wednesday evening nets. In reflecting on the results of the election I was not sure if the election of your club president was a mandate, landslide or a railroad. While I suspect that it was a railroad I am none-the-less looking forward to serving as your club president for the year 2006 while we enjoy the hobby of amateur radio and provide a service to the public.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers



President	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	810-2549
Vice President	Bill Feldmann	N6PY	285-7879
Secretary	Bob Holland	KG6DHQ	285-0150
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