
The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2010

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

A few weeks ago, my daughter-in-law Jaci sent me a segment from an article that came from our local radio station here in Santa Clarita where we live. Since it had to do with radio she felt I would be interested in reading about the experience mentioned in the article regarding a fellow, Hannu Niileksela, from Finland, a short wave listener, who was using a 300' wire antenna as he was listening for American AM radio stations from the dark, dark land in which he resides. As it turned out, late at night, on October 28 of last year, while listening from over 5000 miles away, he was able to pick up KHTS AM-1220, a radio station here in Santa Clarita. Thus, that news traveled and was related in a recent local news story. I found the article interesting and it gave me some food for thought and an incentive to elaborate on the idea. I responded to Jaci and told her that think I would use this in my Short Circuit article this month as another perspective of why we are hams, and remind us that there are other areas for us to reach out to promote amateur radio.

Interesting. While working a radio contest, such as we did this weekend, where we work stations all over the US and Canada, we are able to talk to some DX (long distance) stations all over the world. Those folks are listening and wanting to

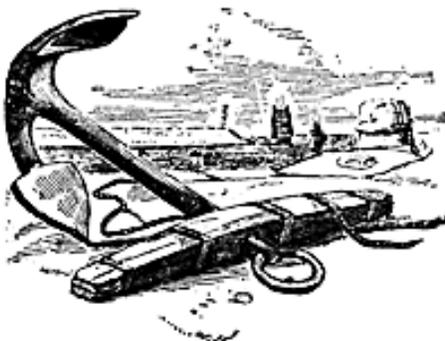
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Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 28, 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.

Elections: Next meeting will be final nominations for all officers and board members for 2011, followed by elections. Please keep in mind that according to our By Laws, in order to be eligible for nominations for election to a position for the following, you would have to be a member in good standing of the club for the entire preceding twelve months prior to the nomination.

Anchors Away: Bring your ham items for sale to the October meeting. Sales will begin after the General Meeting business has been concluded (including collection of the election ballots. The results will be announced during the Anchors Away sales) Anyone is welcome to donate a portion of their sales to the club.



From The Veep

Larry Bianchi KG1B

I'd buy that for a dollar! (Robocop 1987)

For anyone who watched Robocop, that line was one of the funnier ones in the movie.

With that in mind, our next meeting is one of my favorites of the whole year. It is our annual 'Anchors Aweigh' or is it "Anchors Away"? For those who are new to our club, Anchors Aweigh is our annual "swap meet". You never know what you might find there and what you might walk away with if the price is right. It seems the more I learn about Ham Radio, the more I know what is being sold at our swap meet.

We are also coming to the end of another year. The November and December meetings will be held on the 3rd week (November 18th and December 16th) due to Thanksgiving and Christmas!

The November meeting will be a normal meeting with a program, but the December one will be our annual potluck and raffle.

Speaking of raffles, I was at HRO the other day (Imagine that!) and I saw the ARRL 2010 Handbooks on closeout for an excellent price. So the decision was made to procure them as prizes for our raffle.

They also had the 2011 Handbook on sale and I couldn't resist the

(Continued on page 3)

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting September 23, 2010

Called to order at 7:31 PM by Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR
Flag Salute

Member introductions. There were 37 members and guests present. Secretary's report: Minutes as published in the Short Circuit – Motion to approve, W6DAW seconded, David Erue. Approved by membership. Keith Hoyt may want to review for accuracy.

Treasurer's report: (Don not present), \$2,944.53. Report reviewed by Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK.

Gary Barr: 122 members in Club at this time.

Old Business: Margie - SANDARC convention. Went well, many seminars and exhibitors. Thanks to Marty and David from ARRL for coming up. HAMCON 2011: AVARC will be heading up VE testing in Torrance next September.

www.hamconinc.org <<http://www.hamconinc.org>> is the convention website. Many vendors already committed for 2011.

New Business:

Nominations for 2011 club officers to begin this evening.

Test Session 10/4 – Adrienne. Usual location.

Don Jackson, K6GET will NOT run for Treasurer in 2011.

October 28: Anchors Aweigh swap meet. Also more nominations and the elections. No guest speaker.

Larry: October 16 – 17. Scout Jamboree. Volunteers needed. See KG1B for informa-

tion. Marty Woll needs volunteers for Jamboree.

Carol: Another J-pole party on Oct. 23, at their QTH. See AF6OV for details.

Larry introduced our guest speakers Dave Greenhut and Marty Woll.

Placque of appreciation given to Marty.

