

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

June 2009

## President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

### Field Day Is On Us

By the time you read this, it will be about one week until Field Day. Please cross your fingers with me about the weather. So far, summer is being held at bay by this heavy "June Gloom" we've been seeing every morning on the way to work. If only it could last through the last weekend of June. How nice would it be to have a Field Day that was less than 90 degrees? So I ask you again to please cross your fingers with me.

We will be working with a new antenna this year. The club has purchased a new SteppIR Vertical. This antenna will tune to any frequency between 80 meters and 6 meters. While it is a vertical, it should perform fairly well because it will be at resonance at every frequency we operate on. This will be our first run with this antenna and it should be an interesting learning experience. This antenna will also be a pleasure to put up. We've already put it up once. After seeing how easily it can be put up, I'm confident that one person could put this antenna up. That's a very important attribute for this antenna. One reason we bought it was so the club would have an antenna that one person could put up and take down in an emergency.

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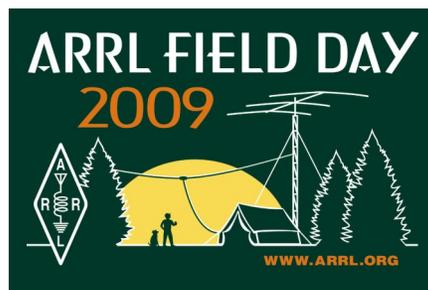


## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, June 25**, 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.

At this month's meeting we will hear a brief presentation from **David Greenhut N6HD**, and finalize our plans for Field Day. Please join us and learn more about how you can become involved with our club's premier operating event of the year.



## From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Field Day will soon be once again upon us very quickly, so we should all be "Where the spirit of 'Amateur Radio Past' joins forces with the Next Generation of Innovations, Interests and Individuals!!!" This is according to the latest ARRL Field Day update. As far as myself, I get excited each year to see what adventures this year's events will bring. I really look forward to getting out there, preparing my equipment, working with all my ham friends to put together various rigs and stations and sitting around afterwards looking toward the events for the weekend activities.

Field Day is the most popular event in amateur radio, as not only does it allow on the air operating, but being able to demonstrate what we do in this hobby. This club typically sets up several stations, and even though it appears to be similar each year after year, it really is not, as we are open to any new ideas that folks will bring to the event. Each person there is able to participate in whatever they can to contribute to the whole event. We have some folks operating stations, some demonstrating operating techniques, and some educational information to enable the public to learn more about what amateur radio is all about. We will have an information table, and I am encouraging our members to please contact me prior to the weekend events and ask what you can do to help out. Please get out to Lancaster City Park on Friday after 12 noon if you can help out in any way for the setting up. If you cannot do this, please come out on Saturday as early as you can and show that you can be part of the club activities for the weekend. You will be so amazed at what is going on, and this is your chance to show the public, your friends and neighbors the fun and excitement that ham radio can offer to our community. So exciting. Come on out and join in the fun!

73,

Margie KG6TBR

## President's Corner...



*(Continued from page 1)*

You will also see a new winch on the club's tower trailer. The drive gear on the old winch had a bent and broken tooth and was becoming unsafe to use. The new winch will greatly enhance the safety and operation of tower. The new winch is a raising and lowering winch. This means that it does not free-wheel. You don't ever release the pawl on this winch. Just wind in the opposite direction and down the tower comes. If you let go of the handle, the tower stops right there. I think we replace the other winch as well. We'll discuss that at a future board meeting.

We'll be operating more stations this year. We've decided that we should encourage anyone that wants to setup a station, to do so. This will probably mean that we'll have to do some time slicing on whatever bands are open during the day. The last couple of years, we've only had 20 meters during the day, but lately there have been openings on 15, 10 and 6 meters. So keep you fingers crossed.

Dan Warren, W6DAW has been put out of commission for Field Day. He had an accident and hurt his hip and broke his arm. He will not be able to deploy the PSK station that he had planned. If anyone would to step forward with another station, please do so. You'll need an HF rig and ideally you can bring some sort of antenna for 20, 15 or 10 meters.

Beyond that, I would like everyone to join with me in hoping for Dan's speeding recovery.

Last on the Field Day front, we'll have a Porta-Pottie at the park for use of members and guest. This will be real handy in the middle of the night, when the park's bathrooms are locked.

### David Greenhut

David Greenhut, N6HD, has decided to run for ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager. This will pit him against Phineas J. Icenbice Jr, W6BF. Mr. Icenbice has been the section manager for some time. I believe Phineas Icenbice has probably been a credit to the office and the League, but I've personally not heard much from him in the time I've been associated with the AVARC. I have heard quite a bit from David Greenhut. I believe that the LAX Section of ARES has come back from the dead to be a very active group, largely through the efforts of David Greenhut. I don't know it for a fact, but I also believe that David played a part in Eugene Humpherys' assignment as the High Desert District Manager. David will speak briefly at our June meeting, and I'm waiting for a response from Phineas Icenbice.

73,

Jon N6NQ

## Local Hams Remember Don Moore W6DMM-SK

The local ham radio community was saddened to learn of the passing of Don Moore W6DMM on June 5, due to complications from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Don was an active member of AVARC for many years, and also served as a Volunteer Examiner.



**Don Moore W6DMM—SK  
1946-2009**

Dan Sherwood WA6PZK says, "Don was one of the most intellectually advanced people I have ever met. Along with that, he was 'street smart' – a combination of talents you don't see very often. Who else could have accurately predicted the shape the economy is in today? He used to talk about what would happen when the price of gasoline reached \$4.60 a gallon, the housing crunch, the coming recession, just about EVERYTHING that has occurred in the last year. This was back in the late 1990's, over coffee down at the old California Pantry restaurant during one of our 'almost all-night' Friday night gatherings! If it was about aviation, or just about anything else, Don was the resident expert. If you could think about the IDEAL candidate for a presidential cabinet post, in a number of capacities, Don would have been the one. Don certainly had the 'Knack'. He will definitely be missed."

Jim Zimmerman N6KZ says, "He lived just around the corner from my old house on Dallin Street in Lancaster for years. He retired about 3 years ago and moved over to Prescott, AZ, where I often visited him when Linda and I went there, checking out the Prescott area (his Prescott home is only a mile away from where we're building our new house). We had been seeing each other whenever we would visit Prescott, so we knew that he was ill/failing and didn't have much time left. He was an active ham to the last, often heard on the local 2-meter repeaters, going to the local ham club meetings, and operating from his wheelchair. A great, fun guy who loved hamming and talking to everyone."



## From the Secretary's Desk

### AVARC General Meeting Minutes – 28 May 2009

#### Opening:

Jon Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed with twenty-three individuals participating. The April meeting minutes were approved as published in the Short Circuit. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds total \$3,466.86. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

#### Club Business:

**WB6X Court Decision:** The City of Palmdale filed an eleventh hour appeal. Timelines lines and next steps unknown. A positive outcome will be a strong precedent California hams.

**Insurance:** Received the May 2009 insurance certificate. Jon will request the Field Day binder for the City of Lancaster.

**Antenna purchase:** As approved by the club, Keith Hoyt K6GXO placed the multi-band vertical antenna order with Step IR. Final cost targeted at \$1,224. No sales

tax! Shipping anticipated to be about \$70, or may even be 'no charge'.

**Don Moore W6WMM:** David Allday KD6LEY recently visited with Don Moore W6WMM in Prescott, Arizona. Don is weak, in a wheelchair, but is doing well.

#### Presentation - Field Day Planning Session:

Field day is scheduled for the last weekend in June, June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Stations:** How many stations do we want to have? Two stations are lined up now – the club trailer antenna and the new vertical. Decision: Club members should bring what they have. Six individuals indicated they plan to bring a station.

How many stations do we want to claim? In the past we have been 2 Alpha or 3Alpha. There are very few 4 Alpha. Suggestion: Claim a large number, such as 36, to win that category. Decision: TBD.

Duplicate contact concern: With several stations working the same band, many contacts may be duplicates.

**Logging software:** The logging software is important. All 'contesting' stations should submit their contacts in the N1MM. Software available on Google. Please use the current version.

**Food:** A Saturday afternoon Barbeque is planned: Motion made and passed for the club to sponsor the cost. Carol Humpherys AF6OV will coordinate. Menu: Burgers and hot dogs! Sunday Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO will host her famous pancake breakfast.

**Pre-field day Tasks:** Need to assemble the step IR vertical. Need to place the winch on the trailer. An antenna party is planned at Keith's QTH for Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Port-a-party rental:** Cost \$85. Would arrive Friday and be picked up Monday. The final utilization decision will be made at the Board meeting.

**Misc:** What is the focus? Contesting or public contact/promotion? Or both? Unclear.

Will invite scout troops. Will contact CERT. Need to contact the rental yard regarding renting tables and chairs – 8 tables and 20 chairs. Plan to set up Friday afternoon. Filters are available for use by club members. Control operators using the club call should have a copy of their license.

**Raffle:** The cash raffle of \$14 was won by Dan. The meeting concluded at 9:08 pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
*Carol Humpherys*  
AF6OV

Secretary 2009

# 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 2009 Officers

<b>President</b>	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969
<b>Vice President</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
<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	KG1B	538-9142
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616



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To ARS: