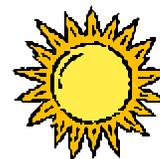

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2006

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

The last few months have been interesting to say the least. Permits for our annual Field Day event and monthly club meetings at the Emergency Operation Center are issued by the Lancaster Parks and Recreation Department. Earlier this year the person newly assigned to handle the EOC was not familiar with our club and wanted to charge us for the use of the room. They finally agreed that we had been using these facilities for years and that our club qualified to continue to use the EOC at no charge. Later, they discovered that the insurance endorsement provided them last year (showing continued coverage through the first half of this year) could not be found so we had to coordinate with our insurance carrier to resolve that issue. In addition, a "paying" party needed the EOC on the same evening as our club meeting was scheduled so we were preempted and told that we had to find another place or date to meet. Then there was construction at the Emergency Operations Center where our club meetings were held. Finally we were told that the EOC area was being "reallocated" and would no longer be available at all for club meetings.

Consistency in having a specific date

(Continued on page 2)



**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Please plan to attend our next general membership meeting to see a very educational program by our own **Dan Sherwood WA6PZK**, on how to get started using our computers to work the new and exciting digital Amateur Radio Modes. Dan has been a professional computer information system engineer as well as a very active member of AVARC. So don't miss this program at our Sep. 7, 2006 meeting at the new location in Palmdale.



Dan Sherwood WA6PZK

From The Veep

Bill Feldmann N6PY

I would like to thank Dennis Kidder W6DQ for the very outstanding program last month on moon bounce, EME, using the 40-meter dish in the Owens Valley Observatory. I hope all of you were able to see this outstanding program.

This summer has started out great for me, especially at Mammoth Lakes, my official residence. After the late snow melt, fishing and hiking have been great. We did have some record 90F temperatures during the July heat wave but much more bearable than it was at Palmdale. During July and because of the record snowfall the mosquitoes were bad in the backcountry, but thankfully are now disappearing.

This spring and summer I've had a very satisfying project restoring both a R-390 and R-390A. These receivers were about the best performing military HF receivers built in this country due to their RF system. It's unsurpassed today because of its very complex and expensive preselector system that uses permeability-tuned coils mechanically controlled with frequency by a system of gears and cams. These Collins designed triple conversion receivers had outstanding selectivity along with frequency stability and accuracy because of their PTO master oscillator and temperature oven enclosed crystal local oscillators. Design work was started in 1949 and was a tremendous leap forward in HF receiver design. It set the IF configuration for modern HF receivers by using up conversion for the first IF to eliminate spurious responses. These 27 tube 500Khz through 32Mhz receivers were in service with all branches of the US military from 1951 through the early 1980's. Many were returned to military service in the early 1990's due to their superior RF performance to the then current band-pass RF filter solid-

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President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

and time each month was paramount in making a decision as to when and where we have our meetings. Even switching rooms at the same facility would be confusing. Various sites were discussed and considered. Some were discarded solely on the concern for location or club member safety. Some had only a couple of fourth Thursday evenings available until the end of the year and no other dates consistently available without switching rooms or locations each month. While studying alternate room availabilities I noticed that some clubs did not always meet in the same room and had a thought. If a couple of evenings could be rescheduled by these other clubs that didn't always meet in the same room then we could have a facility with a consistent schedule and they probably wouldn't notice the difference. I was successful at negotiating to have the other clubs rearrange their meeting date/room reservations and was thus able to clear the calendar for the first Thursday each and every month until the end of the year for the Primrose Room at the Larry Chimbole Cultural

Center located next to the Palmdale Public Library at Sierra Highway and Palmdale Boulevard. However, because our July speaker was only available on the fourth Thursday, and the cultural center had no rooms available that evening, we had our July meeting in the Activity Center at Lancaster City Park.

We have, therefore, revised our club meeting date to the first Thursday of each month. If we choose to stay at this location we may also continue this timeslot beyond this year. The Primrose Room is the only meeting room at the cultural center that allows food and the kitchen is conveniently located in the adjacent room. This means that our refreshments and Christmas pot luck dinner can continue as planned. November and December meetings are actually better for club members as we will meet earlier in the month AND on the same first Thursday as other month meetings. They have also agreed to our annual Anchors Aweigh event. Since there are only seven days between the fourth Thursday of August and the first Thursday in September there will be

no club meeting in August. Our next club meeting will be September 7th in the Primrose Room.

I know that whatever decision was made there would always be someone that would have conflicts and inconveniences with whenever and/or wherever the meetings would be held. To them I apologize for the inconvenience but it is impossible to poll all club members, get a consensus then attempt to find a meeting place that could accommodate everyone and their various schedules all within a reasonable amount of time.

Is there a place out there that is perfect in every way for our club to meet each month? Perhaps there is, but I think that what we have scheduled appears to not only be adequate but also may prove to be more convenient for our meetings. I'm hoping that Murphy has found someone else to focus on and the rest of the year will proceed without incident. The new meeting place is nice, clean, safe, easy to access and seems to fill our needs. I look forward to enjoying our club meetings and promoting the amateur radio hobby.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC



David Hosman



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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC General Meeting 27 July 2006

Approximately 35 members and guests found their way to our temporary meeting site. The club president opened the meeting at 7:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the last meeting and treasurers report were voted on and accepted.

The guest speaker was Dennis Kidder, W6DQ. Dennis is a member of the San Bernadino Microwave Society and he gave a presentation on their use of a 40 meter diameter dish antenna at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory. Using this dish with a gain of 54db on 1296 or 71db on 10gig they were able to operate EME, (Earth-Moon-Earth) to make many QSO's. It was quite a story of how they were able to use this facility for amateur radio.

The next board meeting will be again at Shakey's in Lancaster on the 3rd of August. There will be no club meeting in August. The next meeting will be on the 7th of September in Palmdale at the Chimbole Cultural Center. This is at the intersection of Sierra Highway and Palmdale Blvd. Chimbole Center is the building between the library and the City Hall. The club meetings will be held at this location on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm till the end of the year.

Submitted by
Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006

AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 3 August 2006
Location: Pizza Hut, 10th St. West, Lancaster
Members Present:
Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Club President
Bill Feldman, N6PY, Vice President
Don Jackson, WA6KPP, Treasurer
Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary
Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms
Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Trustee
Albert Almeida, N6JZ, Board Member
Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK, Board Member
Dale Snider, K0BGL

The meeting started off being moved from Shakey's to Pizza Hut because of remodeling at Shakey's. Eugene called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The first subject was the club historian, Harold Bragg, who is no longer able to provide his services due to illness. Keith picked up all the old club records, but we now need a new historian. Rich Stocking has sent in the paperwork for the last Field Day. We have to turn in to the State of California our Statement of Information, Domestic Nonprofit Corp, form which is due by the 31st of October. We will need to pay the \$20 filing fee.

The next board meeting will be at Bakers Square, on Palmdale Blvd, on the 28th of Sept. The next club meeting will now be on the 7th of September at 7:30pm in the Chimbole Cultural Center, Primrose Room, next to the Palmdale library. The October meeting will be our Anchors Away. Don't forget! The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Submitted by:
Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006

From the Veep...

(Continued from page 1)

state receivers and for some still classified uses. You can read more about them in my articles in the August and September issues of Electric Radio Magazine. These articles cover the restoration and upgrading of these CW/AM/RTTY mode receivers to better handle SSB reception.

One new and exciting area of ham radio is using our computers to operate some of the more advanced Amateur Radio modes. Operating these modes requires a computer with a sound card, a low cost interface system, a frequency stable HF receiver, and software that often can be often downloaded from the Internet for free. Some of the more common modes are BPSK31, QPSK31, MFSK, MT63, RTTY, Hellschreiber, CW, and limited PACTOR. These computer-based systems can additionally be used for slow scan TV and other applications such as audio recording and playback, Internet gateways, and spectrum analysis.

At or September 7th meeting we are fortunate to have a very educational program by Dan Sherwood WA6PZK on how get started using or home computers for these digital modes. Dan will cover topics such as system requirements, how to build a simple interface for connecting your computer and transceiver, and problem areas such as RFI and ground loops. He will also cover the available commercial interface system and software for these systems. So please plan to attend our next General Membership Meeting in Palmdale to see this program.

73,

Bill N6PY

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Board Member	Bruce Mowers	N6SFV	942-5986
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