

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2012

## President's Corner

Larry Bianchi KG1B

Hitch your wagon to a D-STAR.

And no 'D' isn't referring to the quality of star, it is a fairly new mode of communication in the 2m, 70cm and 23cm bandwidths.

Not to oversimplify, but D-STAR is a protocol that allows both voice and data to be transmitted from any location working through a network of repeaters and internet connections to any other specific location.

I know that there are many other different modes, protocols and systems that will allow you to talk all over the world within the 2m and 70cm bands. But this is a fairly new mode with some very excellent benefits. More info about D-STAR will be coming and if you want more detailed info, you can refer to the internet and get as technical as you desire.

Well .. D-STAR is coming soon the Antelope Valley. Not going too much into the details, there will be a D-STAR repeater in the near future serving the AV.

To pave the way for this repeater, the AVARC has applied for a second club call. We should be getting this call in the next week or two (hopefully before our next club meeting). The tricky part of

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## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, March 22**, 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 the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature our own **Jon Clark N6NQ**, who will be talking to us about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Our local ARES group has become quite active in recent times, and will be playing a very important role in local emergency and public service communications. This is a great opportunity for you to become involved in ARES, and to learn how you can contribute your skills to local public service.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a very interesting and informative meeting.



## From The Veep

Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC

On March 10th, the club had a field trip to the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar. Sometimes called "San Sylmar", because of its similarity to "San Simeon" up the coast, the Nethercutt is opulent to say the least. The backbone of the collection are the automobiles, many of which have won top honors at different Concours d'Elegance. Not to be outdone by the automobiles are the music boxes and "orchestrions" from Europe which are large mechanical music machines which were used in beer halls and public places in place of live orchestras. We had 11 in attendance and were part of a larger group on the tour. The tour is very entertaining and if you are looking for something close by and free, you can't go wrong with this one.

Last month, Larry Mock, KI6BKP, gave me the business card of the wife of a gentleman that he works with. Adriane Holmes is a school teacher here in the A.V. and she teaches a robotics class to K through 8th grade students. They build robots using the Lego-Bot system of kits. Larry felt that she and her students would be interesting as a program at one of our meetings. I agreed and finally got in touch with Ms. Holmes last week. She and some of her students will be going to St Louis this summer for

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# From the Secretary's Desk



Meeting Minutes for the AVARC  
February 23, 2012

**Meeting Opened:** The meeting was opened promptly at 7:30 p.m. by Club President Larry Bianchi, KG1B.

**Flag Salute and Introduction of Members and Guests:** Flag Salute was conducted followed by introductions of members. We had 34 members present with 1 guest, John Isles, K6RJC and 1 guest speaker, Joy Matlack, KD6FJV, Baker 2 Vegas Communications Coordinator.

**Minutes:** Gary Barr, WA6TWT, advised the membership there were some corrections required to be made in the Announcements section:

1. New member's dues will increase to \$4.00 to cover cost of the badges. Corrected to read – Initial membership fees will include an addition \$4.00 to cover the purchase of the club badge.
2. Adrienne is now the new heard for the VEC for **GLARD**. Corrected to read – Adrienne is now the new head for the VEC coordination for the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group (**GLAARG**).
3. Gary W6TWT spoke about the TANA Foundation. Corrected to read – Gary WA6TWT spoke about the TANA Foundation.

4. Gary has requested that when ordering on-line for items at AMAZON.com to please **sue** the TANA Foundation.org website to go to AMAZON.com. Corrected to - Gary has requested that when ordering on-line for items at AMAZON.com to please **use** the TANA Foundation.org website to go through to AMAZON.com. All members were in favor to accept the minutes as presented in the Short Circuit.

5. Larry stated that he was proud to be serving as our new club president and hope to continue the great work **or** past presidents. Change to read - Larry stated that he was proud to be serving as our new club president and hope to continue the great work **of** past presidents.

A motion was made to accept the corrected minutes and seconded. All members were in favor. None opposed.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Gary, WA6TWT, reported 35 members have not yet renewed their membership. This evening he had 3 members renew their membership and he received 1 new member to

the club rolls. New member is Bradley Lykins. He will be taking his Technicians license test in March. Good Luck Bradley!

**Vice President's Report:** Paul, KD6SMC, reminded the members that we will be having a field trip to the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The tour commences at 1:30 p.m. There is still room for anyone that is interested. Please contact Paul at 661-305-1838 or email him at kd6smc@yahoo.com.

