

# THE SHORT CIRCUIT



HTTP://WWW.AVARC.AV.ORG

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2007

## President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

My wife Carol KI6DWE and I had a great time attending this year's Hamcon in September. As most of you know, our club participated in the event by overseeing and staffing the ARRL testing aspect of the convention. Many thanks to Adrienne WA6YEO and Dan WA6PZK for their involvement and considerable time spent in travel and meetings in behalf of the club to make Hamcon a success. These types of events and even our club would not be successful if it weren't for people willing to contribute their time and talents for the benefit of others.

As always, it was exciting to see new hams that had just passed their test. They had most likely spent considerable time and effort in study and in all probability were taking online tests to help them prepare for the examination. Then, the moment of truth comes with the test results. In that one moment they realize that all of their time and effort invested in this endeavor has paid off. There is a sense of pride and accomplishment as well there should be. They have met the requirements, demonstrated appropriate knowledge and passed their test. They are now numbered among the ranks of amateur radio operators. They will, no doubt, anxiously begin the waiting process for their call sign to be posted. Some will have monitored the daily assignments given by the FCC and will attempt to guess or at least hope for a call sign that will roll off the tongue with ease. After all, they will probably have their initial call sign for years to come.

But alas, not all that took the test received a passing score. Some discovered that they had been studying out of date material they had checked out from the local library or, perhaps, from books purchased prior to the current version of study guide material.

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## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, October 4** 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 we will have our annual **Anchors Away** swap meet. This is a great opportunity for you to find a new home for your unneeded ham radio items, and perhaps pick up a bargain or two, so get busy and clean out your shack, and plan on joining us for this fun event.



## From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

!!!!!! Anchors Away !!!!!

Tell your friends, your family, your neighbors, anyone you can think of. Thursday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> is the AVARC's annual "Anchors Away" swap meeting.

Anything that someone might use in this hobby is fair game. Any electronics, supplies, antennas, books, magazines, cable, coax, antenna building supplies, etc. Whatever you feel up to hauling into the meeting.

After regular business is dealt with, the rest of the meeting will be looking, talking and swapping. Any purchases or swaps are between the buyer and the seller. The normal method of payment is cash. Perhaps some sellers will swap or take other forms of payment but you should figure on cash.

In the past some items have been given to the first person willing to haul it out. If you have items in this category, please be prepared to remove them, if nobody wants them.

Again, please tell anyone you can think of about this swap. The more stuff, the more fun.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, I spent the day at HAMCON. This is the second convention I've attended but it was a much different experience than the first convention. My first convention was Pacificon, in San Ramon, Ca. I tested for my Technician license at that convention.

With a freshly filled out test certificate in my pocket, I bought my first radio at that convention. It was an Icom IC-207H dual bander. To make the decision, I had read lots of advertisements in the ham magazines and I handled all the mobiles in the Yaesu and Icom booths. It was all a little bewildering. Looking back, I think I made that first

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## From the VEEP...

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decision based on the looks of the rigs. I liked bigger displays and that steered me in the direction of Icom. Seems a little silly now, but that was then. Now I have a good mix of Icom and Yaesu.

The HAMCON convention was a lot different. I didn't need to take any more test. So I helped administer them instead. That was a very good change. When you feel like you've gotten a lot out of this hobby, think about giving some back by becoming a VE.

After the testing, I hit the exhibit hall, just like the first convention. But this time I was not so tempted by all the new rigs. I spent most of my time looking at bits and pieces, supplies, tools, battery chargers and such. Ultimately, I did succumb to the allure of a new radio. I laid hands on this baby HT with so many neat features, especially the size. I have a VX-150, a very stout, serviceable HT. But I only carry it when I really need it. It's just too bulky and heavy to be in a pocket all the time. It was easy to imagine the baby HT in my pocket all the time. It has been ever since the convention. It's about the size of a cell phone. The kicker was that Jun's had them for sale right across the isle at a very attractive price. Impulse buy? Oh for sure!! But hobbies are supposed to be fun. Right?

But buying the cute little rig wasn't the best part of the convention. The best part was yet another difference from the first convention. At the first convention, I

didn't know another soul in the hotel. I was faced with foreboding examiners. I milled about the exhibit hall with a few thousand people I had never seen or talked to before.

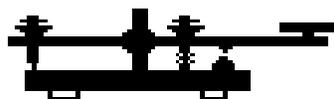
At HAMCON, I felt more like I knew most of the people. While that wasn't really true, it was the sensation I had. That sensation was heightened by the fact that I did know quite a few of the people I met. Some, I had eyeballed before, some I had talked to and eyeballed for the first that day. One of the vendors was fellow I worked with 27 years ago. That was a real treat.

The whole experience felt kind of like going back to your old home town, the difference being that these were mostly new friends not old friends.

If you've spent any time in the area where a ham convention occurs in your future, I hardily recommend that you don't let the opportunity pass you by. It could well turn out to be more than you expect.

73,

*Jon N6NQ*



## President's Corner...

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I would liked to have been able to spend more time in the vendor area drooling over some of the new radio equipment. But then my wallet(and my wife) are both probably glad that it didn't work out that way. Of the things I did purchases was a 2m/440 antenna, mount, and cable for my wife's new car. I was also able to purchase other things that I needed as well as some things that I probably didn't need as badly as I thought. Rationalization I have learned can sometimes be a wonderful thing....or can be at least comforting.

The discussions and presentations were on interesting topics and were facilitated by knowledgeable people. In all it was an enjoyable experience that I would recommend to any amateur radio operator regardless of their level of experience.

I volunteered time to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) booth at the Los Angeles County Fair. It was enjoyable talking to people about amateur radio and our role in assisting others especially during times of disaster and emergency. I was able to sell a few "It's A Disaster And What Are You Gonna Do About It?" books and met some interesting people in the process.

It's great to be involved in such a worthwhile hobby. In it there is something of interest for virtually everyone. In addition, it also provides opportunities to associate with genuine people that share a common interest and have a good time while doing so.

73,

*Eugene K96SLC*

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### SWAP SHOP

For Sale  
Aircraft Radio R105A-ARR15  
Make Offer  
Other military gear available.  
Butch KA6YOD  
661-264-4689

# HAMCON 2007 VE Team



Seated: Dan Sherwood WA6PZK; Frank O'Dell N6FOD; Archie Willis W6LPJ  
 Standing: Keith Hoyt K6GXO; Tom Embree NZ6ZZ; Dan Rowlan KG6PQA; Carol Humpherys KI6DWE; Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO; Margie Hoffman KG6TBR; Mike Rowlan KI6IYE; Jon Clark N6NQ; Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC; Don Jackson WA6KPP

All Examiners are members of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club, with the exception of our "Special Guest VE" Archie W6LPJ, who is a long-time friend and Elmer of many members of the VE team. The team also included three non-VE helpers, Margie KG6TBR, Carol KI6DWE and Mike KI6IYE, who handled registration chores for the team.

Twenty applicants were tested, resulting in eight brand-new hams, two new Generals and six new Technicians. There were also five upgrades to General, and one to Extra.

## SWAP SHOP

I am assisting a local amateur who is moving out of the area by disposing of some of his amateur radio items, some of which are as follows:

8877 (3CX1500A7) transmitting tubes  
 3-500 transmitting tubes  
 130 feet of direct burial RG-8/U coax  
 50 feet of Tandy RG-8/U coax  
 100 feet 8 conductor rotator cable, heavy gauge  
 Force 12 Model C4 tri-band yagi with 40 meter element  
 (Never out of the original box)

In the near future I may also have available other items including a 4 position remote coax switch by Ameritron and a Yaesu rotator.

Offers are welcome but the owner is hoping to receive 50% of the original prices. I will bring the items that have not sold to the club meeting. Call or write me if you have questions.

Keith.....K6GXO  
 661-533-4025  
[k6gx0@arri.net](mailto:k6gx0@arri.net)



### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

<b>President</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466
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