

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

June 2007

## President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

Short Circuit June 2007  
President's Corner

This has been a rather hectic month at the Humpherys QTH. Among recent events encountered was having Carol's father stay with us unexpectedly for a couple of weeks. He is now in his eighties but has been an entrepreneur for most of his life.

One of the stories that he told during his stay with us occurred while he was in the service. He was part of a crash crew assigned to escort disabled or otherwise encumbered aircraft to a safe landing at his assigned airfield. It seems that people will create a betting pool for virtually any event and his group created a pool as to when the next crash team would be dispatched. He told how, using a pencil, he removed the eraser and replaced it with material that would serve as a detector. Using the pencil as a form, he wound wire around its shaft to fabricate a tuning coil. He did not describe what he used as a capacitor ("condenser" back in those days and for us old timers) but succeeded in constructing a crystal set. He connected a wire to the metal bedsprings of his bed for use as an antenna and another wire to a nearby water pipe to serve as a ground. An

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**UNITED  
WE STAND**

## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, June 7**, 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 be about planning for Field Day, which is the premier event for AVARC. Your participation is vital! Be sure to come to this meeting, and help make Field Day a success! See you there!



N7OP and KG6PQA operate the GOTA station at AVARC 2006 Field Day

## From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

Thanks to Eugene for our May presentation on emergency preparedness. There was a lot of audience participation and Eugene had a lot of material to cover and not enough time to get to it all. I open to suggestions from Eugene and the rest of the membership as to whether a follow-up session would be desirable.

The subject of our June meeting will be Field Day planning. If you have any thoughts about participating or helping, please make a point of showing at the general membership meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

We have volunteers for a number of the tasks and activities, but a number of tasks remain unassigned. Please look over the following list and find the task that you would like to help with.

- 1) The ARRL Field Day literature describes extra points that may be earned for passing messages through the national traffic system.
- 2) Contact local newspaper for an interview about Field Day.
- 3) Are there groups that we would like to invite to Field Day? Extend those invitations.
- 4) Should print flyers and distribute through location businesses, etc.
- 5) Should we post signs around the park to encourage visitors to stop by our site?

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## President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

earpiece was then connected and placed under his pillow. Since aircraft signals were AM and their bunks were close enough to the tower to receive a strong enough signal it would allow him to hear the tower side of the conversation. While the tower side did not include all of the information it did provide enough information for a bet to be made prior to their having received the command to scramble.

As he told this story I recalled reading about early hams that had to build their own equipment and in some cases their own vacuum tubes to get on the air. As I read these articles I was impressed with not only how early amateur radio operators had built their own equipment but how dedicated and committed they must have been. In today's world most of us have purchased all of our equipment and the ability to build our own gear is rapidly dwindling and continues to do so as technology moves forward. Some of us have never even picked up a soldering iron to assemble a kit that someone else has designed, let alone design and build our own circuits.

Moving from previous know-how to the present, we recently had a chance to experience cutting edge technology. We were in Florida for my daughter's wedding last week. While there, we took the

opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center. It was interesting to see the roll that amateur radio has played and continues to play in this endeavor. We heard about ham radio operators all around the world listening as space history was in the making. The earliest involvement that I recall being mentioned was when hams all around the world listened to the signal transmitted from the Russian Sputnik craft. In other presentations we observed various astronauts speaking with school children via amateur radio while in space. It seems that recently most astronauts have their ham license. Now amateurs can not only monitor space missions but can personally speak with astronauts within the ham bands. I believe I heard Al(N6JD) relating such an experience in a recent conversation. Of course we have been using satellites to communicate with other amateurs for years.

It has been interesting reviewing amateur radio from its humble beginnings to its recent state of technology. In me it evokes a sense of appreciation of the early pioneers who paved the way for what we have today. I enjoy amateur radio. Perhaps there is an aspect of ham radio that we can each explore to further our enjoyment of this hobby that we share before this year ends.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC

## From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

- 6) Collect materials for the Emergency communications and club tables.
- 7) Find and pick-up tables and chairs for use around the site.

These and many other subjects will be discussed at the June meeting. So please bring yourself, your help and your ideas to the June meeting.

Finally, a trailer work party is tentatively scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at Keith Hoyt's QTH.

73,

Jon N6NQ

## What happens in Dayton...



K6GXO, WA6YEO, and KG6TBR with Ken KD6IPV and June KD6WHY

## SWAP SHOP

1. M2 KT36XA tri-band yagi partially assembled.
2. M2 8 element LP 6.8 - 30 MHz. Removed from original box but never assembled.

Offers welcome. Contact K6GXO if interested at 661-533-4025 ....or.....

[K6GXO@arrl.net](mailto:K6GXO@arrl.net)



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## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

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**General Membership Meeting  
May 3, 2007**

**Opening:** Eugene Humpherys – KG6SLC- Flag Salute 7:30 p.m.

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

Treasurers report was read by Don Jackson – WA6KP .

Funds in the treasury are \$2,479.87 The report was read and approved.

**Items of Business:**

\*\*President – Eugene Humpherys – The ARES meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007 at Valley Pres Hospital would begin at 7 p.m.

Guest: Dick Norton, Southwestern Division Director of ARRL - N6AA. Spoke about the antenna situation with WB6X (Alec). Dick asked for an update on the club's interest in this situation. Discussion was held by Keith K6GXO later in the announcements.

**Announcements:** Adrienne - WA6YEO - Announcement of the upcoming test session and last session results.

The next test session will be Saturday, May 12 at the Kumon center. This will be a GLARG session. Bring chocolate chip cookies. :-)

Eugene made CD's of photos taken at the Baker to Vegas for all who participated.

Al Almedia announced K6SE is now a silent key. Services to be held at the Chapel of the Valley in Palmdale on Saturday, May 5, 2007.

Jon Clark announced the options for the NASA Tour and took a survey of which dates would be preferred by interested club members. In order for us to get on the base, the Air Force will need a list so we will need to provide a list of attendees, (Al Almedia asked if we could also attend a tour of the Goldstone. This discussion would be considered later.)

Keith K6GXO – Discussion of the ongoing hearing regarding the City of Palmdale vs. WB6X – Alec. He said this is very important that this gets resolved and then passed the floor to Dick Norton - N6AA for an update. Dick showed us a book called "Antenna Zoning" promoted by the ARRL. He strongly recommended that Alec get represented by an attorney to aid him in compliance and dealing with the City.

Keith – K6GXO –Spoke regarding the DX status: Scarborough Reef. BS7H . The contest will be going on until May 6.

Jim – NB6V – Announced a new class for Technicians beginning Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

Margie - KG6TBR – Announced that she and Adrienne WA6YEO will be taking orders for T-Shirts and Pins for Field Day, with all \$\$ to be paid in advance. No orders were received by the conclusion of the meeting.

Jon Clark – N6NQ – sign up sheets for Field Day volunteers were passed around. Interested persons signed up for various slots. Please contact Jon to discuss opportunities for participation. If anyone has additional suggestions or comments, please see Chairman, Jon Clark. Jon picked up the club antenna and also picked up another one, so we will have two working towers and will be ready for CW and other modes.

\*\*Reminders:

Hamfest. Seaside Oregon, June 1-3

Dayton Hamvention: May 16-20, 2007 Columbus, Ohio

Meeting/get together for working on the trailer for Field Day. We will need a work session to be held at Keith's home to make sure that the trailer is set up. The weekend of maybe June 9-10 should give us plenty of time to make sure all the equipment is working. Anyone with questions, please contact Jon or Keith.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\* Refreshments

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

**Speaker for evening presentation:**

\*\*\* Eugene Humphereys: Emergency Preparedness

Raffle: 50/50 was won by : WA6PZK

World Radio: Keith KC6AVM

YAESU hat: Jon Clark N6NQ, Seth KI6ATM

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Margie Hoffman KG6TBR  
AVARC Secretary, 2007



### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

<b>President</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466
<b>Vice President</b>	Jon Clark	N6NQ	878-0603
<b>Secretary</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
<b>Treasurer</b>	Don Jackson	WA6KPP	948-4762
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
<b>Board Member</b>	Al Almeida	N6JZ	943-5697
<b>Board Member</b>	Paul Preter	KI6DWG	947-8184
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Rich Stocking	N7OP	949-1039



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**To ARS:**