

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 2008

## President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

### Questions and Answers, Part Two

Last month I wrote about an idea presented by Brian, KI6ICC. That idea was that club could provide the service of fielding questions from the members and finding the right people to answer them. So far, we've had one question that I've heard about. That question is: "How do you do IRLP?"

First, let's talk about what IRLP is. Internet Radio Link Project (IRLP) just about says it all. IRLP ties remote repeaters (and simplex transceivers) together. Using Dick Miller's IRLP node, here in the Antelope Valley, I can talk with friends and other hams all over the world. To use Dick's node, you need a 440 rig (445.600, 100 pl, - offset), but there are many other nodes on 2 meters. The basic IRLP connection is a local repeater linked via VOIP to a distant repeater. So back to: "How?"

Well, the first thing you should do is a little reading. Take a look at the IRLP web site, [www.irlp.net](http://www.irlp.net). There's lots of info there on how it works as well as a list of nodes that you might want to call. See "NODE INFO" in the left margin of any of the sites pages. Pick out an IDLE node that you would like to link to, say Hilo, HI at node 3725. Now listen to some others using IRLP. Listening to others use an IRLP node will reveal a lot about how it's done. So here are the steps:

**1) Learn how to send DTMF tones on your radio.** For most mobile rigs with buttons on the mike, it is hold

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## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, September 4**, 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.

The guest speaker for this month's meeting will be **Ralph Ricketson KG6WXY**, who will tell us about The Great Southern California Shake Out, an event which will be held on November 13, 2008.

Please join us on September 4, 2008, and you will be amazed!



## From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Once again, we are busy, busy and sometimes there just doesn't seem time to do all that we wish we could do. I did manage to squeeze in one very exciting event.

Last weekend, both myself KG6TBR and my Brother-in Law, Dan Sherwood WA6PZK participated again in the 2008 Gorman Road Rally, which was held this year in Hungry Valley. We were stationed at various positions on the Powerline Dirt roads that usually are bustling with ATV's and motorcycles of all kinds. I have rode my own Polaris ATV Quad and I know from that experience, that those roads are pretty rough. We spent the entire day from 6:30am to 11p.m. up in Gorman assisting on emergency ham communications for back up to the car rally. There were approximately 25 cars and trucks and 2 motorcycles scheduled. We were placed at rugged spots on the sidelines and kept track of the rally vehicles as they traveled very fast on roads that we were only able to sport at about 10 mph when we got into our ham road blockage positions. One rally vehicle disappeared from the radar, but was located upside down but with no injuries to the driver or the navigator. After the EMS truck arrived to offer assistance to that vehicle, the typical rally reaction received from the occupants was to just put

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## President's Corner...

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down the PTT button and push the required number keys.

**2) Choose a node to link to.** Visit the web site and chose one or more remote nodes you would like to link to. If your planning a trip you would be looking for nodes at your trips destination that you might use to call back home to the local repeater.

**3) Announce your intentions.** First, you've listened, right? Now tell anyone who may be listening or using be in a pause, what you want to do. If someone is using see what you can work out or come back another time or join in if that seems appropriate. If there are no objections, on to the next step.

**4) Clear any existing link.** With no carrier coming from the local repeater, hold down the PTT button and press the 7 button followed by the 3 button. Now release the PTT. If the local repeater was linked to a remote repeater, you will hear a disconnect message from that repeater. If you were not connected then you will just receive a courtesy tone. Either way, when the carrier drops, you are ready to move on.

**5) Send the DTMF tones for the node you want.** Again, you need to hold down the PTT button and then press the numbers buttons in sequence and then release the PTT.

**6) Listen for a link message from the requested node.** It will take a few seconds. If you do not receive a link message, try Step 6 again. If you still do not receive a link message, something may be wrong with the remote repeater or IRLP node. Either try later or try another node. If you did receive the link message then move on. Wait until the carrier drops.

**7) Make a call seeking a QSO on the remote repeater.** Announce yourself just like you would when

announcing your presence on Hauser. You can make yourself a little more interesting to hams on the distant repeater by adding you location to your announcement. "Good morning, this is N6NQ in Palmdale, California!"

**8) Listen for response.** If someone is out and about at the other end, you will likely get a response. Carry on your QSO as you would on any other repeater but wait a couple of seconds before you key up. There is a slight delay on the net and two repeaters have to switch directions now.

