

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2011

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Happy New Year to all! It is not too late to make your New Year's resolutions for 2011 and hopefully, you will include Amateur Radio on your list. As for me, I have a big list of things I want to accomplish this year, some new adventures and some repeating of old ones.

My interests in ham radio are varied and usually include a variety of extra activities to go along with them. While I enjoy motoring along in my vehicle talking to folks, that would mean I am driving all the while, so since I have been retired, I don't have the opportunity of being on on the local repeaters much lately. I enjoy contesting with my radio "Pals" and have seven years of experience now, working in ARRL VHF/UHF QSO parties in January, June, or September. I have also worked the California QSO Party, which is sponsored by the NCCC (Northern California Contest Club) and of course, the CQ-WW-SSB, which is the CQ World Wide DX Contest. I usually work out of Lockwood Valley on the ten acre ranch, operating with Ron Hammel K6WLC, Dan WA6PZK and Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Dale Snider KØBGL, and a few others.

Then, there is B2V-Baker To Vegas - working emergency communications support for the very large, approximately 130 mile foot race, where we are positioned in the Sandy Valley area of the mountains near Pahrump. This is one trip I highly look forward to as it not only involves ham skills, but the terrain is perfect for towing my Polaris quad along and riding in the hills in our spare time. We do use our ham skills on these explorations, as our helmets are equipped and provide us with necessary radio communications to keep in contact with each other and in case of emergencies.

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 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 meeting will feature our own **Bob Holland KG6DHQ**, who will offer a presentation on PSK31. This is one of the most popular and exciting of our digital modes, and Bob will show us how to become involved with it. If your New Year's resolution is to get more involved with ham radio, this program may be just what you are looking for. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for a fun and informative evening!



From The Veep

Larry Bianchi KG1B

New Years' Resolutions, anyone?

The problem with making New Years' resolutions is that I can't remember the ones that I made last year to see if I was successful or not. Let's see, if one of them was to be a year older .. well I made that one hands down. Did I keep the one about slimming down and training to be a jockey at Santa Anita? Weeeeeelllllll I don't think that I quite made that one .. but I did see a horse strutting along the side of the road last year!

Be that as it may, we have a fresh palette of days upon which to paint what we desire. I am sure that the goals and desires of each of us are quite personal. I have a few in mind and I will have to wait till this time next year to see if I actually did what it takes to meet them .. or even remember what they were!!!

But on a more serious note, I would like each of us to think what they would like to get out of being a member of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club. We have the typical things such as Wednesday Night Net and our programs at the monthly club meetings. Then there is Field Day that we gear up for.

I would enjoy hearing from anyone of you with things that you would like to see covered during the programs at our meetings. Would you like to see a few more 'hands on' functions such as the J Pole workshops that were graciously hosted by Carol and Eugene Humpherys (AF6OV & KG6SLC)?

Last year was a very good one with many positive things .. including the testing of well over 100 applicants for their Ham ticket. And many of them upgraded to General and Extra. We even added to our VE (Volunteer Examiner) pool. Let's keep the ball rolling and continue to improve our hobby.

(Continued on page 3)

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC GENERAL MEETING 12/16/2010

Doors Open 6pm for set up/ Folks can eat dinner: 6pm-7pm – Potluck
During which, Adrienne playing harp from 6:30-7pm
Flag Salute: 7:08 pm: followed by introductions

Minutes from last meeting: Notes taken by Secretary Dan Sherwood WA6PZK and printed in Short Circuit? Moved: Dan Rowlan Seconded: John Clark. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Don Jackson K6GET. Balance: \$ 3407.21

Margie presented a certificate of appreciation to Don Jackson for many years serving as Treasurer.

Membership Report: Gary Barr: 133
Total members present tonight: 55

New Business:

Renewal of membership:

We hope those of you wishing to renew for the 2011 have already done so as tonight, we will be holding our annual Christmas/Holiday raffle of prizes this evening. In the past, we have encouraged members to renew prior to the Christmas party, and they are then rewarded by getting an additional drawing ticket for the Christmas raffle. All life members will get two tickets. Anyone who is paid up for 2010 will get one ticket.

Margie: A thanks to our musician playing on the harp this evening playing from 6:30 –7pm: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO.

Introduction of Brian Hoffman KI6LUE who is also a new member of our club. Brian is the President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Santa Clarita Chapter, and he has performed frequently around Southern California. He is here this evening to dazzle you with magical entertainment. Please enjoy!

AN EXCELLENT MAGIC SHOW
GIVEN BY BRIAN HOFFMAN.

Presentation to Pat Coker – certificate of appreciation for last month's presentation

on EME.

Presentation to Brian Hoffman for an excellent magic show.

FT-250 won by KJ6CIW on the redraw.
FT-2900 Mobile won by KG6TBR, who had BOTH her tickets under both rigs. She donated the HT back to the Club to be re-drawn.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 PM Social time and cleanup followed.

AVARC Board Meeting

1/8/2011

Held at Antelope Valley First Christian Church

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM following a GLAARG test session.

Members and guests present: Dan Rowlan, Keith Hoyt, Adrienne Sherwood, Dan Sherwood, Larry Bianchi, Margie Hoffman, and guest Bob Neibert KJ6JTL. Don Jackson and Jon Clark arrived later.

Treasurer's report, (relayed from Margie):
Last known balance \$3,273.21

Membership, (relayed from Margie):
Membership count 133+

Old Business:

The holiday potluck was discussed. It was suggested that for this year have people sign up to bring items, as there were too many desserts and not enough main dishes last time. The raffle was discussed also. Suggested that it be made a simple drawing.

New Business:

Meeting Jan. 27 – Due to a schedule conflict, Margie, Dan Sherwood, and Dan Rowlan will not make the meeting. Larry Bianchi will run the meeting. The January / February programs will be switched as Ron Hammel requests WA6PZK's assistance for his presentation. The January program will be Bob Holland who will be talking on PSK31. Ron will present in February.

Treasury audit: To be held at Carol

Humphery's place on 1/13 at 7:00PM. Present will be the outgoing / incoming Treasurer, (Don Jackson and Dan Rowlan), along with Carol Humpherys and Adrienne Sherwood as auditors. All Club financial records and checkbooks will be transitioned at that time.

Club shirts – Per Margie, Larry Mock is in contact with a shirt vendor with several types of polo and tee shirts. Shirt preferences were discussed with a price range of \$20 - \$22 set upon. To be discussed at next board meeting on which shirt to buy.

Keith Hoyt suggested ARES meeting and test session dates should be de-conflicted. Issue should be worked out between Jon Clark and Adrienne.

Field Day chairmanship responsibility was accepted by Larry Bianchi, and approved by the Board for 2011. Larry volunteered for this appointed position.

Next Board meeting to be held February 3. Location tentatively at Keith's home.

Next Club meeting – Jan. 27.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47. Margie, Dan Sherwood, Dan Rowlan, and Larry Bianchi drove over to U.S. Bank to transition the Club bank account for this year's officers. This task was successfully accomplished.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dan Sherwood WA6PZK
AVARC Secretary 2010



President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

Last year was a good example of that. While we were at Quartzsite, we experienced some heavy flooding after the tornado of the year and the heavy rains which followed. We were able to use our radios to request assistance when we needed it. Of course, that experience is not keeping us from the upcoming trip to Quartzsite, where we will be once again spending time, camping, enjoying the evening fireside, attending ham seminars in the desert, along with the Sam's Radio Hams group and some great friends that we have met through that club.

This year I have some new plans in store for me, and the one I am most looking forward to will be coming up fast in March. I have joined with a group of YL's and we will be embarking on an inaugural YL DXpedition to Curaçao Island, which is in the Netherlands Antilles. It is now known as PJ2, which is one of the new entities created on October 10, 2010. We will be the first YL group scheduled to occupy the beautiful ham shack known as Signal Point and owned by the CCC – Caribbean Contest Club. Our official operating schedule will be March 18-21, 2011. At this time, it looks as if our callsign will be PJ2T/NA6YL. Our group of YL's, in addition to myself, include Gayle Olson K6GO, Ellen Utschig N6UWW, Michelle Thompson W5NYV, Rosemary "Rusty" Kalkofen AF6WF, Georgia Smith KI6LAV, and Marilyn Bolnick KJ6YL. We will have three or four stations set up and will be operating on as many bands as possible. We will be working 24 hour shifts and will try to make as many contacts as possible. Stay in touch with us in the meantime and visit our club webpage at: YLDXpeditions.com

This is not all about me but all about you.

