
The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2009

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

Field Day – I was recently chatting on the repeater with a fellow club member. The subject was Field Day and how to get more involvement from our newer members. Upon hearing our questions and thoughts about possible answers, one of my favorite mentors jumped into the conversation. As always, he provided some insightful opinions about the causes and solutions to the problem we were discussing.

His thoughts centered on the idea that club members interest will tend to follow the drift of the club. If the club has been supporting and educating towards emergency communications then the membership, as a whole, will begin to show more interest in em comm. Same thing would apply to any other subject we might choose to support.

What should we be supporting? That's an interesting question. I've asked it a few times before. I've never heard much response. Please understand that the previous sentence is not intended as a criticism. It is just a statement about the nature of the club. This is a general interest club. Therefore the interest of the club will seem vague and can move around from time to time. This movement can and should be driven by the board and club

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**UNITED
WE STAND**

Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 26, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Lancaster City Hall, 44933 N. Fern Ave. in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature our own **Jon Clark N6NQ**, who will lead us in a discussion of hf propagation. This is a fascinating topic that should be of interest to all AVARC members, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a very informative and fun evening.

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

I just returned from an exciting weekend participating in "Baker 2 Vegas" or B2V, just about 26 miles from the 15 Freeway, and about the same distance from the town of Pahrump, Nevada. I drove with Don Jackson K6GET, and pulled my Polaris Quad with me to ride around the mountains while we had some down time, together with a whole bunch of other equipment and lots and lots of warm clothing.

We were expecting real cold weather on Saturday night, being a month earlier than our outing last year. To our amazement, the temperature dropped only to 39 degrees and not to 25 degrees like last year.

We worked Stage 15 on the chip timing table. Don and I had Larry Bianchi KG1B and Chris Aberle KB7IAY with us. Chris missed us so much that he flew out to meet us at the stage from Maryland where he now lives and works. He got there on Saturday afternoon, and flew back on Sunday. What a trooper!

Dan WA6PZK and Adrienne WA6YEO drove up with their toy box trailer full of much more equipment and more warm clothing, and met us up there on Friday night. We set everything up on Saturday prior to the stage going live about 9 p.m. that evening. We worked the

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President's Corner...



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officers. It can also be driven by the membership. Just tell any of the officers that you are interested in "X" and we'll try to find a way to support that interest. You may find that the club has no resource and that you are one of the more knowledgeable members on that subject. You might be the best resource the club has to support that interest. If you're interested in something, be prepared to be involved.

How does all this relate to Field Day? Well, this club has always participated in Field Day. I think this tradition is worth preserving. It provides a sampler of contesting, DXing, HF operating and emergency operations. To keep this traditional alive, we need to promote Field Day and HF operating to all members who have an interest and in particular to those who have not experienced HF operating. There is a certain magic to long distance radio communication. It's a special kind of thrill when you put up a new antenna and make a contact with somebody "way out there".

We need to have new members involved in Field Day to keep our desire and ability to participate in this event strong. It is through this event that the club has its best opportunity for the experienced HF operators to share their knowledge and

enthusiasm with newer hams and therefore prolong the club's ability to participate in Field Day. So the whole thing is circular. The club supports Field Day, to show new hams the fun of HF, so that more members will participate and support Field Day, so that we can train new hams, and on and on.

Besides publishing long winded, circular articles like this, another way the club can support Field Day and HF operating is to steer some of our net discussions and club presentations in that direction. Starting before this article is published; we will add tech topics to our round table discussion on net nights. For the next few weeks, I will be leading discussions about topics related to HF operating. I encourage all of you to participate, to contribute and to learn from each other. I encourage any and all to bring additional subjects to the nets. We probably can't get to them all in one night, but we can save them for following weeks and have

plenty to talk about and learn from each other.

As a first presentation, to wet your appetites for some HF operating, I will lead a discussion about many of the interesting aspects of HF propagation. Propagation ultimately controls what you can and can't do with HF communication. A study of propagation's behavior and the factors that influence it is a very important tool for anyone that wants to operate on the HF bands.

I won't be bringing you this presentation as a deeply experienced HFER. But I will come prepared to lead a group discussion on the subject and I hope to have the participation of all of our experienced HF operators. See you at the March meeting.

73,

Jon N6NQ

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From the VEEP...



chip timing table from the time the first runner arrived around 9:45 p.m. until the last team runner arrived at about 5:30 a.m. The whole time one of us was marking the time they arrived and the other was marking the time of the hand off to their relay team member.

This year, Dan decided to change the arrangement of what is known as the whiteboard, at which we station one person also out in the bitter cold to list the runners and their time as they enter the one mile warning zone. This enables their team members waiting for them to enjoy about a 12-minute window at Stage 15 to wake up their next runner and get him or her ready for the handoff and then to take the baton to Stage 16. Dan created a program on Excel on his laptop computer and hooked it up to his projector, which was set up inside his trailer but able to project it through an opening to the outside where we had the white board set up for all the teams and the spectators to view outside. Both Dan and Adrienne were able to stay in the warm environment with Carol Humpherys KI6DWE (excuse me) now AF6OV.

Carol was our primary voice, and announced the runners as they arrived at the early warning station manned by Dan Rowlan KG6PQA and his wife Beverly and club member Bill Strait K2OXG. We had Keith Hoyt K6GXO stationed as stage com-

munications liason and Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, the ham responsible for the coordination of our entire stage. Eugene also provided much needed relief for those who needed to take naps throughout the long cold night and hot coffee to keep us warmed up.

All in all, it was once again a rewarding experience, and much as we say we're not sure about handling the cold again next year, we would surely not want to miss out on this great ham experience.

73,

Margie KG6TBR



Run ID #	Time	Run ID #	Time	Run ID #
64	11:58:00 PM	64	12:00:00 AM	65
65	12:00:00 AM	65	12:02:00 AM	66
66	12:02:00 AM	66	12:04:00 AM	67
67	12:04:00 AM	67	12:06:00 AM	68
68	12:06:00 AM	68	12:08:00 AM	69
69	12:08:00 AM	69	12:10:00 AM	70
70	12:10:00 AM	70	12:12:00 AM	71
71	12:12:00 AM	71	12:14:00 AM	72
72	12:14:00 AM	72	12:16:00 AM	73
73	12:16:00 AM	73	12:18:00 AM	74
74	12:18:00 AM	74	12:20:00 AM	75
75	12:20:00 AM	75	12:22:00 AM	76
76	12:22:00 AM	76	12:24:00 AM	77
77	12:24:00 AM	77	12:26:00 AM	78
78	12:26:00 AM	78	12:28:00 AM	79
79	12:28:00 AM	79	12:30:00 AM	80
80	12:30:00 AM	80	12:32:00 AM	81
81	12:32:00 AM	81	12:34:00 AM	82
82	12:34:00 AM	82	12:36:00 AM	83
83	12:36:00 AM	83	12:38:00 AM	84
84	12:38:00 AM	84	12:40:00 AM	85
85	12:40:00 AM	85	12:42:00 AM	86
86	12:42:00 AM	86	12:44:00 AM	87
87	12:44:00 AM	87	12:46:00 AM	88
88	12:46:00 AM	88	12:48:00 AM	89
89	12:48:00 AM	89	12:50:00 AM	90
90	12:50:00 AM	90	12:52:00 AM	91
91	12:52:00 AM	91	12:54:00 AM	92
92	12:54:00 AM	92	12:56:00 AM	93
93	12:56:00 AM	93	12:58:00 AM	94
94	12:58:00 AM	94	12:00:00 AM	95
95	12:00:00 AM	95	12:02:00 AM	96
96	12:02:00 AM	96	12:04:00 AM	97
97	12:04:00 AM	97	12:06:00 AM	98
98	12:06:00 AM	98	12:08:00 AM	99
99	12:08:00 AM	99	12:10:00 AM	100
100	12:10:00 AM	100	12:12:00 AM	101
101	12:12:00 AM	101	12:14:00 AM	102
102	12:14:00 AM	102	12:16:00 AM	103
103	12:16:00 AM	103	12:18:00 AM	104
104	12:18:00 AM	104	12:20:00 AM	105
105	12:20:00 AM	105	12:22:00 AM	106
106	12:22:00 AM	106	12:24:00 AM	107
107	12:24:00 AM	107	12:26:00 AM	108
108	12:26:00 AM	108	12:28:00 AM	109
109	12:28:00 AM	109	12:30:00 AM	110

Swap Shop

HAM STUFF FOR SALE

An almost new Bencher Iambic Paddle. The Paddle is the chrome-based one. It is in 'excellent' to new condition. \$50

An original Don Johnson, W6AAQ, Screwdriver Antenna in the original cardboard box I purchased the thing in. It has never been 'worked-on or assembled' and I have a lot of correspondence with Don about the antenna. \$100

An old Kenwood TM-241 2M transceiver including the instruction manual & schematics. 5, 10 & 50 Watt Output. \$25

A good 'copy' of a J-39 Telegraph Key mounted on a heavy, large brass base. \$10

50' RG8U pre-made coax. \$10

An old Log Periodic Antenna from Elk Antennas. This one is 2M only and I have all the documentation. (In 1997 this antenna sold for \$45.) Included is an 'extra' element. A claimed 8.4 dB Gain on a 24" boom. \$15

A 35' Coax Mini-8 with S0-239's on the ends. \$10

A 5' & 6' pre-made length of Coax for use with an SWR meter. \$5 each.

A Daiwa CN-460M Match Needle mobile-type (small) SWR meter, 140-450 MHz, 50 ohm, 15/150 Watt. \$15

An 'inexpensive-type' 3-30 MHz HF SWR Meter. \$10

A 'homebrew' 7 element Yagi Beam for 2M. Excellent construction. Gamma Matched. (Talk to me.) \$10

An old 12AVQ HyGain Vertical Antenna with instructions for 10, 15 & 20 M. \$25

Dave Dyke N6XOS
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