**9) Wait before responding.** Always give the equipment a chance to work. You should also pause to allow breaks. When quick keying is combined with the extra delays of the linked radios, it can become impossible to get a "Break" in.

Other things to talk about later:

Simplex nodes  
Reflectors  
IRLP web site  
Local nodes

73,

Jon N6NQ



## Swap Shop

RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Icom 707 All Band H/F 100 Watts 12 V

Realistic HTXx!00 25 Watt SSB/CW 10 Meter 12 V

Power Supplies  
Astron 12DC 20 AMP Metered  
Astron 12DC 30 AMP Metered

P/C Electronics  
AT-1  
ATV Transverter 10 Watts  
Fast scan Dual Freq 438 - 426 MHZ  
450 MHZ Ant. Required

Equipment Approximately 5 - 7 years old.  
All in good condition.

Reasonable offers accepted. 661-435-9516 or  
805 658 0834  
e mail [hats002136@aol.com](mailto:hats002136@aol.com)

73 K6CEV  
John, Past President 83  
MV / Ventura

TOWER FOR SALE

This is a three section, 51 foot, medium duty, self supporting, crank-up tower. It does require a concrete base to anchor the tower. It is hot-dipped, galvanized steel construction. It comes with the fixed base, with reinforced rebar to be placed into the concrete base. A detailed mechanical drawing of the tower can be viewed at: <http://www.tashtowers.com/crankup.html>  
Asking \$800. Bill  
W2WHC [bcrews56@verizon.net](mailto:bcrews56@verizon.net) or  
661-816-9115

For Sale: HEIL Handi Mic, model HM-5 Compact Microphone. Prewired 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 RADIAL/LARSEN NMO thru-hole mounts and coax kits. New in shipping tubes. \$25.00 each.

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

## From the VEEP...

them upright and get out of their way, so on they continued to finish that race and the four more races after that one!

We had quite an interesting day. I was able to test my 4 wheel drive out on my new Rav4 and it worked pretty swell. I did take home about 20 pounds of sand with me and after \$20 at the car wash, the vehicle looks like new once again. It was quite warm so I am not sure if I would recommend this type of volunteer work to everyone as my first position had no shade. I drank lots and lots of water to stay hydrated, dipped my washrag into the ice cooler and put that on my head, took a good supply of suntan lotion and with the aid of a water-spray mister bottle was able to make that shift after 6 hours in the sun. Our reward was a fine tri-tip BBQ back at the Flying J Hotel at Frazier and then back up the mountain for another shift which ended after 10pm.

So how was your weekend?????

73,

Margie KG6TBR



## Ham Sandwich

by  
Larry Bianchi AF6CF

*The Ham Sandwich is a quiet corner of the Short Circuit spotlighting one or two Hams from the club and making a Ham Sandwich with their info and giving everyone an opportunity to get to know them a bit better.*

*This month, the Short Circuit will focus on Mike Beckers KC6YQO.*

Mike, born in 'THE' year of 1960 in Hollywood, has always been one to take things apart. Be it a radio, phonograph or whatever was around! His mom even took the handles off the outside faucets. But Mike responded by always carrying around a pair of pliers.

While serving in the Air Force in Florida, Mike bought a scanner and enjoyed listening to the ham frequencies. "...I liked what I was hearing, and that got me interested in it [ham radio]..." Mike decided to get his ham ticket in 1991 as soon as the "no code" license was introduced.

"I'd like to get more involved in local aspects the hobby, and see and meet the folks that I have been talking with on the repeater. Oh yes. The punch and cookies are great too!" Spoken like a true ham, Mike!

HF is of interest to Mike and he would like to get involved with Packet, APRS,

Winlink and PSK and would like to set up an EchoIRLP node. He has already setup and IRLP node for the ham club where he works.

Speaking of working, Mike fixes PCs for Amgen in Thousand Oaks...but would rather be on vacation. He met his wife while working for Litton in Woodland Hills. He was a tech and she worked on the help desk. They hit things off very well and they can be found "horsing around" at their homestead somewhere near Lake LA.

Mike is a joy to hear on the frequencies, and always has a cheerful "hello" for those who share the air early in the morning and late at night. Hey, Mike, find any good deals on hay?



Mike Beckers KC6YQO

# PALMCASTER EQUIPMENT RENTALS

**RAY CRAMM**  
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