

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2007

## President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

"Catch a wave and you'll be sitting on top of the world" is a line from a Beach Boys hit song that I used to listen to years ago and still hear occasionally. While they weren't singing about amateur radio the line aptly describes our feelings as amateur radio operators when we catch a radio wave that gives us that long awaited DX contact or adds a new grid to our contacts map.

Sometimes catching that radio wave is not as simple as one would expect as many factors come into play. For example, I have an atomic clock at work. I could not get the clock to update no matter where I put it. I had given up and placed it at an out of the way location on my desk until I could take it to my home QTH to get an updated time signal. A couple of days later I picked up the clock to take it home and noticed the display indicated that it had updated. Hmmmm, I decided to experiment a little. Each day I repositioned the clock and discovered there is an area of about 6"x6" on a specific section on my desk that the clock will receive the signal consistently and only within that area. Anywhere outside of that area results in the clock not being updated. Even when placing the clock against the window it does not update.

The same phenomenon occurs with

*(Continued on page 2)*



## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, August 2nd**, 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 our own **Bob Holland KG6DHQ**, who will talk to us about PSK31. This is an interesting and popular mode, and it promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for the meeting!



Yes, that's Bob KG6DHQ up there!

## From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

I've got about three things on my mind for this month's column. First, I would like to tell all of you that the August meeting will feature a talk from Bob Holland about his experiences with PSK31. Second, I would like to talk some more about Field Day. Lastly, I would like make a plea for presentation ideas.

I'm not a hundred percent sure of what Bob will be presenting. But I do know that he used to (may still) run a PSK31 net on 2 meters. He has also been doing HF DXing with PSK31 since he upgraded to General. So I think he will have some interesting things to talk about.

I've taken about three weeks off on the subject Field Day. Now I'm starting to move on it again. I need to get some pictures and data into the Field Day Soap Box at the ARRL website. That will happen by this weekend. Watch for the addition at [http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/index.html?con\\_id=133](http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/index.html?con_id=133). Next I will be writing a short manual on how to do Field Day next year. This manual will include a timeline of all the tasks that must be completed prior to FD. It will also contain a station-by-station check list of task and inventory needed to prepare that station and set it up on FD.

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# President's Corner...



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my cell phone. I get such a weak signal at my house that I typically turn my cell off when arriving home. However, there is a place just at the top of the stairs that I get a really strong signal. The signal at that one spot is better than standing by any window even on our second floor. It seems that some of the radio waves are a bit picky as to where they hang out (or, perhaps, who they hang out with.)

I think repeaters went to the same school as my atomic clock and cell phone because they share the same habits. Going through the repeater directory I have found over twenty repeaters that I can hit from my house that have a signal of S5 or better. Some of them were quite a surprise for me. For example, in San Joaquin Valley there are two repeaters that hit me with a S++ signal while other repeaters with the same location listing I can't even kerchunk. At least one repeater in San Bernardino County can be kerchunked from my QTH with power settings as low as five watts on my rig.....of course my 8.5dB antenna may have something to do with that. However, I lose the Hauser signal less than six miles away from the repeater when I enter Bouquet Canyon each day on my way to work.

One advantage of understanding how radio waves propagate takes the seemingly "randomness" factor out each of the above scenarios. Simple analysis will reveal reasons for each

"mystery" occurrence when one thinks about it. As hams we work around these obstacles and learn to work within the scope of our environment and make things work in spite of the laws of physics and occasionally Murphy. Perhaps that is one reason why "When all else fails...Amateur Radio!" And now, I think I'll go catch another wave.

73,

*Eugene KG6SLC*

## SWAP SHOP

Several older items are available from the estate of a SK as follows:

1. Heathkit Apache TX1 transmitter
2. Collins 75A3 receiver (S/N 1677) with speaker
3. Hallicrafters SX-43 receiver with R-44 speaker
4. Brush BA-106 tabletop microphone

No price has been set on any item and donations are requested. Donations received will be donated to Veteran's and Children's charity funds at the Palmdale Elks Lodge in the name of the SK's family.

If no offers are received the equipment will find a needy home somewhere for free.

The working condition of the equipment is not currently known and is not guaranteed.

Please contact Keith, K6GXO re: the above at [k6gx0@arrl.net](mailto:k6gx0@arrl.net) or at 661-533-4025.



# From the VEEP...

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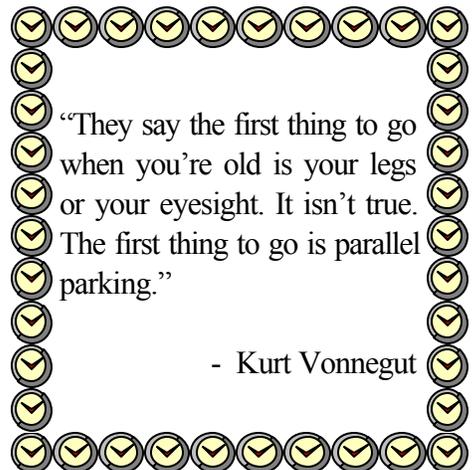
I will be looking for input from all the station captains on the content of these sections of the document. Another section will cover general site setup requirements and the like.

I will be passing this document around for review to any and all. I will be very appreciative of any input. If you already have thoughts on items for next, you do not need to wait for me to pass the document around. Please contribute at any convenient time by sending email to [n6nq@roadrunner.com](mailto:n6nq@roadrunner.com) or call me at 305-6969.

Finally, I'm looking for presentation subjects and/or volunteers. I probably need two more presentations to fill out the year. If you have ideas or would like to do a presentation on your favorite subject please use the contact information just mentioned.

73,

*Jon N6NQ*



"They say the first thing to go when you're old is your legs or your eyesight. It isn't true. The first thing to go is parallel parking."

- Kurt Vonnegut

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

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**AVARC Board Meeting**  
6/28/07

**Meetings:** Chimbole Cultural Center is reserved through the end of 2007 for the first Thursday of each month.

**Fundraiser, (Books):** Eugene, KG6SLC – Henry Mayo Hospital has decided to go direct with the publisher of “It’s a Disaster”. The Club will still get a 10% finders fee for books sold through the hospital. There were 4 books sold at Field Day.

**Membership Application Form:** Margie, KG6TBR, has volunteered to revise this form. Status of work to be determined.

**L.A. County Fair:** Participation at an amateur radio booth was discussed. No commitment to this event made as of yet.

**Field Day:** John, N6NQ, gave a rough summary of areas where points were scored. There were approximately 400 CW QSO’s made, 300 SSB, 154 GOTA, 70 VHF/UHF, 6 Solar powered. Sources of bonus points: Three OPS under age 18, Solar power, Press Release, RC and ATV modes, Public Safety official present. These should add several hundred points. Jon should have a rough or final score by the next general Club meeting. Suggestions for improvement:

- 12 Find source of noise at the Park.
- 13 Better antenna separation to reduce desense.
- 14 Determining best operating strategy when there are fewer open bands than stations.

**HAMCON 2007:** Adrienne, WA6YEO, wanted submission of a color version of the Club logo for the HAMCON brochure. Design options were discussed. Final submission should go to Ben, KR6E, with the HAMCOM committee. Adrienne also is looking for a substitute delegate to the June 30 meeting as she is unable to attend this month.

**Lake Tahoe Fire:** Don Carlson from Tahoe area may be needing volunteers to provide EMCOMMS for this incident. POC is Dennis Smith, KA6GSE. (KG6SLC).

**Club Net July 4<sup>th</sup>:** The Board decides on net for the upcoming holiday. Jon may stand by on frequency if available.

**Microsoft Publisher for Short Circuit:** Adrienne brought up the Club purchase of MS-Pub to replace the aging version in use now. Partial funding was considered if a low-cost version can be found.

**FD Preparation Expenses:** Keith, K6GXO, recommended reimbursement of expenses for Jon for the Club generator repair, and Margie for paint supplies for the Club trailer. This was discussed and approved. Cost less than \$100 for both items.

**FD Photos:** Eugene suggested compiling a photo CD for this past field day. Photos should be sent to Jon’s email: [n6nq@gmail.com](mailto:n6nq@gmail.com) by next Tuesday.

**Financial:** Don, WA6KPP, reported a bank balance of \$2677.17 for the Club treasury.

**July Board Meeting:** July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, Baker’s Square – Palmdale.

**In Attendance:**

Eugene Humphreys, WA6KPP  
Don Jackson, WA6KPP  
Keith Hoyt, K6GXO  
Jon Clark, N6NQ  
Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK  
Adrienne Sherwood, WA6YEO

Respectfully Submitted:  
Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK

**AVARC Meeting**  
7/5/07

Called to order by Eugene Humphreys, KG6SLC, at 7:30 PM

Flag salute and introductions.

Treasurers rpt: Don Jackson WA6KPP -

Balance \$2677.19, (revised). Motion carried to accept report.

Test Session: Adrienne WA6YEO – GLAARG VEC 0900 Sat. 7/7 testing fee \$4.00. There were 14 attendees at the last session.

Hamcon: Adrienne has applications for Hamcon. Hamcon is in pre-registration phase now. Hamcon needs your support. Adrienne took questions regarding this event. Call for VE’s to help run test session. Eugene raised the question of non-registrants to serve as VE’s. Adrienne thought this should be legally allowed, without access to the rest of the convention. Adrienne will check on this at the next Hamcon meeting.

Jon N6NQ: Signup list for NASA tour. Needed NLT 7/8 Sunday PM. Tour is 7/14. Meet at NASA facility by 0900. Jon will determine which gates are accessible.

Eugene: ARES Meeting. 7/7/07 0800 at Valley Pres Hospital.

Break

Presentation by Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK – License Renewal Process

Presentation by Jon Clark, N6NQ – FD Post Mortem

Eugene – August 16 7:00 PM Hearing on Aleck’s antenna issue. Palmdale City Hall

50/50 Drawing: David Kemper KI6CHI - \$20.00

Adjourned at 0936

Respectfully Submitted:  
Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK



### 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



The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX  
 Post Office Box 1011  
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Place  
 Postage  
 Here



**To ARS:**