

The Short Circuit

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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

April 2007

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

Being part of a club is great! It not only gives one a sense of belonging but also allows us to participate with others and do things together as a group as we share each others company and enjoyment of our collective hobby. The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club gives us the opportunity of doing activities relating to our hobby while at the same time assisting others. Next month our club will be participating in a number of activities. On April the 14th will be the MS Walk. On the 21st will be the Poppy festival and the 21st and 22nd brings a new opportunity for our club to participate in the Baker to Vegas Challenge Relay Race.

Another area that will benefit others as well as assist our club is the book "IT'S A DISASTER!...and what are you gonna do about it?" Our club has chosen to sell this book as a fundraiser. Those of you that have looked at or read this book know what a valuable resource it is in identifying things that can greatly reduce our exposure and stress when a disaster occurs. It also has information as to specific types of threats whether they are caused by mankind or as a result of mother nature. This book is a disaster preparedness, prevention & basic

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 5, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Primrose 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 **Chuck Constantine KR6C**, who will return to complete his talk on his DXpedition to Red Rock Canyon. In addition, AVARC Vice-President **Jon Clark N6NQ** will give a presentation on low-cost antennas and stealth antennas. Be sure to join us for a very interesting and informative evening!



Chuck Constantine KR6C

From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

Field Day is coming June 23rd and 24th. The club is beginning the planning for this year's day and I have volunteered to be your "Field Day Chairman". This is a dubious distinction indeed. I say that half kidding and half serious. It seems to be a job that few are willing to take on. Maybe it will be a lot of work, but it seems to me that my main responsibility is getting everyone else to pitch in to define what Field Day will be and then stimulating and coordinating that effort. That can't be too hard. Can it?

To make this job easier for future Field Day Chairpersons, I will be documenting what was done to make this year's Field Day happen. My hope is that this document will be preserved and maintained by the club so that this job is more about doing and less about discovery.

While I will do my best to see that our Field Day is a success, I have to depend on all of you to pitch in. I'm new (3 years) to the club and I've only seen a couple of Field Days and only for a few hours. I need your ideas, I need your memories of good Field Days from the past. If there is something that you think was fun, than I need your help to remember it. I need your help to figure out how to get it to happen. I need your help to make it happen.

Simply said, I'm open to any and all input. The more input I can find, the better our Field Day will be. If you have ideas, memories, things you liked or hated about Field Day, let me know. Please come to Board or General Membership meetings or call me at 722-6018 or email me at n6nq@roadrunner.com.

If you have thought that you would like to be more involved in Field Day, I know we

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President's Corner...



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first aid manual.

As Americans we tend to take our lifestyle and comfort for granted while adopting the "ostrich" approach to those things that we have been told WILL come our way. Many of us will bury our head in the sand and pretend that life will go on as usual and disasters or terrorist plots and schemes will not affect us and will somehow pass us by. We are amateur radio operators, and as such talk a great deal about disasters and assisting others when a disaster occurs. Many of our activities even prepare us for such an event. Some of us join DCS, ARES, MARS, RACES, SATERN, Red Cross, or other related organizations. Some of us even go so far as to obtain training on what to do in case of a disaster. This may include CERT training, First Aid/CPR training, taking online ARRL courses on Emergency Communication, or online courses offered by FEMA or others. All of these classes and training help us to better prepare for what we know can and most likely will happen at some point in our lifetime. Our knowledge and skills help us to better protect ourselves, our families and loved ones as well as our neighbors and friends in preparing for, dealing with, and the subsequent aftermath of, various types of disasters. When we are prepared we are better able to deal with the situation both

mentally and physically.

These books can help our neighbors and friends as well as ourselves know how to prepare, what to expect, and how best to deal with disasters that will surely come our way. These books list at \$19.95 and can be purchased on "special" at Amazon.com for \$15.95. However, our club sells them for \$10.00. This small \$10 "investment" will be appreciated by our family and all of our friends as we reap the benefits of preparation. The common saying of "if it happens" has now become "When it will happen". Remember, when the disaster hits the time for preparation has passed. There are many ways in which we may prepare. Having and reading this book is one great way to start. Making certain that there is food, water, and communications to and for our loved ones will also give us peace of mind. Katrina taught us that most initial communicators were out of the area hams. If we as amateur radio operators are not prepared ourselves, we will not be much, if any, help to anyone else.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC

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.

From the VEEP...

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can find a place for you. If you are a new ham and have not experienced a Field Day, there is a lot to learn and a lot of fun to be had. I had never worked any kind of contest before my first Field Day, and I'll have to admit that I had my doubts about contesting. I'm still not a peddle-to-the-metal contester, but sitting down and working a string of contacts in a hurry is more fun than you would think. So, you new Techs and Generals, here's your chance to work some HF before you get your stations set up for those bands.

The April presentation will be a double header. Chuck Constantine (KR6C) has kindly consented to return and complete his presentation from the March meeting. Chuck will describe a 160 meter DXpedition to Koehn Dry Lake near Saltdale, CA. He, and a few other hams you may know, made that trip a few years ago and Chuck has pictures of what they did and how it worked out.

The rest of the presentation will be about simple, low cost but effective antennas that you can build for HF. I will describe dipoles and longwires that I have built. My focus will be on materials, tools and building techniques. After that I will address the subject of stealth antennas. Most of us live in antenna unfriendly environments, so I'll describe a few projects that can get you on the air from almost any location.

I want to hear more new generals on the HF bands and there is no such thing as "Too many antennas".

73,

Jon N6NQ



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

**General Membership Meeting
March 1, 2007**

Opening: Eugene Humpherys – KG6SLC- Flag Salute 7:32 p.m.

**Roll call was followed by a vote to accept the minutes as read and corrected by Secretary, Margie Hoffman-KG6TBR.

Treasurer's report was read by Don Jackson – WA6KPP and approved.

Items of Business:

**President – Eugene Humpherys – Announced the liability insurance would be renewed if the amount of the premium will be below \$

Eugene announced that "It's a Disaster" for emergency preparedness books have been received and our club logo was added to the back cover. We have received a case of 34 books and have sold all but 9 as of this club meeting. He said if we purchase another case for the club to sell prior to field day and we can try to sell some at the MS Walk. We took a vote and it was approved.

***The 2007 Field Day Chairperson will be Jon Clark who has volunteered for the position. Jon asked for all persons who have experience in field day organization to please contact him to offer assistance.

*** ARES meeting this Saturday, March 1, 2007.

***We need about another 7-8 volunteers to work the Baker to Las Vegas Rally. It should be stage 9 which is approximately 60 miles. Dates are April 21-22, 2007.

*** Membership Chairman is not at meeting. Eugene passed out the laminated membership cards.

Announcements:

Adrienne Sherwood – WA6YEO:

Next test session will be on March 3, 2007 at 9a.m. at the Kumon Center. It was originally scheduled to be an ARRL Test Session, but has been switched to a GLARG session. Any VE's, please show up to assist as there should be a lot of folks showing up for upgrades.

Ham Convention-HamCon.: information discussion: More requests for volunteers to assist in our club participation of HamCon. If anyone knows of someone interested in presenting a tech talk, please notify Adrienne so she can schedule. She has sign up sheets for those interested in signing up for the registration. Cost for earlybird : postmarked by April 30, 2007, includes convention pins: \$15. Pre-registration, postmarked by Aug. 1 is \$18 and at the door is \$20.

Location: Torrance Marriott Hotel - Sept 8-9, 2007.

Announcement was made that the last test session held in Feb 22 was successful.

Break:

Eugene Humpherys – KG6SLC: Raffle – sale of tickets for the evening 50/50.

***** **Break** ***** refreshments

Speaker for evening presentation:

Chuck Constantine KR6C who spoke on his DXpedition to Red Rock Canyon.

Raffle: 50/50 was won by Doris : \$18

World Radio: Jon Clark, Eugene Humpherys

Icom hat: Margie Hoffman, Adrienne Sherwood

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

President	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466
Vice President	Jon Clark	N6NQ	878-0603
Secretary	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	
Treasurer	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
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Board Member	Al Almeida	N6JZ	943-5697
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