

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2008

## President's Corner

**Jon Clark N6NQ**

My biggest problem in enjoying this hobby is making the time to do the many things I would like to be doing. I spent some time thinking about that over the holidays. That thinking carried over into the theme of our January meeting. We had a lively discussion about activities members would like to see the club (and hopefully themselves) involved in. My thinking was that if the club could serve as the catalyst for some these activities, some of us/me would get off our duffs and have a little more fun with Amateur Radio. Following this theme, I found myself building a small 40 meter CW transceiver kit. While I love to build kits, my main motivation for building this kit was to force myself onto the air with CW. All the better to chase DX with. So January's meeting and this kit building will lead us forward into February.

### Elmer List

One of the main ideas developed at the January meeting was the desire for the club to develop some Elmering. Several of you expressed interest in various aspects of Amateur Radio and some of you volunteered to Elmer some subjects. What follows is a list of subjects that were discussed and in some cases, people that would be willing to Elmer that subject.

**DX** - Keith Hoyt K6GXO has offered to show people his station and discuss its features and merits as they pertain to DX.

**Fundamentals** - Larry Bianchi AF6GF has offered to help newcomers through some of the fundamental issues in getting on the air for the first time and what happens after that.

**Digital Modes** - We don't have any volunteers here yet, but I have few ideas. I all be talking to a few people about this and will keep you posted. Volunteers would be welcome.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, February 7**, at 7:30 pm, 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.

For this month's meeting, **Dan Sherwood WA6PZK** and **Jon Clark N6NQ** will regale you with their recent exciting kit building experiences.

They both happened to build Rock-Mites from Small Wonders Laboratory. The kit and the building process will be described. The circuit will be explained. Popular modifications and enhancement will be mentioned. And if the RF gods permit, live demos will also happen. So if you have ever wondered about kit building or these little rigs in particular, this will be the meeting for you.

And yes, you can stuff a fully functional transceiver into an Altoids tin.

## From The Veep

**Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**

January proved to be an interesting meeting, something we have not done before. We opened it up to a discussion and were able to hear members offer their input as to what they would like to see and hear in future meetings. Jon's article covers this well, so I will go on to new ideas for the coming year.

I don't think it is too early to think about the many opportunities we have to participate in volunteer events in 2008. Very soon, it will be time for the Baker to Vegas event and as some of you may know, a few of our members took part in the communications support for that very intense event. The came home tired, and worn out, but it was a very rewarding experience. This year, myself and my Sister, Adrienne WA6YEO and Dan WA6PZK have decided to participate together. I am trying to pull a speaker for us for the March meeting to go over what this event is all about. I am hoping more folks will be intrigued in joining in on this activity.

Another event in which we have a large turnout is Field Day. I will be putting a list together of what we need to do to get ready for this event. I would like to ask folks in the club to think of what they can do to contribute to making this year's Field Day a success. I will be asking for members of my committee to head up the different parts and will have updates on this each month at our general membership meetings.

This month, I have asked both Dan Sherwood WA6PZK and Jon Clark N6NQ to be our speakers. They will be presenting their experience in building the tiny Rock Mite. Don't miss this meeting as it will be both educational and interesting. See you then.

73,

*Margie KG6TBR*

## From the Secretary's Desk

### AVARCGeneral Meeting 6 January 2008

**Opening:** John Clark called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and proceeded with the Flag Salute. Next were introductions and roll call. The group clapped for visitors Jesse and Douglas who are interested in obtaining their call. New calls:

- Nelson Reschuling: NI6NSQ
  - Don Jackson: K6GET
- Chuck Lahmayer : KI6NMX  
Thirty four members attended the roll call.