50/50 drawing: N6MSG Bob Kammer \$18.00

Meeting adjourned 09:02PM

Officer Nominations so far, (as of 9/23/2010)

President:
KG6TBR Margie

VP:
KG1B Larry

Secretary:
WA6PZK Dan

Treasurer:
KG6PQA Dan Rowlan
AF6OV Carol
KG6SLC Eugene

Master at Arms:
WA6WFC Gary Mork

Board Members:
KG6SLC Eugene
WA6TWT Gary
WA6PZK Dan
KG6PQA Dan Rowlan
AF6OV Carol
KJ6BKP Larry Mock

AVARC Board Meeting October 7, 2010

Opening: Margie Hoffman
KG6TBR - President 7:04 p.m.
Minutes from last meeting: Review minutes taken by Secretary Dan Sherwood WA6PZK.

Treasurer's report: Don Jackson K6GET. Balance: \$2944.53

Membership Report: Forwarded from Gary Barr WA6TWT. We now have a total of 122 paid members. 68.02% ARRL membership
Members present tonight: KG6TBR, WA6PZK, KG6PQA, K6GXO & Edme, KG1B, K6GET

Old Business:

KG6TBR: Next meeting will be final nominations for all officers and board members for 2011, followed by elections.

Discussion: Margie to determine correct number of Board Member seats from Club bylaws, (2 or 3), prior to the election. Margie will also ask Gary Barr to get list of members' eligibility status to hold office, (tenure in Club).

Follow up:

Anchors Away: Discussion on the procedure, any announcements needed for selling in any orderly fashion? Sales will begin after the General Meeting business has been concluded (including the elections and their results), so lets keep that to a minimum. Lets ask if anyone has items that they don't really

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

make contact with us for the same contest. While doing this, in the evening around 11pm, we pick up some broadcast stations in Europe as well, some just like this fellow who is hearing KHTS, we are hearing some local radio station in a foreign country. It is unusual to be able to do this, but due to the fluctuation in atmospheric conditions, it is possible to do so.

I can understand his amazement, but wonder why he hasn't gotten his ham license so he can also talk to folks all around the globe as well. Maybe this has not occurred to him. Or maybe he is just happy being one of those guys "just listening on scanners".

Our "job" as ham radio operators is to promote "good will" all over the world with our radios and skills. While on that subject, this is why I am looking forward to going on the YL (young ladies) only DXpedition to Curaçao next March. It promotes radio contacts globally while amateurs are trying to reach us, in addition to the fun and the challenge of working many stations while testing our own skills. If we can get the big vendors such as ICOM and Yaesu to donate radio equipment for our expedition, we should be able to leave that equipment in that country we are visiting and leave it in the hands of their local ham operators. By doing this, hopefully they will use that equipment to carry on and increase their radio skills and

(Continued on page 4)

From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

temptation to get one for myself (since I figured I would never win on at the club!). I am excited about what I will learn from the handbook.

It seems that our ham tickets are a license to learn. And what a license it is! There are times I think I don't know a thing about antennas and propagation .. and really I don't! But I also know that my lack of knowledge affords me the opportunity to delve into the books and learn basics, and then pick the brain of those hams that have the wealth of info due to their many years of experience.

And we have both of those resources available to us. Certainly there are books galore that can stimulate our learning. And we have those hams that have gone down the road a whole lot further than those of us who are just starting out in the hobby.

Get to know these experts and learn from them. It is my experience that they are both willing and able to teach us if we have that desire and we are willing to learn.

I was helping put up an antenna during the Great Shakeout drill

(Continued on page 4)



Swap Shop

HT For Sale

Yaesu 2mt hand held.

FT-250R

New in the Box

\$80.00 OBO

WA6TWT, 661-946-2717

Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 2)

want to sell, will they donate the small items for the raffle prizes for the evening? Are we still having the raffle in October? I think yes. Don Jackson: Filing for non-profit status was completed with State. Copy of this transaction was given to Margie for her records.

New Business:

Margie designed a club shirt and wants to know if there is any interest in ordering as individuals. We get a better price when ordering minimum orders of 6. Does anyone have another vendor in mind where we can get a cheaper price? Would like soft cotton/poly shirt and not stiff or heavy shirt. There is a local vendor who makes these for \$26.00 or less depending on quantity.

We need to start thinking of the Christmas prizes. We have over \$200 and should have close to \$250 by the time we buy items. I would like a motion to have the club match the first \$200 as we have done in prior years. Moved:

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 3)

knowledge while educating new hams in their own country for now and into their future.

The first weekend of October I participated in the California QSO Party working with our team of amateur radio operators from Ron's "Antenna Ranch" in the Lockwood Valley in Ventura County. Our primary operators were: Ron Hammel K6WLC, Dan Sherwood WA6PZK, Dan Warren W6DAW, Dale Snider K0BGL, and myself Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. Our supporting operators were Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO and Jay Bhatt KG6BXN. Oh, and I must mention, an assortment of 4 dogs: Speedy, Sasha, Odie, and Lucky. Together, we worked from 15, 20, 40, 75/80 meters. Our antenna equipment was as follows: on 15 meters, a 4 element M2 beam up 60 feet in the air, on 20 meters, a 5 element M2 beam up 80 feet in the air, on 40 meters, a 3 element M2 beam, also up 80 feet in the air, but on a different tower and on 75

meters, 2 aluminum antennas phased together and 64 feet tall. We had numerous "pile ups" as we were being heard loud and clear and as was expected, it was quite a challenge to take this all in. We worked Saturday morning from the start at 9am until just after midnight and began again at 7am on Sunday straight through until 3pm when the contest ended. The results were a total of 1111 QSO's, including 16 DX contacts, while making a clean sweep of all the multipliers which included all 50 States 8 and Canadian Provinces. Our total score was 128,644.

My thanks go out to the team for the experience of sharing this weekend with me and allowing us to practice for the next contest coming up at the end of October. That contest will be the CQ World Wide SSB and I am looking forward to working with my team again.

See you all at the meeting!

73,

Margie KG6TBR

From the VEEP...

held a couple of weekends ago. I had the antenna laid out on the ground along with 2 tool cases full of tools and etc. I looked at them on the ground and laughingly remarked that before I was a ham, I didn't own a tool .. and look at these cases!

Amazing what the hobby can do. There are just so many different avenues that one can take and totally enjoy. But each avenue requires things to be learned and skills to be mastered. I am not sure who said this .. or who was the first to say it .. but "as long as you keep learning, you are alive!" (Or something like that).

Last month, we once again had the privilege of having Marty Woll N6VI as our club speaker. We were also honored to have his sweet wife accompany him! He spoke on the things that the ARRL can offer a Ham and the advantages of ARRL membership. Marty also gave us a brief update on the Antenna suit here in Palmdale.

Well, that about wraps it up here for this month. Will look forward to seeing you on October 28th for our 'Anchors Aweigh'!

Happy Hamming!!



73,

Larry KG1B

PALMCASTER

EQUIPMENT RENTALS



Office: (661) 723-1400

633 West Ave. M.
Palmdale, CA 93551

Fax: (661) 949-8023

Secretary's Desk...



AV ARES To Participate In Statewide Emcomm Drill

State Wide Emergency Drill

November 2010 - SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Functional Exercise
WHEN: Thursday November 18th, 2010 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Objectives:
Operational Area: Interoperable communications, bed tracking, volunteer management, burn surge plan

Hospitals: Bomb threat response/lockdown strategies, ability to manage influx of trauma, burn and pediatric patients, PsySTART assessment tag utilization

Clinics: Bomb threat response/lockdown strategies, ability to manage influx of patients, PsySTART assessment tag utilization

Fire/EMS: Medical management of IED incident, including triage, treatment and transport of patients, disaster burn patient destination, unified command with law enforcement

Law enforcement: Scene safety, preservation of evidence, unified command with fire/EMS.

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Need more information? The local ARES net meets on Tuesdays at 8:00 pm local time on the Hauser repeater. Members of ARES and guests are invited to check in.

(Continued from page 3)
Dan KG6PQA, Seconded Larry KG1B. Approved.
DISCUSSION: For next year, I (or the club's current President) would like to have the OK, especially prior to HAMCON, to purchase some of the prizes throughout the year in order to take advantage of the hamfest prices and the availability of vendors at these events. Moved: Dan KG6PQA, Seconded, Keith K6GXO. Motion approved.

Announcements, Upcoming Events - Reminders :
Please review the following HAMCON 2011 – Hosted by LAACARC which is the council of all LAX area ham clubs. Each club who is a member of the council (\$10 per year dues) may participate. Our club will be once again manning the VE testing session. Adrienne WA6YEO and Dan are heading the team+will organize and arrange for all the VE's needed for the Saturday test.

Next Hamcon 2011 meeting held on Saturday, October 30, 2010 hosted by Jim and Bev Pitman

and will be held at the Torrance Marriott Hotel 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503 Phone: (310) 316-3636

Adrienne WAYEO-VE session to be held on Saturday, November 06, 2010 -8am at First Christian Church. Address: 1702 E. Ave J - Across from WalMart. This is a GLAARG and fee is \$4.

See Adrienne and give her a definite confirmation that you will be there to help her and Dan out.

Short Circuit Deadline, (Adrienne), for submissions: October 18.

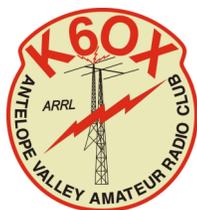
Next board meeting: Thursday, Nov 4, 2010 7:30 pm.

Next General meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2010 7:30 pm. Guest Speaker: None. The next meeting will be Elections and Anchors Away.

Motion to adjourn: Keith K6GXO, Seconded Dan KG6PQA. Approved and adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dan Sherwood WA6PZK
AVARC Secretary 2010





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
Ex Officio	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969



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