

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2009

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

Palmdale Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment:

As you may have heard, the City of Palmdale Planning Commission has put forward a new version of their amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The amendment addresses amateur antennas and over-the-air television antennas. The Planning Commission held a hearing on July the 9th. It was well attended by club members and other amateurs from the valley and surrounding areas. Marty Woll, our ARRL Vice Director and Len Shaffer, the attorney that represented Alec Zubaru, were there as well.

Despite the best efforts of all who spoke against the ordinance, the Planning Commission voted 5 to 0 to pass the ordinance on to the City Council. This may seem disappointing, but it is the result that many of us expected. Please don't think that we are just a bunch a pessimists. The Planning Commission was charged by the City Council to come up with a new ordinance. The Commission members are appointed by the Mayor and the City Council, and as such are responsible to the Mayor and not the public. So while one or two on the commission showed some interest in our concerns, they were still going to do what the mayor asked them to do.

They want to believe that

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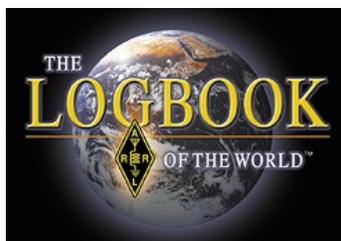


UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 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.



From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Well, another Field Day has passed, and we are now in the process of gathering the statistics in order to submit our scores to the ARRL. It sure is amazing how the week prior to Field Day can be in the 60's and then when that day arrives, it suddenly is 105°. Ouch.

Well, after using plenty of sunscreen, energy bars and elbow grease, we finally set up the stations, antennas and power systems. Much thanks to all who came out in the heat to help out. We had some new folks, too, and I appreciated the ones who came out early on Friday and then came back early on Sunday to set up and then to tear down. That is where the help is needed most and it also is where we all find out how we work together.

It's a great experience to get a bunch of folks out on the grass, and together we create a series of stations and can test them all out and see how we do. I did not hear of anyone having any particular issues with not being able to send and hear so I don't think we were de-sensing each other.

Thanks to the station captains for being there and making this another great weekend event. Thanks to Adrienne WA6YEO for making the pancakes on Sunday, Dan

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President's Corner...



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they've made a significant compromise in allowing six feet over the highest point on our roof as the "by-rights" height and 15 feet with a minor modification. However, the new draft still contains a lot of language about process and inspections and regulation of interface, a bunch of stuff that would really make it tough for amateurs to do what they would normally do to improve the performance of their station.

I believe that they have no idea about the kind of constraint they are placing on this hobby or kind of damage that it would here and in many other places. They don't know or they don't care. Probably both.

We need to oppose this as strongly as we can. We need to oppose for our sakes. We need to oppose it for the sake of all hams who might get caught in copy-cat ordinances in other cities.

What can we do?

First, we can all get busy with the petition that we started back in January. Get it signed by every amateur in Palmdale, by every house we can find that has any kind of antenna on it and finally by anyone we can find who is sympathetic.

Second, we have a good chance to influence the City Council and the Mayor. Meetings are already scheduled with the city's emergency services department and the City Manager, to apply pressure on the Council from inside the City. The emergency

services department has plans that rely on amateur communication abilities. A meeting has also been scheduled with the Mayor. The main thrust with the Mayor is to convince him that if the Council passes this ordinance as drafted, it will likely involve the City in another law suit. A suit they are very likely to lose. This could become a political albatross for the mayor if the story were to make the papers.

I think we have a reasonable shot at stopping this before the Council votes on it. But we have to really start pushing now. Please take copies of the petition at next week's meeting. When this ordinance is scheduled to be heard by the Council, please attend the hearing. If your want to contribute to the thinking and work, please send email to n6nq@roadrunner.com. You will receive an invitation email to join the "crava" group at yahoo/groups.

73,

Jon N6NQ

From the Veep... 

KG6PQA and Beverly Rowlan for making the burritos on Saturday, and Eugene KG6SLC and Carol AF6OV for handling the wonderful BBQ on Saturday night.

I hope you like the photos I promised you of me pulling the port-a-potty. Unfortunately, I did not get one of the LA County Deputy Sheriff giving me the ticket for the mismatched electrical hook up, but I want to thank Keith AF6GB and Don Jackson K6GET and Dan Rowlan KG6PQA for the rewire which enabled me to take the Gotta Go Station back to the lot we rented it from. Next year, you guys can all go in the bushes !!!

73,

Margie KG6TBR

Got Field Day Pix?

If you have pictures of the AVARC 2009 Field Day, e-mail them to the Short Circuit editor at wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net. We will print them in the August issue of the club newsletter.

PALMCASTER EQUIPMENT RENTALS

RAY CRAMM
Manager

Office: (661) 723-1400
Fax: (661) 949-8023



633 West Ave. M. Palmdale, CA 93551





From the Secretary's Desk

**AVARC General Meeting Minutes
– 25 Jun 2009**

Opening:

Jon Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed with thirty-two individuals participating.

Presentation immediately followed.

Presentation:

David Greenhut N6HD discussed his candidacy for Los Angeles Session Leader, reviewed Field day opportunities, and clarified ARRL services.

Club Business:

Palmdale ordinance: A new, modified ordinance is on the table. Key change from the last version is an increase in antenna height from 1 inch above the roof line to 6 feet. Ordinance remains unacceptable. A City Planning Commission hearing to review the ordinance is scheduled for July 9th. Expect that the planning commission will hear testimony and, regardless of the testimony, forward the ordinance to the city council. It is critical that local Hams to be present in force and communicate strong local opposition to the ordinance. Individuals must make a cogent argument and address all the issues in a non-emotional context. Anticipate a club

conference call will occur after Field Day to coordinate.

Field Day Planning:

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

Set-up starts Friday at 12:00 noon and will continue all afternoon. Remember to bring water, chairs, etc! Operating hours are from 11: 00 am Saturday to 11:00 am Sunday.

The Valley Press will feature a local article covering the event.

Stations: How many stations do we want to have? Currently two antennas are available – 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 3 Alpha. There are very few 4 Alpha. Suggestion: Claim a large number, such as 36. Final 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. 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 6th.

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.

Other business:

The May meeting minutes were approved as published in the Short Circuit. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET was out of town: The Treasurer’s Report was skipped.

Raffle: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO won the cash raffle of \$21.

The meeting concluded at 9:06 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Carol Humpherys
AF6OV

Secretary 2009

Antelope Valley Volunteer Examiner Team 2009 Amateur Radio Exam Schedule

Here is the VE schedule for the rest of 2009. For more information, call Adrienne WA6YEO at (661) 264-1863.

| Session | Date | Day | Time |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| GLAARG | 8/03/09 | Monday | 7 P.M. |
| ARRL | 9/05/09 | Saturday | 9 A.M. |
| GLAARG | 10/05/09 | Monday | 7 P.M. |
| GLAARG | 11/07/09 | Saturday | 9 A.M. |
| ARRL | 12/07/09 | Monday | 7 P.M. |





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 |



The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX
 Post Office Box 1011
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To ARS: