

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2010

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Hello All! Once again it is time to review what it is that we have been doing with our hobby of Ham Radio this past month. It has been a really busy one for me. I took a trip with family Adrienne WA6YEO and Dan WA6PZK and friends Dan KG6PQA and his wife Beverly. We took motor homes and Quads to Quartzsite, Arizona and shared time with the Sams Radio Hams in the cool desert sands. (Did that just rhyme?) We met up with Keith K6GXO and his wife Edmee and an assortment of six dogs. The events going on there were various schedules of seminars in which you could pull up a camp chair and a dog or two and sit and listen to some interesting discussions. One that I particularly liked was the one on directional finding and even was given a bag of parts and accessories in which to go home and tinker and make my own antenna. That, of course will take me some time but what I would like to propose is a meeting sometime this year on that exact idea. I think we have some expert Elmers in our club who would like to help out the newbies and the oldbies, in working together to make this happen. I know I could use some help in this area as Dan pointed out to me that I fall in the "newbie" category, having only had my license since 2003. Yes, you betcha, that is a newbie as compared to some folks in our club who have been hams for 40, 50 or even 60 years and have a lot to offer in sharing their knowledge to any and all of us. I was even thinking that this might be a good idea to share at our field day site this year, giving us a chance to learn new skills and also to let the public in on this as sort of a demonstration for the on looking Field Day traffic. I think it might just pull in the interest of anyone who happens to wander into our area out in the Lancaster City Park and might even intrigue folks of all ages to be curious about what our hobby can offer.

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 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.

This month's meeting will feature **Joy Matlack KD6FJV**, Communications Director for the Challenge Cup/Baker to Vegas Relay. Joy is also the chairperson of the Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs. She will be speaking about Baker to Vegas and LAACARC. This will be a very interesting and informative meeting, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



Joy Matlack KD6FJV

From The Veep

Larry Bianchi KG1B

And they're off and running

We had our first meeting of the new year this past January 28th at the Lancaster EOC. I have to say that it is far more interesting looking at your faces than at the back of your heads. We look forward to an exciting year.

Jim Porter N6AJG from Chatsworth was our guest speaker. Speaking of our club, Jim said that we are among the top 4 clubs in the Los Angeles area and he left some exciting challenges with us. First, he challenged us that during the year, we would each bring a Ham who is both under 40 and not a current member of the club. This would certainly increase our ranks and bring some new blood into the hobby. The other challenge is to make our club a Special Service Club (SSC). We are on the cusp of becoming one. If anyone is interested in finding out more about what an SSC is about, you goto the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) website and search 'SSC' or type http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/index.html#ssc_program into your browser. I will address that issue in upcoming Short Circuits.

Jim also told us about the changes that have happened in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services). David Greenhut N6HD was elected the Section Manager of the Los Angeles District. This left the SEC (Section Emergency Coordinator) vacant and this has been filled by Jim. Also, Jon Clark N6NQ has taken over the DEC (District Emergency Coordinator) for the High Desert and replaces Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC who took ARES from the ground floor to a high level of participation.

Speaking of ARES, we have our nets on Wednesday night at 7:00 on the Hauser

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President's Corner...

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Now for the adventure: I said, we took our quads, so even though we endured a tornado, 62 mph wind and heavy rains while staying in the desert, Dan and I were able to get out into the rough and ride the paths and the mountain trails. Well, after all is said and done, we made it out ok, but while having too much fun riding through what just a day or so prior was a gravel and sand wash, we were now riding through puddles of mud and water. Dan was leading and as he went across what had now become a small river, I certainly followed much too close and way too fast to stop myself and I saw his quad go rear end under the water and get stuck. Not a second later, I was stuck even more and under about two feet of water. Then after we pulled his quad out onto a sandbar, we were still unable to get mine out of the raging wash. We both have helmet-connected hand held radios when we ride, so after about an hour or so, I felt it was time to radio for help (When All Else Fails). Our Sams Radio Hams were able to find us, but could not get their 4x4 truck close enough to us due to the surrounding brush. But lucky for us a fellow quad enthusiast Ken Anderson happened along, and as Dan shoved my quad into low gear, the three of us were able to pull my 750 lb Polaris out of the river. Believe me, we were in no danger as we were both able to walk through the water to the edge, but we were cold and very wet and happy that I did not have to ditch my machine and leave it behind. Dan was able to ride it out of the river and I rode it back to camp with no problems!

So, this is one way that I combine both my love for quad riding and my love for camping and hamming it up with friends. I hope you can find your place in the hobby of ham radio and incorporate it into your travels and other adventures.

73,
Margie KG6TBR



From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

Repeater, frequency 146.730 and a PL of 100.

Moving right along, we have experienced and continue to experience a good growth in Ham radio in the AV. A few months ago, we had some 50+ new Techs and another class was started the weekend of the 13th of February. Along with many more new hams, there will also be a number of upgrades. This leaves an opportunity to guide and teach the new and newly upgraded hams some of the things that they would like to know regarding operating on the repeaters, how to set up their new rigs and how to setup a shack for some meaningful HF contacts.

Dan Sherwood WA6PZK has been involved in teaching the new hams quite a bit about their new hobby and what to expect when transmitting. Along with that, we will be having a segment on the Wednesday night net called "Tech Talk". The details are being worked out and you will hear more about it during the day on Hauser and during the club meetings. This will be an excellent opportunity to share the knowledge that we have and sharpen our elmer skills.

A final note: the club holds its board meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month.

As members of the AVARC, you are welcome to attend the meetings and contribute as you desire. Your comments and opinions are welcome. We know there is quite a bit of talent in our club, and your ideas would certainly spice things up and give a fresh prospective on helping to run our club and its activities.

Well, I think I have said about enough for this month. So I will quit while I am ahead of the game. Be safe and be well!

73,
Larry KG1B

Swap Shop

HT For Sale

Yaesu 2mt hand held. FT-250R/E
New in the Box
\$100.00 OBO
WA6TWT, 661-946-2717

KE6KIS Estate Sale

Numerous amateur radio transceivers, tools, test equipment, and connectors from the estate of "Mack" McLain, KE6KIS. Please view this collection at the following website:

[http://
www.ctdecorating.com/radios.aspx](http://www.ctdecorating.com/radios.aspx)

Please check this site periodically over the next several months as more equipment will be added, including antennas.

All radio gear reported to be in excellent condition with manuals and original boxes. If interested in any of these items, please email Debi McLain with a reasonable offer at: d.a.mclain@verizon.net

Rig For Sale

Yaesu FT-757GX HF Transceiver
Matching FP-757HD Power Supply
Matching FC-757AT Automatic
Antenna Tuner

Everything works but radio needs internal battery to hold memories when power is turned off.

Asking \$250.00
W6DAW
Dan Warren
661-949-6614
w6daw@arrl.net

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC Board Meeting 2/4/2010

Called to order at 7:09.

Members Present: Carol Humpherys, Gary Mork, Gary Barr, Keith Hoyt, Margie Hoffman, Dan Sherwood, Don Jackson, Dan Rowlan, Larry Bianchi.

Review of last Club meeting – Margie Don to check records if there was a contribution to AR Newline.

Margie will review minutes from 2009 to see if there was a contribution made to Newline.

Field Day: Margie – had Larry apply for use of the Lancaster City Park. Need to supply certificate of insurance to the City. Actual permit will be issued after insurance binder is issued.

Margie needs someone to step up to be Chairman. We need to contact the Boy Scouts to participate in FD.

Gary Barr: Presented a membership report current up through 2/3/2010. 96% of membership are ARRL members. Handout with other statistics presented. Replacement badges should be charged full price. Callsign changes should pay for new badges. New members should be subsidized to the \$4.00 one-time charge.

Last shuttle flight special events station: Tentatively 9/16 pending delays in the program. Volunteers needed to operate for about 8 days during that last flight. Discussion of methods for recruiting operators was taken.

Gary Mork: Mailbox key missing. There were two. Gary has the other.

Gary also mentioned the possibility of having an Extra class class.

Larry Bianchi: Elmer talks on the Club Nets. Discussion groups of issues for VHF newbies. Possible title: "Where do we go from here?" Margie suggests a column for the Short Circuit on basic operation for new hams.

Carol: Try to hand a card out to new test passers regarding the Club. (Red multi-color card). Hand these out at the test sessions. Have a list of local repeater and simplex frequencies for the newbies. We did this before in 2007. Make some new cards to hand out.

Dan Rowlan: Possibility of a 75-meter "Elmering" net. Dan thought we used to have 3 board members rather than 2.

Carol: Made the Board aware of the LDS Emergency net hosted out of the Bishop's storehouse in Sylmar. Not enough time this

past week to complete all nets.

Don: Bank charged a \$3 fee for check analysis. Don to talk to them concerning this. Balance: \$3243.40.

Keith: Has yet to work on inventory on the Club trailer.

Larry: Felt Margie did a great job on the January Meeting.

All: discussion of location of field day. Past sites discussed. Consensus was the site should be accessible.

Don: Motion to Adjourn. Dan Second. Meeting adjourned at 8:42.

AVARC GENERAL MEETING JAN. 28, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:29 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions were held.

46 members and visitors were present at the beginning of the meeting.

Minutes accepted as written in short circuit. Carried.

Treasurer's report – Don Jackson: \$3246.40 in the bank.

Old Business:

Margie: Report on the January Board Meeting. Discussed transition of Club officers. Gary Barr as new membership chairman. Liability policy. Bank issues. Review of Club's equipment – Keith to inventory.

Keith: Wants member comment and location on location of Club equipment.

Margie: Report on L.A. Council of Amateur Radio Clubs. Dues and application for LACARC have been submitted for the year. HamCon scheduled for 2011 in L.A. Section, (Torrance). Adrienne to run VE sessions.

Margie: Board meetings are open to all.

Adrienne: Announcement of GLAARG VE session on 2/1/2010, 7:00 PM. Fee is

\$4.00. Ham Radio classes to commence 2/13/10 and for four consecutive Saturdays, with a test session on the 4th Saturday. Elmer class is the following week. Technician and General classes to be offered. Debbie Kent is POC for registration into these classes: avfoodstorage@gmail.com. Cost of the class is \$30.00 including the book and the exam fee.

Margie: Feb 19-20 Yuma Hamfest. Sept. 17-19, ARRL Southwest Convention.

New Business: Dave Houseman – Made motion to contribute \$100 to Newline.

Keith: Suggests that we pass the hat and have the Club make up the difference. Last contribution February, 2009. Motion tabled to be studied by Board.

Field Day: Margie read letter to encourage new hams' participation in Field Day. Solicitation for FD Chair and station captains. Keith: Mentioned work party to get antennas in shape for FD.

Bob Foster KJ6DEH – new member, involved in scouting.

WB6DCO: Has SDR to demo during break.

Program: Larry to introduce the speaker Jim Porter, N6AJG. Presentation on ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The 50/50 drawing was held. Two calendars from NASA plus cash prize:

KI6KVP – Calendar

K6GET – Calendar

K6GXO - \$15.00

Adjourned at 9:04 PM

Respectively Submitted,
Dan Sherwood WA6PZK
AVARC Secretary 2010

PALMCASTER EQUIPMENT RENTALS

RAY CRAMM
Manager

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Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2010 Officers

President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Vice President	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	538-9142
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Treasurer	Don Jackson	K6GET	948-4762
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
Board Member	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
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