

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 2008

## President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

### Back in the EOC!

December Potluck will be our first meeting back in the EOC. The meeting will start at our normal time at 7:30PM on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

We were invited back by Bert Perry, the Lancaster Emergency Communication Officer. He was wondering why we hadn't come back after their construction was complete.

Our impression that the EOC had been converted to office space was not correct. It has changed to some degree, but it is still there. It can accommodate up to 92 people and the kitchen/lounge area is still in the same place.

There are now two doors on the North side of the building that lead into the EOC.

I'm told that Parks and Recreation staff will be on site to open up the room for us and that we will be able to enter exit through the North doors just as before. No more going through the front doors and through the building.

Our meetings days will change with the move back to the EOC. Starting this December, our meetings will be on the fourth Thursday of the month, except for November and December, which will be the third Thursday.

Just to keep things as confusing as

*(Continued on page 2)*



## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, November 6**, 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 November meeting will feature a presentation by our own **Jon Clark N6NQ** on Software Define Radios. The discussion will cover several examples of the hardware end of a SDR system, but focus on one of the most active designs, the "SoftRock" series of receivers and transceivers. The discussion will also include an introduction to several of software packages that are available A brief tutorial of what "software defined" really means, how some of the software works, and working demo of the "SoftRock Lite V8.3" SDR receiver. If you find this area intriguing, please be sure to attend our last meeting at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center at 7:30PM on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.



### Origin of the Word "Ham"

*Editor's note: The following article appeared in an early issue of the Short Circuit. Our thanks to Keith Hoyt K6GXO for submitting it for inclusion in this issue. The original author is unknown.*

The word "ham" as applied to Amateur Radio dates back to 1908 and was the call sign of the first amateur wireless station operated by some members of the Harvard Wireless Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Reggy Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray, but tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision. They thus changed their sign to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name. Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from Amateur Wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named the HYALMO. It was then the boys decided to use only the first letters of each name...the call became HAM. In the very early days of radio, amateur ops picked their own frequency and their own call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting confusion and interference finally came to the attention of Congressional committees, and they in turn gave much attention to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activities.

In 1911 Albert Hyman chose the controversial wireless legislation bill as his theses at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator Davis A. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Sena-

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# President's Corner...



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possible, remember that this November's meeting will be our last at the Cultural Center and that it will be on the first Thursday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

Start thinking about your favorite potluck dish and see you at the December meeting.

## Golden Guardian Exercise

The week of November 13<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup> will provide members of the club with two opportunities to participate in emergency communication drills.

### ARES/Red Cross Drill

This drill will be in support of the American Red Cross Antelope Valley Chapter at 2715 East Avenue P in Palmdale.

This drill will take place at 1:00PM on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Antelope Valley ARES group will establish four (or more) teams of ARES and club members. Teams will show up at 1:00PM at the location mentioned above.

Each team will be given a location assignment, where they will be responsible for providing equipment for and setting up a workable 2 meter and/or 440 station with the goal of establishing communication with the Red Cross station.

If this sounds like your "cup of tea", you will need to contact Eugene Humphreys to be add to the list of team volunteers.

### Club Neighborhood Drill

This drill will be available for all who wish to participate.

It will be held from 11:00AM to 12:00PM on the same day as the Red Cross drill mentioned above.

The intent of this drill is twofold. First, it will provide practice in using a repeater and simplex based net for emergency communication to club members.

Second, it will provide the opportunity for us to demonstrate to our neighbors the value of Amateur Radio to the community. A lot of folks do not know what we could do for them in an emergency. This is our chance to show them. This is also a wonderful opportunity to build the kind of relationships with your neighbors that could ease the way for a future antenna project you have in mind.

To participate in this drill, please send your email contact information to Jon at n6nq@roadrunner.com. We will use that email to send information about the drill, including a flyer that you can hand out to your neighbors.

73,

Jon N6NQ



# Swap Shop

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

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73 K6CEV  
John, Past President 83  
MV / Ventura

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# Ham Sandwich

by  
**Larry Bianchi AF6GF**

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 **Jesse Schwartz KI6PRG**.

Hi, I am Jesse Schwartz, aka KI6PRG and I was born in 1960 in the red apple, New York City. In 1968 my Dad took me flying lessons which sparked my interest in aviation. I went to aviation high school in New York City and learned all about aircraft maintenance. When I graduated from high school I also had my aircraft maintenance license. I have been working on airplanes since that time. I currently work for Federal Express and have been there since 1990.

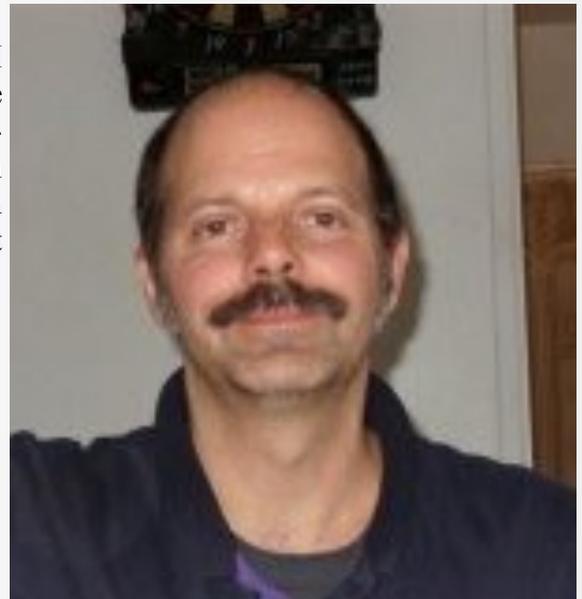
*"After I got my license I had a desire to learn as much as I can about ham radio."*

I met my wife, Deb, at a bible study. We have been married since Feb 16, 1984. I owe my license to my wife who got inter-

ested in ham radio back in 1998. We were interested in emergency services and communication. The whole family went to a class given at a park in Santa Clarita. Deb and 2 of my kids were able to finish the class and they all received their ham licenses. I was unable to finish the class and Deb pressured me for the next 10 years and finally, this past April, I was able to take the test and passed.

I have the tech license and I am now studying for the general. After I got my license I had a desire to learn as much as I can about ham radio. I do have an interest

in voice DX as well as communicating across the country. Emergency communications remain a strong desire for both of us. I really enjoy 'rag chewing' on the ole 2 Meter frequency and also have an interest in learning morse code. We have other interests that ham radio can be used which includes both gold prospecting and camping. Thank Heavens that Ham radio is there also. Both Deb and I hope to upgrade to general and perhaps .. beyond.



**Jesse Schwartz KI6PRG**

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## From the Secretary's Desk

### AVARC - General Meeting 2 Oct 2008

#### Opening:

Jon Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed. Thirty-nine individual participated.

#### Club Business:

**Meeting location:** Jon N6NQ indicated the club may be able to meet at the Lancaster EOC. Plan to have the December meeting at the new location. The venue has ample parking!

#### Golden Guardian:

o Jon discussed several ways individuals could participate. Suggestions included having a neighborhood meeting, sharing a flyer from the club regarding earthquakes or inviting individuals to your home to view your mobile unit.

o Pat WR6S suggested working with the Red Cross on Sunday, November 17. The Red Cross has requested 4 teams. Volunteers will meet at 1:00 pm, travel to

specific venues and set up simplex communications. If interested contact Jon or Eugene KG6SLC. No background check is required by the Red Cross for the event. Food will be provided afterwards.

o A meeting is scheduled with the city of Palmdale Friday, 3 Oct, to sort city involvement. More information and updates will be provided on the Wednesday evening nets.

**Hauser repeater:** Our beloved repeater was down this week due to a damaged power supply. Suspect the downtime was caused by a lightning strike since a second power supply also went down the same day, and since there was much thunderstorm activity in the area. Several individuals offered donations to help with expenses. Thank you to all, but donations are not accepted for the repeater.

**Radio education groups:** Plans for informal radio discussion sessions are in the works. Anticipate the initial gathering will be at Keith's K6GXO QTH. Attendees can view his equipment and discuss best practices. Remember, there is life beyond 2 meters!

**Club elections:** Thank you to all that participated. Drum roll please..... The new 2009 officers are:

President: Jon Clark N6NQ,

Vice President: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Secretary: Carol Humpherys KI6DWE

Treasurer: Don Jackson K6GET

Master-at-Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board members: Dan Sherwood WA6PZK, Larry Bianchi AF6GF,

**Presentation:** Anchors Away! Excellent participation this year. Many items changed hands and a fun time was had by all.

**Raffle:** The 50/50 raffle of \$10 was won by Frank N6FOD.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

**Carol Humpherys**

KI6DWE

Secretary 2008.

## Origin of the Word ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

tor was so impressed that he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through

they would have to close the station, because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements that were set up in the bill. The debate started, and the "little HAM" became the symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations that didn't want them around.

Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress, and every member talked about the poor little station HAM. That's how it all started, and you'll find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated Radio Station HAM with amateurs. From that day to this...and probably to the end of time...in radio language, an AMATEUR is a HAM.

## *A Blast from the Past*

*Not too long ago, your editor and the vice president were crawling around in the dusty old archives of AVARC. Along with the spiders and cobwebs, we unearthed some treasures from the Club's past. We thought it would be fun to share our findings with the members. This month we have an article that appeared in the **February 1996** issue of the Short Circuit. This was one of a series of columns written by **David Shapiro KD6MSU**. Each month, for several years, the column, called DC to Light, would feature a simple electronic gadget designed by David, along with an explanation and a schematic diagram. We hope you enjoy this new addition to the Club newsletter.*

# DC TO LIGHT

It seems that every time I get into a good round table and really get involved in a great bull session, I forget to ID on time. Well, not being a scofflaw, I decided to put together a circuit that would warn me when the 10-minute mark was coming up.

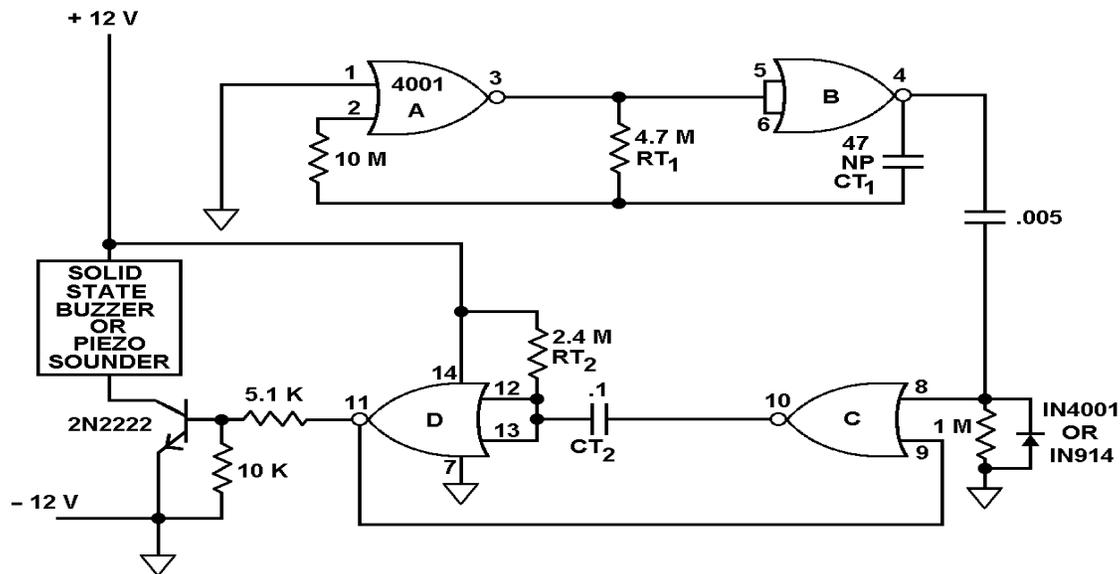
The heart of the circuit is a CD4001 chip that is as plentiful as air. The 4001 is a group of 4 NOR gates that can be configured to perform as both an oscillator and a 1 shot.

Gates A and B are wired as the oscillator, and their frequency is determined by RT1 and CT1. The extremely long cycle of 9 minutes is easy, due to the fact that CMOS chips have almost no loading because of their high impedance. If we hooked a beeper up to this circuit we would hear a steady tone for 4½ minutes and silence for 4½ minutes. We need something else to give us a 1 second burst at the start of the cycle. Gates C and D are configured as a 1 shot and gets a starting pulse every time the oscillator starts a new cycle. The length of the burst is determined by CT2 and RT2. Since the beeper will draw too much current for the chip to provide, we add a transistor to handle the current requirements of the beeper.

The whole thing draws so little current that it can be left running without ever turning it off.

It only took about an hour to build and it was under \$ 2.00 in parts.  
Build one of these puppies and you will never have to say "I forgot".

DE David KD6MSU



ALL RESISTORS ¼ W ALL CAPS IN MFD. NP = NO POLARITY



### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2008 Officers

<b>President</b>	Jon Clark	N6NQ	661-305-6969
<b>Vice President</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Humpherys	KI6DWE	265-0466
<b>Treasurer</b>	Don Jackson	K6GET	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>	Larry Bianchi	AF6GF	538-9142
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	265-0466



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To ARS: