

THE SHORT CIRCUIT



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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2006

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

The AVARC elections are over! The results of the election will be covered elsewhere so I will not belabor them in this column other than to thank all who accepted being elected to board positions and state that I am looking forward to serving another year as your club president. While this year has been rather exciting with all of the issues that had to be dealt with it was, after all, enjoyable promoting our mutual hobby.

At our September club meeting Dale (K0BGL) reported that 300/ft had been reserved for amateur radio this year at the L.A. County fair. He also stated free admission and free parking would be available to amateurs willing to work a booth.

As my wife Carol (KI6DWE), and I attended the fair we were impressed at the extent of involvement by Amateur Radio Operators. Various clubs from around the area had booths set up with information on their clubs and on the amateur radio hobby in general. The ARRL had a booth showing books, literature, and various online courses available to the radio enthusiast. Other booths represented organizations affiliated with Search And Rescue. Also on display was an Emergency Communication Van that was equipped to operate on various bands and even had ATV (Amateur radio TeleVision) capability. One booth included a small flying radio controlled electric helicopter having an onboard ATV camera displaying real time images of visitors as they watched themselves on a monitor.

One individual sported capabilities including HF, VHF, UHF, APRS, and Slow Scan TV, all from his Volkswagen Jetta! He had even equipped his vehicle with an onboard computer and a digital

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 2, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Primrose Room of the Larry Chimbole Center in Palmdale. This month's meeting will feature a very educational and interesting program by our own **Don Jackson WA6KPP** on software-defined radio projects. So please plan to attend this meeting to learn how to use your computer as a ham band receiver or QRP transmitter.



WA6KPP in action at AVARC Field Day

From The Veep

Bill Feldmann N6PY

I would like to thank all that participated in our Anchors Away flea market program at our October meeting. Also thanks to all of you that stepped up to run for the 2007 AVARC board at our October meeting and particularly to those new to the board. You will find serving on the board a very satisfying experience and your new ideas will make our club even stronger.

I hope this summer has been as good for you as it has for me. I finished up my R-390A military receiver project and wrote an article on it for Electric Radio Magazine. A long delayed project to replace the leaking shingles on the front of my Mammoth Lakes home got finished. This will eliminate air leaks that should lower my heating bill. Last August I obtained a pair of very nice Navy TCS radios from WW2 that will be a good restoration project this winter.

For myself the early fall trip I took to New Mexico and Colorado was the high point of the summer. It included three of my hobbies, motorcycling, hiking, and old radios. I left Mammoth Lakes on Labor Day morning to camp overnight at Great Basin Park in eastern Nevada. From there I motorcycled to Taos New Mexico through Utah, Colorado and New Mexico going through many rain showers. Northern New Mexico was some of the best biking I've had with winding country roads and great views of the southern Rockies. While

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From the Veep...

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camped in Taos Canyon I hiked up Wheeler Peak, the highest in New Mexico, 13,161 feet in elevation. It was a good hike with a total mileage of 15 miles and nearly 5,000 feet of vertical gain. From there I visited Los Alamos to learn about Project Y, the development of the atom bomb during WW2.

Then up to Bolder Colorado for a nice three days visiting many ham friends also into radio restoration. I got to meet Rod, K5CZ, and saw his 2,000 square foot museum of restored ham and commercial radios from the 1930's and 1940's. I even operated Rod's completely restored and unusual 1937 one KW Western Electric AM broadcast station on 40 meters. It's in two 5' wide by 8' high cabinets. One cabinet is a 250 watt exciter and the second a 1KW linear amp. The exciter does not use the usual plate modulation but is grid modulated for better audio quality when broadcasting music. But its efficiency is much lower than with plate modulation. The station takes 8KW of AC electric power for 1KW of RF output.

Then I headed back west to Mammoth Lakes through rain showers over the Rockies. This was necessary to avoid a cold front with

snow expected over the next two days. With all the rain and cool weather on the trip my riding suit got a good test and successfully kept me dry and warm. I really enjoyed being comfortable under these conditions. The total trip mileage was just over 2900 miles on my BMW bike. Both the bike and camping gear performed great even with the record setting wet weather in New Mexico and Colorado this summer.

At our November 2nd meeting we will have a very interesting program on software defined radio systems by our Treasurer Don Jackson (WA6KPP). This program will show how you can connect a few simple modules your computer, install some software, and turn your computer into a ham band receiver or QRP transmitter. You can also build these modules from kits along with learning how they work to enhance your enjoyment and knowledge of Amateur Radio. Myself I prefer these kinds of radio projects over just going out and purchasing a turn key station. So I hope to see all of you at our November 2nd meeting to see Don's very interesting and educational program.

73,

Bill N6PY

President...

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camera mounted on his dashboard allowing him to capture and send current image transmissions. While some of the installations in his car would be considered "over the top" even by many hams, it was interesting to see to what extent other radio amateurs incorporate and practice our hobby.

We also met and visited with the new Los Angeles Section Manager for ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Dennis Smith (KA6GSE). He explained that ARES was beginning to get active in our area again. At a subsequent AVARC Wednesday evening net he invited all interested amateurs to attend an upcoming "kickoff" meeting to discuss from where ARES has come and in what direction ARES will most likely be going.

My wife and I attended that ARES gathering and were impressed at the information presented. We heard how Dave Greenhut (N6HEL) of the Los Angeles ARES North West District traveled to assist in communications in the aftermath of Katrina. It was remarkable to hear him relate first hand experiences of being turned away at checkpoints along his way as amateur radio operators were NOT on the list of traffic approved to enter the disaster area! In the end it was actually his Coast Guard ID that allowed him to finally continue to his intended destination. The lesson here, for us in the Antelope Valley, is that it will be LOCAL hams doing emergency communications when a local emergency occurs, as out of the area volunteers will most likely not be allowed past checkpoints to render assistance.

I enjoyed seeing amateur radio at the fair and speaking to them about the hobby. Amateur radio is a hobby that we all enjoy and, in some cases become obsessed with. However, it will be our unselfish desire to serve others, our communication equipment, skills, and experience that will render life saving service to others in our community when it becomes our turn for a disaster.

73,

Eugene K9BSLC



David Hosman

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC General Meeting 5 Oct 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance. The treasurer was not present, so there was no treasurer's report. The secretary was not ready with the minutes, so they were also put aside. Eugene led us off with a request for more club nominations, but there were none. Elections were then held, with the following results.

Club President: Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC
 Vice President: Jon Clark, N6NQ
 Treasurer: Don Jackson, WA6KPP
 Secretary: Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR
 Master at Arms: Gary Mork, WA6WFC
 Board Member: Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK
 Board Member: Albert Almeida, N6JZ

When the elections were over, Anchors Away was held, and a lucky few actually sold something. The next Board meeting will be held on the 26th of Oct at Bakers Square, and the next Club meeting will be on the 2nd of November. The meeting ended around 8:30.

Submitted by:
 Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
 Club Secretary, 2006

AVARC Board Meeting 28 Sept 2006

Date: 28 Sept 2006
 Location: Baker's Square Restaurant, Palmdale
 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
 Albert Almeida, N6JZ, Board Member

Our first meeting at Baker's Square opened at 7:30 with only six members present. We discussed getting a flag for the club meetings, finding someone to be the new historian and someone to take Bruce Mowers place for club membership. We also discussed the convention for next year, and what we should do for the next Christmas meeting. The meeting ended at 8:30.

Submitted by:
 Robert Holland
 Club Secretary, 2006



VE Test Schedule for 2006

These are the dates for the remaining test sessions for this year. Exams are held at the Lancaster Kumon Center, 44835 10th St. West. No pre-registration is required. GLAARG sessions are \$4.00, and the ARRL session is \$14.00. For more information, please call Adrienne WA6YEO at 264-1863, or e-mail wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

11/4/06 Saturday 9am GLAARG
 12/4/06 Monday 7pm ARRL



Hamcon Registration Available

Start making your plans to attend the annual convention, to be held in Torrance on September 7-9, 2007. AVARC will be handling VE exams, and all local VEs are invited to take part.

For early bird registration forms, please see Adrienne WA6YEO.

SWAP SHOP FOR SALE

Ten Tec antenna tuner, Model 238.
 Mint condition with manual. \$250.00

Rob 261-9142



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

President	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466
Vice President	Bill Feldmann	N6PY	285-7879
Secretary	Bob Holland	KG6DHQ	285-0150
Treasurer	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Board Member	Al Almeida	N6JZ	943-5697
Board Member	Bruce Mowers	N6SFV	942-5986
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Rich Stocking	N7OP	949-1039



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