What will you be doing in 2011 to enjoy your ham skills and incorporate them into your other interests and activities? I hope it includes participating in club events such as the MS Walk in April, Baker 2 Vegas, also

in April, and of course Field Day. And speaking of that, our Field Day Chairman for 2011 will be Larry Bianchi KG1B, who has once again stepped up to the plate to volunteer and accept that position in June. Please get in touch with Larry and begin your plans to be involved in this very important weekend.

I wanted to again thank everyone for the great turn out we had at our Christmas/Holiday Pot Luck held in December. I would especially want to thank Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO who brought her harp and allowed us to listen to her music skills. I also want to thank Brian Hoffman KI6LUE who entertained us with his "Dazzling" Magic. It was a great event and I think everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

I will be at Quartzsite at the end of the month, so Larry will be hosting the meeting on January 27. The guest speaker will be Bob Holland, KG6DHQ who will be speaking on PSK31. Don't miss it.

73,

Margie KG6TBR



From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

Ok, Larry, let's put away the soapbox at least for another month. We had a fun and exciting time at our annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner. There was plenty of good food and excellent entertainment as Brian Hoffman KI6LUE, Margie Hoffman's son, dazzled us with a magic show. The evening was concluded with our raffle which offered a great variety of prizes.

As we begin our New Year, we plan to have some exciting and informative programs for our monthly meetings. In January, we will have the privilege of hearing from Bob Holland KG6DHQ as he presents a program centered around PSK31 which is a digital form of HF (High Frequency). This is an ever increasing form of communications thru the frequencies. We look forward to hearing what he has to share with us. During the program there will be plenty of opportunity to ask whatever questions you may have and offer insights that you may already have had regarding PSK31.

This form was the first form of HF that I used when I became a new General. It is amazing what a mere 5 watts can get you!

Well, that about wraps it up for another month. I look forward to the upcoming year with a lot of anticipation. Let's work together to make it a great one!!

And .. as always .. Happy Hamming!

73,

Larry KG1B

AVARC ANNUAL POTLUCK 2010



**A good time was
had by all!**



Photos by Dan Sherwood WA6PZK



AVARC Members,
Thanks for letting HRO meet
Your Amateur Radio needs.

Eric J. Christensen
K6EJC
Manager



1525 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91506
(Between Sparks and Beachwood
Open 10:00 to 5:30
Closed Sundays
Ham Radio Outlet
Voice 818-842-1786
Fax 818-842-5283

Antelope Valley Volunteer Examiner Team 2011 Amateur Radio Exam Schedule

Session	Date	Day	Time
GLAARG	1/8/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
GLAARG	2/7/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
ARRL	3/5/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
GLAARG	4/4/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
GLAARG	5/7/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
ARRL	6/6/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
GLAARG	7/9/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
GLAARG	8/1/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
ARRL	9/3/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
GLAARG	10/3/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
GLAARG	11/5/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
ARRL	12/5/2011	Monday	7 P.M.

Exam location:

Antelope Valley First Christian Church
1702 East Ave. J, Lancaster, CA (Across the street from
the Eastside Wall Mart).

Please enter parking lot off the end of the cul-de-sac
17th Street East, enter the classroom annex, and look for
the "FCC Exams" sign outside the correct classroom.

Monday Nights: Please do not disturb the A.A. group or
other groups that may be using the facilities.

Dates/times may be subject to change.

GLAARG testing fee is \$4.00.

ARRL testing fee is \$15.00

PALMCASTER
EQUIPMENT RENTALS



Office: (661) 723-1400

633 West Ave. M.
Palmdale, CA 93551
Fax: (661) 949-8023

Swap Shop

For Sale: Rider Sound-N-Sight
code course on records. Com-
plete in original box at \$5.00.

Palomar PK-50 message mem-
ory keyer with instruction man-
ual at \$10.00.

Palomar PK-100 dual paddle
key instruction sheet free to per-
son who bought it at Anchors
Away event.

Littlite gooseneck lamp with in-
struction booklet. New cost \$57
and present price \$10.00. Pow-
ered at 12-VDC.

Bill Welsh W6DDB 948-8493



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2011 Officers

President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Vice President	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	538-9142
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Treasurer	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969



The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX
 Post Office Box 1011
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Place
 Postage
 Here



To ARS: