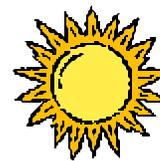


The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2006

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

I think that we would all agree that a good antenna is paramount to any type of RF communication. Our June club meeting with Jim Zimmerman got me thinking about the importance of antennas. As amateur radio operators we tend to view antennas differently than the general population. We are not only more tolerant but will even admire (and, yes, maybe even be a little jealous of) a QTH with an impressive antenna farm. Anyone with experience knows that bigger is defiantly better. Since single band antennas provide the best gain and overall performance the more efficient antennas provide stronger signal strength on both send and receive.... But alas, there are compromises in everything and amateur radio is not an exception to that rule of life. After all there are neighbors to consider, and the spouse (typically) does not share our enthusiasm toward these radiating "pieces of functional art".

Since we don't have a huge yard and not wanting to annoy the neighbors with a tower I decided that the best solution for our QTH was a vertical. When it came time to install it my wife(not licensed at the time) and I had a number of discussions as to where to put this "wonderful" antenna structure. What! You want to hang wires in our yard? (above ground radials) along with having to defend why an obscure corner of our yard would not be a suitable place for installation..

We finally decided on a suitable location that would not be blatant yet would provide good radiation by using buried ground radials. Everything that I had read regarding radials stated that as the distance between the radials increased, the efficiency would decrease and radials

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 27, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Lancaster City Park, in the Activity room, near the main entrance. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions. This is a new meeting place for us. For more details, please see the minutes of the board meeting on Page 3 of this month's newsletter.

This month's meeting will feature **Dennis Kidder W6DQ**, who will give a presentation on EME moonbounce. This fascinating subject will be of great interest to all hams, so please join us!



Dennis Kidder W6DQ

From The Veep

Bill Feldmann N6PY

I would like to thank Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, for the outstanding program last month on the rebuilding of High Gain antennas. I really enjoyed and learned a lot about trouble shooting antenna problems from this very informative program. Jim's program should encourage all of us to make sure our antennas are working properly.

I hope all of you are looking forward to a good summer; mine started out great this 4th of July weekend with my last ski runs of the 2006 season off the top of Mammoth Mountain. I also got in some great fishing and hiking into Valentine Lake that weekend; got a limit in less than an hour. Now I'm planning a summer motorcycle and hiking trip to New Mexico and Colorado where I'll also visit some of my Collins Radio Collector friends.

Many thanks to all of you and especially our Field Day Chairman Nelson Reuschling for the very good Field Day effort for our club. The record heat that weekend made setting up the stations a little harder than in the past but thanks to those that showed up and helped everything went OK. Because of some antenna problems we most likely will not score very high in the contest part of Field Day but it was a success because we introduced lots of young people to our hobby. Watching the GOTA station that these young people operated was really the high point of our Field Day for myself. Also many thanks to Adrienne Sherwood for the great pancake breakfast Sunday morning that fortified us for taking down the stations.

One exciting area of ham radio is exploring the world of VHF, UHF and microwave communications. This is an area where hams are still making valuable contributions by the to the science of radio communications. In the past we have had

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President's Corner...

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were most efficient at $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength or less. I had also read an article that someone "stapled" their radials to the ground on top of their grass in the fall and by spring time the grass had covered them up. With this in mind I used a computer to plot our yard and lay out an appropriate feather pattern of radials that would keep radials evenly spaced from each other. Using this plan I soldered the feathers to the main radials and dipped all exposed solder connections and exposed ends in roofing tar to protect the electrical connection from the elements. I then mowed the grass using the lowest setting and stapled the radials to the ground. Subsequent passes with the lawn mower were made at the highest setting which gradually got closer to the ground as the grass grew over the radials. It took longer than expected for the radials to completely disappear and I'm certain that some future owner of our property will scratch his or her head in utter amazement as to why anyone would plant wire in their back yard. I ended up using well over 1300 feet of wire for my ground radial system.

After installation and tuning of the antenna I called Butternut (the antenna manufacturer) to find out why my

bandwidth was so much less than their published specifications for this antenna. Using my antenna analyzer and graph paper I plotted my HF9V bandwidth and SWR for each band from 80 to 6 meters. After viewing my faxed data the Butternut engineer stated that my numbers had to be in error. He had only seen results of this kind in one other installation and that installation had an extensive ground system and expensive test equipment documented the numbers. He suggested buying/borrowing equipment that could confirm my readings and fax the data to him before he could help.

While comparing signal strength with other hams that I have had the pleasure of engaging in QSO's with I confirmed that my signal was getting out there and never did bother buying that expensive measuring equipment. (Pictures and data available to interested parties.)

73,

Eugene K6GSLC



Former AVARC Member Shares a bit of FD History

by

Keith Hoyt K6GXO

The following comments were found in the latest issue of the Sam's Hams "HamOGRAM and were written by their president Roger, W6SQQ. Roger was a member of the AVARC in 1957 and his membership card from that year is in the club's historical archives.

I hope you all had an opportunity to participate in the ARRL Field Day exercise this year. Some of my strongest memories of the early days of my ham radio hobby revolve around Field Day. 52 years ago I was in high school and attended the first field day with the fledgling Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club. We went to Guffy's Camp on the Blue Ridge, above Wrightwood, and set up on all bands, 80 - 2 meters. The communications was all AM voice and CW. I brought up my Viking I with vfo and Matchbox, and it performed without a hitch. We had AC power supplied by 10kw generator on a trailer, as batteries were out of the question in those days of vacuum tube rigs. Wonderful memories.

Roger W6SQQ

52 years ago would be 1954. I also participated in my first field day at the Sheriff's heliport in East LA about that time as a new General Class licensee.

K6GXO

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David Hosman

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**THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL
BE AT LANCASTER CITY PARK
IN THE ACTIVITY BUILDING**

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC General Meeting 22 June 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by the club President. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed and the minutes and the treasurers report were voted on accepted. There were almost 50 people present for the meeting along with seven board members.

We spent a few more minutes going over Field Day and making last minute changes and preparations.

The evenings presentation was given by Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ. The subject was antennas, and antenna restoration. Jim had a nice slide show along with examples of antennas and parts. The meeting ended at 9:20pm.

The next board meeting will again be at Shakey's Pizza in Lancaster on the 6th of July at 7:30.

Submitted by
Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006

AVARC Board Meeting AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 6 July 2006

Location: Shakey's Pizza, Lancaster

Members present:

Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Club President

Bill Feldmann, N6PY, Vice President

Don Jackson, WA6KPP, Treasurer

Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary

Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms

Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Trustee

Rich Stocking,, N7OP, Ex Officio

Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK, Board Member

Adrienne Sherwood, WA6YEO

First news....We have been evicted from the EOC in Lancaster! Our next meeting will be at Lancaster City Park, in the Activity room, near the main entrance on the 27th of July. This was the main topic of discussion for the night. We are looking for a new home for our club meetings.

Tree Line Rally and the Palmdale Sheriff station open house are coming up soon. Do we have any volunteers?

The convention was discussed. The location will probably be moved, and the convention may even be cancelled.

Field Day logs have all been collected and Rich Stocking is taking care of submitting the information

The meeting ended early at 8:10.

Submitted by:
Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006

From the Veep...

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some great programs on this subject by one of our very active members in this field of ham radio, Pat Coker, N6RMJ. Pat had not only given us some great programs on working DX on these frequencies but has put on some very impressive demonstrations of this at our Field Day activities. A few years ago I was able to share in the excitement of watching Pat work Japan on 6 meters during Field Day.

At our next meeting on July 27th we will have a very educational program by Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, of the San Bernardino Microwave Society about EME Moon bounce of 1296 to 10,368 MHz signal using the very large 40 meter diameter dish of the Owens Valley Observatory. This project is becoming a landmark in the EME community and Dennis will share the results of their effort in his presentation. I hope all of you will enjoy this very exciting program showing how hams are really pushing the state of the art in microwave communications.

73,

Bill N6PY

SWAP SHOP

Henry Radio 3K Linear Amplifier 10 - 80 meters. Also works on 160 but at a lower output power level. The 3-500 tubes were replaced with a matched pair of the better 3-500Z tubes which have very few hours on them.

This is a self contained floor model of the famous Henry line.

I'm open to offers but I won't give it away. Call or e-mail me if you would like to see it.

I may also have one or two spare 3-500 tubes available.

I have a large quantity of rope in excellent condition available which was donated by a member for activities such as field day. Any club member may have what he/she needs FREE as long as the supply holds out.

Keith...K6GXO 661-533-4025
k6gx0@arrl.net



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

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