John reviewed the new board members:

- Jon Clark – N6NQ, President
- Margie Hoffman – KG6TBR, Vice President
- Carol Humpherys – KI6DWE – Secretary
- Don Jackson – K6GET, Treasurer
- Keith Hoyt – K6GXO, Trustee
- Dan Sherwood – WA6PZK, Board Member
- Chris Aberle – KB7IAY, Board Member

Gary Mork – WA6AFC - Master at Arms  
Last **month's minutes** were read by Carol Humpherys KI6DWE. Minutes were approved. The Treasurers report was presented by Don Jackson. Club has \$3,961.35. The Treasurers report was approved. (Anticipate ample funds for 2008 without raising dues. Began 2007 with \$1,405.05. The balance at the start of 2008 shows an increase of \$2,506.30. The club gave KG6SLC a big hand for his fund raising efforts.)

**Meeting room:** The Palmdale Chimbole Center room was renewed through June for the first Thursday of each month. *Exception:* The May meeting is the first Tuesday of the month.

#### Announcements:

**ARES meetings:** (Eugene Humpherys – KG6SLC.) Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Valley Presbyterian Hospital. Considering a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Palmdale on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**Test sessions:** (Adrienne Sherwood – WA6YEO) The test session schedule is posted on the club web site. Follows last years schedule: First Saturday, first Monday on alternating months--except for

July 12<sup>th</sup>. Sessions held in the AV at 1702 East Ave J across from the East-side Wal-Mart. Please call Adrienne if you plan to take a session. Do not call the church.

**HAMCON 2007 Convention:** (Adrienne) Meeting in January to distribute the funds. Committee is setting a dispute with the hotel.

**Baker to Vegas:** Club received an application. Eugene Humpherys to coordinate. Anticipate participating in the same stage. Interested individuals to contact Eugene or Margie

**QST announcements:** (Keith Hoyt – K6GXO )

- The first state amateur radio convention in **Anchorage, Alaska** is planned for August 2008. Keith plans to attend. Hotel is ~ \$200/night. Side trips will be offered.

- **Dayton Hamvention:** Scheduled for ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. Lots of fun. Margie, Keith, Dan and Adrienne attended last year.

DX convention at Visalia: Late April.

#### Old Business:

**Club Trailer** (Keith): Trailer is inadequate—unstable, one axel, needs repair. Does anyone have a two axle trailer for the tower? Need ~ 12-18 feet. Please contact the club.

**Break \*\*\*\* Refreshments \*\*\*\* Sale of raffle tickets for the evening 50/50 \*\*\***

#### Additional announcements:

- George Becker has a new antenna and asked for assistance running coax.
- Pat Tomski donated equipment to the club: Older Kenwood TH78 Alpha 440, 2 meters dual band HT, power pack, gain antennae, and charging station. (Thank you Pat!)

#### Presentation:

Jon and Margie hosted an Open Forum discussing prospective team member activities: Individuals expressed interest in:

- CW Net in the AV (See Jon N6NQ)
- On-the-air code class (Adrienne)
- Need Elmers!
- DX- Keith
- Fundamentals - Larry volunteered to assist an individual requesting help.

- Elmers needed for digital modes, basic electronics, antenna building.

- California DX competition

- T-Hunt

- Tours: Perhaps a Goldstones Satellite tracking facility tour.(Barstow)

- Networking. (Can the club roaster be available to club members? Yes! Paul will have roasters available for 25 cents each at future meetings.)

California QSO party: Ron Hamel may host a party at his ranch. (October)

#### Raffle:

- Clock – won by George Becker
  - 50/50 - (\$20) won by Dan Sherwood.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9: 20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Humpherys KI6DWE  
AVARC Secretary 2008

## Swap Shop

For Sale: HEIL Handi Mic, model HM-5 Compact Microphone. Pre-wired for Kenwood radios with modular RJ-15 type connector. Could be used with most other rigs, (except ICOM), if a different plug is wired on. Brand new in the box. \$65.00.

Motorola Spectrum VHF Mobile VHF antennas. 5/8 wave, high-quality commercial-grade units made in the USA. These will work for 2-meters. Includes RADIALL/LARSEN NMO thru-hole mounts and coax kits. New in shipping tubes. \$25.00 each.