This year's Field Day may not be as big as in the past but everyone is highly encouraged to participate. If you are interested with participating in Field Day, please contact Paul. We really do need operators for our stations.

**Old Business:** None Discussed

**New Business:**

Larry, KG1B, made a recommendation the club purchase a club projector to be used for our speakers during their presentations. After discussion as to assigning the Vice President with the custody of the projector, Keith, K6GXO made a motion to purchase a projector with a budget of \$400 to \$550. A sturdy carrying case is to be included with the purchase. The motion was seconded by Steve, KC2RKK and a

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## President's Corner...



*(Continued from page 1)*

getting a second call is finding someone who is willing to act as its Trustee. Keith Hoyt K6GXO is the Trustee for our original call, K6OX. FCC rules states that a current Trustee cannot be a Trustee for any subsequent callsign. There are many reasons for this ruling, but I will not get into this at this time.

So .. we are asking if there is anyone who would like to volunteer as the Trustee for our new club call. There isn't too much involved in becoming a Trustee, but there are some things that he/she needs to be responsible for.

So if anyone would like to volunteer, you can contact me at 818 237-0706, by email (Strad3@Hotmail.com), or you can come up to me during the next club meeting and talk to me about it.

In other news, our club has purchased its club projector in time for our March program. We appreciate your vote of confidence and approval given the board during our last club meeting in allowing us to purchase this well



needed piece of equipment. While we are speaking of projectors, I would like to thank Dan Sherwood W6DAS for the many times that he has loaned his personal projector for club use!

Well, that about wraps things up for this month. I look forward to any suggestions that any of you guys have in helping to make our club better serve the needs of our club members.

Things to look forward to in April: Both Baker to Vegas and the Visalia DX Convention will happen on the weekend of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

73 all and Happy Hamming!

73,  
Jay KG1B

## Secretary's Desk...

*(Continued from page 2)*

vote taken. All members were in favor of the purchase.

Dan, K6PQA, recommended the club purchase a used generator to augment the present generator that is in the club's trailer. He stated the one on the trailer is very noisy. He recommended that we purchase a used Honda EU 1000, inverter type, 55db, stable voltage, full sine wave and fuel efficient. The price of this generator is \$500. Dan, K6PQA then made a motion to purchase the generator which was seconded by Steve, KC2RKK. A discussion for the purchase ensued with several ideas to possibly look at purchasing a new 2000 watt generator for approximately \$900. A vote was taken with all voting "No" for the purchase of the used generator as proposed by Dan.

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**Eric J. Christensen**  
**K6EJC**  
Manager

AVARC Members,  
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## Secretary's Desk...



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A new motion was made by Margie, KG6TBR and seconded by Donald, N6NAI to table the discussion of purchasing a generator until the board could do some research and make their recommendations to the membership. A vote was taken with all members in favor.

### Announcements:

Adrienne, WA6YEO informed the membership that there will be an ARRL VEC coordinated Amateur Radio license test session. The next test is on Monday, March 5, at AV First Christian Church, 1702 East Ave. J, across the street from Wal-Mart. It starts at 7 pm, \$15.00.

Eugene, KG6SLC is getting the team together to work communications and timing support for Stage 15 at the Baker 2 Vegas Relay Race, 21-22 April 2012. This is a fun event and by participating you have fulfilled your responsibility as a HAM to support your community. Enjoy the camping, off-roading, archery and shooting events before the race. The bar-b-q's are great and the friendships bloom. Anyone interested in helping out, contact Eugene or his XYL Carol, AF6OV.

Keith, K6GXO said that on Saturday, February 26, 2012, there will be a posting of an LA County Sheriff's Memorial Honor Guard at the corner of 30<sup>th</sup> St West and Avenue K. In 1970, two Deputy Sheriffs, one regular and the other

a reserve, lost their lives in an incident at that same intersection. The memorial guards will be posted from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Keith had known and worked with the fallen deputies when he was on the force. Everyone is welcomed to stop by and pay their respect.

**Break:** Larry, KG1B called a 5 minute break at 8:14 p.m. for a stretch and personal break before presenting the speaker for the night's event.

**Speaker:** Joy Matlack, KD6FJV, Baker 2 Vegas Communications Coordinator, gave an outstanding talk about the Baker 2 Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race for Law Enforcement. The race will be conducted on 21-22 April 2012. The Challenge Cup Relay is the largest and most unique law enforcement race in the world. It is a 120 mile, 20 stage, foot race beginning at Baker, California and finishing at Las Vegas, Nevada. This is truly an international race with participation from Great Britain, Germany, Norway and many other countries. This race began in 1985 with 19 teams as a race for Police Officers to improve their physical fitness. Pulling together twenty runners per team, along with the necessary support personnel, is only the first step along the challenging path. This year there will be over 270 teams represented. Each Stage has a group of Amateur Radio Operators appointed as Race Officials for the purpose of Emergency Communications, Early Warning, and Time Keeping. Joy has the immense

responsibility for coordinating frequencies for HAMS, Public Safety, and commercial radios used during the race. The biggest challenge is mitigating conflicts with the hundreds of frequencies, bands, and modes. The AVARC has club members that volunteer annually to assist with this elite event. The majority of members have selected Stage 15 as their choice of assignment. Working the event is not only fun but also creates a special camaraderie amongst those who work it. Joy announced that they are always looking for volunteers. If you would be interested in helping, contact Eugene, KG6SLC or Carol, AF6OV.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lou KA6VVD  
AVARC Secretary

### AVARC Board Meeting 2 March 2012

**Called to Order:** The AVARC board meeting was called to order by Larry, KG1B at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Due to Lou, KA6VVD being sick and not making the meeting, Larry, KI6BKP, graciously stood in and recorded the minutes for the Board Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report.** Dan Rowlan reported the following:

Finance - \$5, 013.85  
Deposit - \$80.00  
Checks - \$39.00

**Membership Report.** Gary, WA6TWT reported the clubs has 88 paid members.

**New Business:**

## From the VEEP...

*(Continued from page 1)*

a robotics competition and upon their return, will be coming by one of our meetings to give us a demonstration. To help defray some of the costs of the trip, they are selling tickets to a Jethawks baseball game. The game will take place on May 12th and the tickets are \$8.00 each. I don't know if it is a day or night game. So if any of you baseball fans are wanting to see a game and support a good cause at the same time, here's your chance. You can contact Adriane at 661-466-3794, or at her e-mail at [adrianeholmes@yahoo.com](mailto:adrianeholmes@yahoo.com) to purchase tickets. Remember, these kids are representing the Antelope Valley in a national competition, and robotics and ham radio are not that far apart. Till next month,

73's

*Paul KD6SMC*



## Secretary's Desk...



Dennis, KA6GSE, a communications technician for L.A. County gave a presentation about the benefits of using D-STAR in the Antelope Valley. This is a digital mode system with a narrow band that can transmit and receive voice and data at the same time. Examples are APRS, GPS, etc. This is a practical system to be used in Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). As of yet, the Antelope Valley has no D-STAR coverage. This system could be link through a reflector and the worldwide-web through the internet. In order to install a D-STAR system in the AV, we would need a call sign for the D-STAR repeater. Keith, K6GXO voiced concerns with using the club call sign for D-STAR. A motion was made by Keith, K6GXO and seconded by Larry, K6GXO and seconded by Dick Miller. (5 In Favor and

2 Opposed). The motion was made by Larry and seconded by Gary amended the previous motion to use the call sign K6OXD - all were in favor. Larry, KG1B will look into getting a new call sign specifically for D-STAR.

Old Business:

1. Motion, seconded and approved to accept the February 2012 board meeting minutes.
2. The 2012 Field Day committee will be headed by VP Paul, KD6SMC and co-chaired by Steve, KC2RKK.
3. VP Paul, KD6SMC still needs to have his email address placed in the Short-Circuit.
4. Keith, K6GXO informed all the vertical antenna for the club trailer is in Keith's garage.

Minutes of the March 2, 2012 AVARC Board Meeting is respectfully submitted by:  
Lou Figueroa KA6VVD





### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2012 Officers

<b>President</b>	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	(818) 237-0706
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838
<b>Secretary</b>	Lou Figueroa	KA6VVD	(760) 373-8920
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
<b>Board Member</b>	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567



AVARC board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. All members are welcome to attend, although they should let the president or another officer know that they are planning to attend, as the meetings usually include a pot-luck dinner at the home of one of the officers.

The club net is on Wednesdays at 8:00, on the Hauser repeater (146.73 MHz PL 100). The net includes Amateur Radio Newslines, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX  
 Post Office Box 1011  
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