

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2009

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

Elections

The club bylaws state that we need to elect officers for 2010 at the October meeting. That means that we need to start the nomination process at the September meeting. So start thinking about who you want to have running your club.

Notice that I said "your club". This is your club. It belongs to each and every one of us. That means more than just paying your dues and coming to meetings. That means participating in the club in all the ways you can. We will always need people to step up and fill the roles that are required to make the club go.

I encourage you all, members new and old, to consider volunteering to run for officer or board member. We all need to pitch from time to time to keep the club going.

Things undone

As I approach the end of my turn as the "prez", I've been thinking about: What do I need to finish up? What have I started that is not done? I've thought a few, there are probably more that I will think of as well. One that came to mind was mentoring and an "elmer list". (Really, it was KN6CW that brought to my mind, he wants to ask some one to some digital mode issues.)

I brought this subject up about a year ago, when other members asked about elmers at a meeting. I wrote an article about elmering at that time. I'm bring it too you again. I'd like to get something accomplished on this before the end of the year. Here's most of that article:

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 27, 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 speaker will be **Joe Perry Jr. WB6DCO**, with a fascinating presentation on astronomy. Joe will be bringing several telescopes, and club members will have an opportunity to get a good look at Jupiter. This should be a lot of fun for everyone, so be sure to mark your calendars!



14-foot Palomar-style dome at Cal City QTH of Joe Perry WB6DCO

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Hope the summer finds you all busy and finding many ways to enjoy your time relaxing and to also fit in those ham radio adventures.

Last weekend, I drove over to Santa Barbara for the ARRL Western Division Ham Convention held at the Earl Warren Fairgrounds. There were quite a lot of folks I know, but mostly from the San Fernando Valley Radio Club and then quite a few from past conventions whom I have had the pleasure of meeting through my ham experiences and other ham events. I saw Keith, K6GXO with Edmee, his wife, and Larry KG1B, and heard Dale KØBGL was there later on Saturday. I didn't see anyone else from our club and would like to point out that we all need to try to participate in attending these events as they might not be able to keep them going if the attendance is poor. My brother-in law, Dan Sherwood WA6PZK and Adrienne WA6YEO were going to try to make it but they were still up in Portland on Saturday visiting with Dan's brother Tom.

There were quite a lot of swap booths out in the front of the building and plenty of boat anchors to be found. It was fun pawing through the mounds of items in search of something you just had to have in your own collection of "stuff". Both myself and Larry volunteered some time at the ARES booth in support of David Greenhut N6HD who asked us to sit for a while while we recruited potential hams interested in ARES. There was also a good BBQ sponsored by Woody's restaurant in Santa Bar-

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President's Corner...



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Questions and Answers

New hams create a need for information. There is a lot to learn in this hobby.

Where does the club fit into this picture? My opinion is that the main purpose of a club like the AVARC is to mentor new hams and introduce them to various areas of amateur radio in hopes that they will find the aspects of the hobby that keep them active for years and years.

We are a good mix of experienced knowledgeable hams and new eager to learn hams. All we need is a way to move knowledge from where it is to where it wants to be.

We work at that with our presentations. The presentations have great value but they are a "shotgun" approach. We throw a bunch of information out there and hope that it sticks somewhere.

We need other vehicles to carry information to those that want it. Ideally, that information needs to flow straight from the person that has it to the person that wants it. The most effective way that I can think of to cause that direct flow of information is to ask a question of the right person.

Before we go too far with this, let's address a related and important subject. That is the "dumb" or "trivial" question. Some are afraid to ask a key question to cement their understanding of a subject. They may fear that asking a question may cause them to appear ignorant or unintelligent. Nothing could be further from the truth. Think back to when you were in school. Wasn't it the smartest kids who asked the most questions and interacted with the teacher the most? By asking questions, they were removing the

roadblocks between them and what they wanted to understand. They knew that by asking questions, they would get the understanding they wanted quicker. So please do not be afraid of the "dumb" question. That question is the most important question of all because it starts the flow of information.

Please also keep in mind that none of us know everything there is know about amateur radio. We are all learning as we go. The day I feel that there is nothing new to learn from amateur radio is the day I'll be looking for a new hobby.

What can the club do to aid this information flow?

1) We can try a few short Q/A sessions during meetings. We would take five or ten minutes and invite questions from the floor.

2) We can fill one of our presentation holes with an evening of questions and answers.

3) We already have a section of the weekly club net reserved for questions.

4) We could start a bi-weekly or monthly Q/A or tech net.

5) What ideas do you have?

I feel that the whole club will benefit every time a question is asked. I encourage you all to come to meetings and to our nets and ask some questions.

I would like to thank Brian, KI6ICC for throwing this idea out on the repeater.

73,

Jon N6NQ

From the Secretary's Desk

AVARC General Meeting Minutes – 23 July 2009

Opening:

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

Presentation immediately followed.

Presentation:

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR and Dan Sherwood WA6PZK introduced the club to 'The Log Book of the World'. The club was instructed on the tool's purpose and function; a quick plan to get started and easy tricks for use were detailed.

Club Business:

The June 2009 meeting minutes were presented and approved. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds \$3,272.22

ARRL Hamfest: Saturday, 15 August, in Santa Barbara.

LA Council of clubs: Meets the first Tuesday of every odd month in Long Beach. Need to identify an AVARC club representative and an alternate.

AVARC Board meeting: Next meeting is Thursday, 6 August 2009.

August presentation: Joe Perry WB6DCO of California City will host an Astronomy presentation. Telescopes will be available for a hands-on Star Party. Joe is skilled at hunting for super novas and an expert on stellar spectroscopy.

Raffle: Joe Perry WB6DCO won the cash raffle of \$25.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Larry Mock KI6BKP and Larry Bianchi KG1B.

Respectively Submitted,

Carol Humpherys

AF6OV

Secretary 2009

73!

Respectively Submitted,

Carol Humpherys

AF6OV

Secretary 2009

From the Veep...

bara. Next year, try to make it a part of your itinerary!

In just two weeks, once again will be the 2009 Gorman Road Rally, which will be held in Hungry Valley. We will be stationed at various positions on the Powerline Dirt roads that usually are bustling with ATV's and motorcycles of all kinds. I have ridden my own Polaris ATV quad and I know from that experience, that those roads are pretty rough. This event goes on from 6am to around 11pm while working two races. It's a total of 4 stages and both myself KG6TBR and Dan WA6PZK will work this event.

What we are doing is assisting in emergency ham communications for back up to the rally event. There are usually about 25 cars and trucks and a few motorcycles scheduled and we are placed at rugged spots on the sidelines in order to keep track of the rally vehicles as they travel very fast on the dirt roads running over sand and rocks while we view from our road blockage positions. This is an event that you have to be prepared for and have a plentiful supply of water and suntan lotion, an ice chest and some means of shade as it gets pretty warm out there in August.

In addition to this, I have made a few trips up to Ron's (K6WLC) Ranch in Lockwood Valley, helping him out with reconstructing his recently fallen



antenna. We finally were able to raise it last weekend and it looks and works great. It was quite a sight to see it go up. Ron used his tractor to pull it into the upright position where it will sit about 50 or more feet up in the air. We plan on using this antenna while working the Cal QSO Party this fall.

What are you doing this summer?

73,

Margie KG6TBR



Jay KG6BXN making adjustments on K6WLC antenna.



KG6TBR's Mobile at Gorman Rally 2008

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Treasurer	Don Jackson	K6GET	948-4762
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