

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

April 2009

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

I write this column at the end of a day that was a very busy day for many of the members of the AVARC. A number of our members were in Visalia today, attending the DX Convention. I wish I were there with them. That is one of the better conventions, in my book.

Another group of club members were providing communications services for the MS Walk in Lancaster this morning. I heard you all on the radio this morning as I drove by on my radio mission.

I was on my way to the Rosamond Airport, where I was one of several speakers at a 4H Science Fair. It was an interesting and fun event. They had speakers for a number of subjects. I saw speakers on Plant Science, Flight Engineering, Solar Cooking and of course Amateur Radio.

I spoke to two groups, the first was mostly teenagers and there were about twenty kids listening. The second group was smaller and was comprised of younger kids, maybe 8, 9 and 10.

With the older kids, we covered a range of topics, focusing on what amateur radio is about. We covered education, the fun of amateur radio, the social aspects of the hobby and community service. I then took the older kids into a discussion and hands on with the equipment I brought to show. While I covered HF Radios and kit building, the teenagers were asking more questions about the HT and repeater parts of the hobby. The discussion moved into a comparison between HT/repeaters and cell phones. Their questions focused mainly on the differences between cell phones and HT/mobile/repeater systems. They seemed to have a good appreciation for the ability of an HT or mobile in a "no cell tower, no repeater" type of situation. It was gratifying to see their quick understanding of the simplex concept and the advantage that simplex provides in an emergency situation. We finished that talk with a short demo of a 2 meter

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 23, 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 **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**, with a presentation on Logbook of the World. Come join us and learn more about the art of the electronic QSL.



Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

I have been doing some research into a program that I can personally present to the club as our April guest speaker. I get and read the ARRL club newsletter each week and have been trying to come up with some fresh and new ideas. This also is a good statement as to why being a member of ARRL is very important to all those who hold Amateur Radio licenses. They have a library on their web page and you can find all sorts of information on any of a number of subjects related to our hobby. I have chosen the program on "Log Book of the World". I think some "old timers" in this hobby may think "big deal, who needs that?". For someone like me who has not used this particular instrument, and really does not now have anything set up computer wise for logging contacts, but who uses the method of handwritten logs, it can open up a new way to keep track of the contacts and sort them out for reference later.

There was also another program available to download (which I did for future use) on contesting, which could be used appropriately for the next meeting in May as it relates (in my opinion as well as a reference to field day contesting in the set of slides) to why contesting is good for Field Day. Even though a recent discussion by some of our board

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President's Corner...

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repeater contact. Thanks to Dan, W6DAW for being the other end of that contact.

With the younger kids, we took a much simpler path. We just played with the radios for a bit and while we played, I explained repeaters. I didn't go too far into details with these kids, they were more interested in poking buttons and flashing lights.

I did manage to focus their attention when I grab an HT and made a call on Dick Miller's IRLP repeater. I had talked to him earlier in the morning and he left the repeater on the Western Reflector. Their eyes got big when my first call brought back a strange sounding voice with a thick accent. One of the kids asked in wonder, "What did he say? I can't understand him!" I translated for them and we continued the QSO. We learned that we were talking to Mick, who was about 60 kilometers outside of London. Mick had a pretty strong Scottish style accent.

We did a little "third -party" traffic and several of the kids got to say hello to Mick. Mick was certainly a good sport about it. (Most hams are, when given a chance to introduce amateur radio to some kids.)

When we finished the QSO with Mick, I explained IRLP and the hops we had made to go from Rosamond to Palmdale, on to the Western reflector in Las Vegas, from there to England and out to Mick's mobile rig. As it sunk into them, that they had just talked to someone in England, they got pretty excited and their moms and dads were pretty impressed as well. I'm willing to bet that most (if not all) of those kids had never talked to anyone from outside the country.

It was a very rewarding day for me. The looks on some of the kids' faces when Mick threw out his first words was priceless. I think the club will be invited back next year. So if you would like to have a little fun, plan on coming

along next year. Or find another group of kids and spread the wealth and the fun.

P.S. I took my camera, hoping to have a picture or two for this article but I was in a hurry this morning and took off with dead batteries. Rats!

73,

Jon N6NQ

MS WALK 2009



Net Control KD6MSU with WA6YEO and N6FOD



Curt Aman KE7RMX



Mike AF6KM at Rest Stop 4

Photos by WA6PZK

From the VEEP...

members did not seem to feel the importance about us serious Field Day testers, I personally want to remind them that it is the way I learned to feel comfortable using the radios and being to make exchanges without feeling afraid to get on the air. I might want to interject some photos of my friend Ron's ranch (K6WLC) and show photos of us working up on top of the hill repairing the tower (I remember when he laid it down using the crank/pulley and the jeep). I think this kind of demonstration will show that anyone can do this stuff with a little help from their ham friends.. Both fun and educational and an excellent way to learn the ropes (or the wires!).

73,

Marjie K6TBR

PALMCASTER EQUIPMENT RENTALS

RAY CRAMM
Manager

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From the Secretary's Desk

AVARC General Meeting 26 February 2009

Opening:

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm. After which the Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed with thirty-one individuals participating. The February 2009 meeting minutes were accepted. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds \$4,799.14.

Club Business:

ARRL Newslines: Club donated \$200 to Newslines.

Palmdale ordinance: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC: We are waiting for a response for the city on the proposed ordinance. Given the judgment against the city, the city may be reconsidering their position. The City of San Diego modified their position after the Palmdale decision came down. The Judge used the wording 'egregious' in the verbal ruling. We are waiting to see the wording in the final written court judgment.

Insurance premium: The premium (~\$450) is due. Club membership voted to pay the premium.

Baker to Vegas: Coordination meeting will be held at KG6SLC's QTH on Saturday, February 28th at 5:30 pm,

DX convention: Scheduled for April 17-19 in Visalia. The registration fee is \$90.

4H Ham Radio Presentation: John Clark N6NQ coordinating. Event occurring April 18th, 10:00 am at the Rosemond Airport.

M Squared: The Fresno event will be held March 21st.

Hamvention: Dayton, Ohio. April 28th.

Field day: Coming! Let's start thinking about it!

Test Session: Saturday, March 7th, 9:00 am.

Presentation:

Joy Matlack shared the 2009 plan for the Baker 2 Vegas Challenge Cup Relay, allowing us to reminisce about the 'magic' RF bush, sleet, hail and sub-freezing temperatures. Nevertheless, we

are looking forward to this year's event! (Secretary Carol Humpherys modeled the team attire—a denim shirt, a back T-shirt and a wonderful Aussie style hat!

The meeting concluded at 9:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Carol Humpherys

KI6DWE

Secretary 2008

AVARC General Meeting 26 March 2009

Opening:

John Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed with twenty-seven individuals participating. The February 2009 meeting minutes were skipped. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds \$5,017.39. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Club Business:

Special test session: John Berger KN6VL indicated a special test session is scheduled at the Bass Pro Shop in Rancho Cucamonga off the 15 freeway, on Saturday, April 25th at 10:00 am. The session is sponsored by the Outdoor Adventure USA club, a group combining the hobbies of ham radio and outdoor recreational activities. For information please call 942-6319.

AV test session: Next session Monday, April 13th – not April 6th.

Baker to Vegas: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC shared an e-mail from Joy Matlack thanking us for our participation. The race was complicated in that Richard Nuffer, a first year volunteer at stage 4, suffered a heart attack and died.

Field Day: Clothing available on line or from Dan Rowlan KG6PGA. Please have your funds (cash) at the next club meeting. Warning: Size selection runs out quickly. The shirts are hunter green this year. Cost: Shirt - \$15.00, Pin - \$5.00, Hat - \$10.00.

Antenna purchase:

Club members discussed a possible purchase of a Step IR antenna. Anticipated costs:

Antenna (w/controller & Power supply):	\$ 759.00
80M coil:	\$ 325.00
Balun:	\$ 45.00
Contr. cable:	\$ 63.50
16ft radials (4):	\$ 16.00
Total:	\$ 1,208.50

The Antenna is vertical, multi-band and easier to set up than the current club antenna. Anticipated uses are field day, emergencies and other educational purposes. Shipping time is 3-4 weeks.

A motion to purchase the antenna was made, seconded, and passed. An additional motion was made to allow the board to spend up to \$1,500 on the purchase. The motion carried with a vote of 21 for and 3 against.

Presentation:

John Clark N6NQ gave an excellent presentation on *Propagation – You can't get from here to there without it*. Thank you John!

The raffle was won by Margie - \$16. The meeting concluded at 9:29 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Carol Humpherys

KI6DWE

Secretary 2008

Swap Shop

ANTENNA AND TOWER

I have a TH7DXX mounted atop a 30 to 40 foot guyed tower with a 20 foot chrome molly mast. If anyone is interested in the gear they can have it for the cost of taking it down. Call Chuck WA6R at 942-2165 or send an email to raven@qnet.com.

Chuck WA6R



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Officers

President	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Treasurer	Don Jackson	K6GET	948-4762
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Board Member	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	538-9142
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616



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