Contact Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK at (661) 264-1863.



## President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

Basic Electronics - I would be happy to help anyone that would like to learn a little basic electronics. I'm wondering what is the best way to Elmer something like this. I guess I'll figure that out when someone ask for help. Would anyone else like to pitch in on this if help is needed?

Antenna Building - I've done some of this and I would not mind helping out with this but I don't want to over commit. Would anyone else like to pitch in?

### Morse Code Net/ Code Class

As I explained before, I want to learn code. Two ideas were offered at the meeting: A code net and a code class. I think that the two ideas compliment each other and taken together would create a fun learning experience.

The first item of business is to decide what we need to get started. While I could see a code class starting with just listening, it won't be fun for very long unless people get a chance to start sending as well. It would also be hard to hold a net without the ability to send.

That means some kind of key and some way to send a signal. For the key, I think we should rely on some knowledgeable, experienced club members to make some recommendations as to which keys are workable. Any opinions? Each participant will need to buy or borrow an appropriate key. I don't see a way around this.

Next we need to send the signal. We could go with CW mode on HF rigs, but that would require that everyone have an HF rig to get this started. That's a pretty high entrance fee and would require General or above. Our class and net would probably fail from lack of operators.

To beat the HF rig and General license issues, we could design or buy an interface that would allow us to key and send tones from a code oscillator thru 2 meter rigs. Simpler yet would be to hold the microphone of a two meter rig near the speaker of a code oscillator. This seems to

be the easiest way to get started. Since Adrienne WA6YEO has volunteered to run an on the air code class, we'll see what input she has on these subjects and then get this thing going.

### T-Hunt

Some of you wanted to do T-hunts. That seems like it would be a lot of fun. I need help with this one. Some of you that would like to do some T-Hunting need to step up to lead this activity. If you want to help but aren't sure where to start, I would suggest that you find someone who has done it in the past and get them involved or get their advice.

### Tours

It has been suggested that club try to arrange some more tours. Thanks to Bill Crews W2WHC, we had a very nice tour of the NASA Dryden facility in November and I think that has several of us inspired. Goldstone was mentioned as a possibility. Anyone know anybody out there? Having an inside contact usually greases the skids a little. It can also lead to tour stops that are not on the regular tour schedule. Barring that, we can just try going through the front door of their web site and see what we come up with. Anyone have other ideas or destinations to suggest?

### Contest

Some of you would like to get your feet wet with a little contesting. The California QSO Party was suggested as good first contest. I worked my first

real contest effort during the 2007 California QSO Party and I can attest to the fact that this is a fun one. We have a club member that would probably like to host a group contest effort. Margie Hoffman and Dan and Adrienne Sherwood have volunteered to speak with Ron about this. They will be your "go to" people if you are interested in participating in this one.

### Moon Bounce

If you are a member of the ARRL and do not receive their weekly emails, I would recommend that you consider changing that. Just before the weekend of the 19th and 20th of January, the ARRL sent out an email forwarding a request for help from the HAARP project. They were looking for amateurs to listen for their signals bouncing off the moon on Friday night and Saturday night. I forwarded the email to everyone whose address I have and I know that a few others, such as Dan WA6PZK, Larry AF6FG and my friend Tom KG6MVB in Albuquerque got in on the fun.

I heard many echoes on Friday night but not much on Saturday night. I have some recordings that I will bring to the February meeting.

73,

Jon N6NQ

# PALMCASTER EQUIPMENT RENTALS

**RAY CRAMM**  
Manager

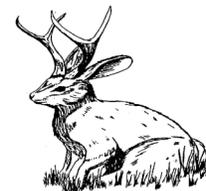
**Office: (661) 723-1400**  
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**633 West Ave. M. Palmdale, CA 93551**





### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Officers



<b>President</b>	Jon Clark	N6NQ	878-0603
<b>Vice President</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Humpherys	KI6DWE	265-0466
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<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466

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