

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2007

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

The year 2006 by now is just a memory. In reflecting on events from the previous year, a lot of amateur radio activities were enjoyed by a number of volunteers from the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club. Using our skills and equipment make the hobby more fun and enjoyable. Especially when we get to provide a service to others. The MS Walk, Rim Rally, Treeline and Gorman rallies and testing sessions readily come to mind. One of the most recent memories would be of our December club meeting. Our annual Christmas/Holiday pot luck was a lot of fun. Those of us in attendance enjoyed good food, visiting with friends and renewing acquaintances with people that we have may not see on a regular basis.

You may have noticed that our pot luck drawing was handled a little differently this year than in years past. Attending 2006 club members each received one ticket. New members joining the club at the pot luck or members renewing for 2007 received a single ticket. If you were a member during the year 2006 and renewed for 2007 at the pot luck you would have two chances at the prize drawings. You may be interested to know that funding for the prizes comes primarily from the

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**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 11, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Joshua Room of the Larry Chimbole Center in Palmdale. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature our newly-elected Vice-President, **Jon Clark N6NQ**, who will give a talk on PIC micro-controllers. Be sure to join us for a very interesting and informative evening!



Jon Clark N6NQ

From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

Having been a member of AVARC for only three years, I still feel like a newcomer and uncertain of what topics the membership would enjoy at the general membership meetings. After a little thought, I've decided that two questions should guide my efforts. First, what have others said about what they would find interesting? Second, what have I found interesting? So I invite your input.

I've enjoyed the technical and how-to talks. I've also enjoyed presentations about things I haven't looked at or that explore the edges of the ham radio hobby. I've enjoyed talks about DX.

What I'm working on so far is:

- 1 KFXM, a new low power FM station in Lancaster. I hope to have the founder talk about starting the station.
- 2 Using your tower as a 160 meter vertical. What do you have to do to couple a kilowatt into a tower? How well does it work?
- 3 Ham projects with micro-controllers. Focusing on the Microchip PIC, how do you do it, what can you do with a PIC, what are the tools?
- 4 Introduction to the ARRL Certification and Continuing

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President's Corner...



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50/50 raffle held each month at the club meetings. The more we support the raffle each month the more funds we have for prizes. Remember this in the upcoming months when raffle time comes around. Keep in mind also that funds were donated from equipment sales (or otherwise contributed) this year that were not available in previous years and may not be available in future years. So it is important to support the monthly raffle.

Prizes were selected to promote the amateur radio hobby. Selections were made for items that could be used by virtually any club member. This year the grand prize was a Yaesu FT2800M 65watt 2 meter mobile with 221 memory channels, search, WIRES ready, and dual watch. The second grand prize was a Yaesu VX-150 5watt handheld with 209 memory channels, smart search, and was ARTS ready. An extra battery was included for the handheld. Other prizes included ARRL books including a 2007 Handbook, antenna book, an emergency power book, a QRP book, emergency communications book, RFI book and a couple of 2007 repeater directories. Some maps, frequency spectrum charts and band charts were also available for those interested. While everyone did not win a specific item the general consensus

was to give away one or two more expensive items. This year we were fortunate to be able to give away two radios. Thanks to all club members and Ham Radio Outlet that made this possible!

Winner of the Yaesu FT2800M was Jon Clark N6NQ. The winner of the Yaesu VX-150 hand held second grand prize was Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. Congratulations to both! Perhaps next year it will be you that will win the grand prize!

By the time you read this the Holiday season will most likely be over. It will be time to look forward to a new year. To new hopes, achievements and goals. Perhaps this is the year to upgrade your license. I challenge each of you to pick one area of amateur radio that you are not proficient in and learn more about that aspect of the hobby. You will find it rewarding to expand your knowledge and experience base. Welcome to the new board members and many thanks to the previous board. This is a great club with many good people. I'm looking forward to another year as your club president. May the new year bring you joy, health and happiness.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC

From the VEEP...

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Education courses. What's available? How do you "take" the class when the ARRL is in Connecticut?

- 5 Your ideas go here! If you're interested in what I'm interested in, then we are in great shape! If you aren't, then I need to hear from you!

The December board meeting showed me that I'm not moving fast enough yet. I had hoped to start the year off by showing myself as an organized and "on-top-of-it" guy. However, the holiday season is rushing at us in our house. The holidays also force a short dead-line for the Short Circuit this month. The only presentation that I feel sure that I can have ready by the first week in January is my presentation on PIC micro-controllers.

We will cover what you need to get started. What are the steps needed to complete a simple project. We will discuss a project that I am working on. We will do a survey of the free and low cost language and chip programming tools that are available. We will discuss the educational efforts made by AMQRP. We'll touch on the types of projects other people have tackled with PICs. Finally, what other choices are available.

73,

Jon N6NQ

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC
Board Meeting, 14 Dec 2006

This month's board meeting took place at Baker's Square restaurant in Palmdale. The meeting started at 7:30 with the following members present. Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Club President. Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR, the incoming club secretary. Don Jackson, WA6KPP, club treasurer. Jon Clark, N6NQ, incoming club vice president. Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, outgoing club secretary. Gary Mork, WA6WFC, master at arms. Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, trustee. Paul Preter, KI6DWG, membership. Carol Humpherys, KI6DWE, guest. Adrienne Sherwood, WA6YEO, guest, and Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK, guest.

The meeting started at 7:30 and we got right to business. We discussed the following: Do we have an E-mail account with ARRL? How many new members did we get at the Christmas pot luck? Do we have a new club historian?..yes Bob Holland KG6DHQ. How come the bank is charging us service charges? We need to perform an audit before 2007. Do we want to continue at the Palmdale location? Do we wish to have the same Pot Luck/Dinner raffle next year, and last, what is the current status of our convention plans?

Submitted by:
Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006

2007 Test Schedule

Day	Date	Time	VEC
Saturday	Jan. 6	9:00 AM	GLAARG
Monday	Feb. 5	7:00 PM	GLAARG
Saturday	Mar. 3	9:00 AM	ARRL
Monday	Apr. 2	7:00 PM	GLAARG
Saturday	May 5	9:00 AM	GLAARG
Monday	Jun. 4	7:00 PM	ARRL
Saturday	Jul. 7	9:00 AM	GLAARG
Monday	Aug. 6	7:00 PM	GLAARG
Saturday	Sep. 8	9:00 AM	ARRL
Monday	Oct. 1	7:00 PM	GLAARG
Saturday	Nov. 3	9:00 AM	GLAARG
Monday	Dec. 3	7:00 PM	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.

David Hosman



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Treasurer	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
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