

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

April 2012

## President's Corner

Larry Bianchi KG1B

When all else fails ..

You've seen this before as a catch phrase for ham radio. And it is an extremely fitting one .. but here is an interesting twist that recently happened to me.

First .. let me lay some groundwork. I am originally from Boston and while there, my father K1DTB became a ham in the mid 50's. I can remember seeing this weird box on the kitchen table with this strange thing that made intriguing noises.

I learned that it was a CW key and he was learning Morse Code. (I later learned Morse Code while passing my Boy Scout 1<sup>st</sup> Class requirements). So, both my older brother Jimbo and I have known about ham radio all of our lives.

My father went on to build an elaborate ham shack making most of his equipment. His shack looked like the inside of the space shuttle cockpit, or so it seemed. We had a lot of fun listening to him jabber on 6 meters. He actually put a telephone pole in the backyard and erected his 6m Yagi on top! We were the talk of the neighborhood!

Even though I had known about ham radio all my life, it took me

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## Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 26, 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 **Dennis Smith KA6GSE**, who will be talking to us about D-STAR. Our club is preparing to become involved with this new digital mode, and this will be a good opportunity to learn more about it.

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



## From The Veep

Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC

The week following Easter, my girlfriend Terry and I were on vacation. We spent one day in L. A. at the L.A. County Museum of Art and the La Brea Tar Pits and then took off for a two day jaunt up the coast to see some of the more esoteric tourist attractions. First, we cut across the San Joaquin Valley to the intersection of highways 41 and 46, the place where James Dean met his end in a violent crash. We stopped at Blackwell's Store, advertised as James Dean's last stop. We then headed west to San Luis Obispo to see 'Bubble Gum Alley' which is exactly what the name says. It's a six foot wide alley between two buildings in downtown San Luis Obispo that is covered from ground level to about twelve feet high with used chewing gum. Decades of chewing gum. I took photos of Terry adding to the mess. Then off to Morro Bay to play tourist and eat in small waterfront restaurants. Wednesday we headed north to see the elephant seal beach north of San Simeon and finally we stopped at the Chumash Casino near Solvang where Terry won and I lost. So how does all this apply to ham radio? Well, this month our guest speaker will be Dennis Smith KA6GSE, who will give us a presentation on D-STAR. Like our choices of vacation destinations, amateur radio has some not too common modes of operation. Things like meteor scatter or EME have their followers but compared to the mainstream ham modes, the numbers of hams taking part in these modes are

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# From the Secretary's Desk



## Meeting Minutes for the AVARC March 22, 2012

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

**Flag Salute and Introduction of Members and Guests:** Flag Salute was conducted followed by introductions of members. We had 29 members present with 4 guests present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan, KG6PQA gave his report which was accepted by the membership.

**Membership:** Gary WA6TWT announced we have 94 paid members.

**Vice President's Report:** Paul reported 5 families and members attended the club outing to the Nethercutt Museum. They were lucky to have fine weather and everyone had a lot of fun. As for field day, Paul asked the membership to send him an email to let him know what you would like to do to help. Some examples are; set up, take down, run a station or any other thing to make this year's field a great success. Paul will also invite the local robotics group, Boy and Girl Scouts to our field day event. He will also send out flyers describing the event.

**Old Business:** The club now owns a new digital projector.

### New Business:

1. Lou has tendered his resignation as the AVARC Secretary. Larry will research the process for selection of a new secretary.

2. Eugene, KG6SLC, gave a short brief about the Baker to Vegas Relay Race that will be conducted on 21 April. This is a fun event that should be experienced by all. There will be a Pot Luck volunteer's meeting at his residence on Saturday, 24 March. Anyone wishing to participate should contact him.

3. The club is running low on ARRL brochures. Please go to the ARRL site and order the free publications and brochures and donate them to the club.

4. A discussion was held in reference to a club call sign and D-Star:

Larry, KG1B made the announcement that we changed our second club call sign to a new vanity call "K6OXD", and he will be the Trustee for the new vanity call sign. Keith, K6GXO, stated the call sign will be used for digital activities such as the D-Star system although we have not officially linked the club to D-Star yet. Non-Member Dennis, KA6GSE, will be making another presentation with Dick Miller, KJ6W, to the board at the 5 April 2012 meeting. Dick will allow a D-Star system to be placed at his site on 10 High Mountain. If everything meets with approval from

the membership, our new vanity call sign, "K6OXD" will be used as the station call sign. Keith, K6GXO, highly recommends that the Trustee for the vanity call always be a club member who is maintaining an Extra Class license.

Margie, KG6TBR, stated she was against handing out the call sign since we do not know how the equipment is to be used by another person that is not a club member.

Dan, W6DAS, asked if we are able to control the equipment as the control operators. He made a recommendation that Dennis, KA6GSE, joins the AVARC and is made the Trustee of the vanity call "K6OXD". Keith, K6GXO, added, "or maybe have Dick, KJ6W, assume the trusteeship of the vanity license".

### Announcements:

Adrienne, WA6YEO, announced that the leadership for the club's participation for the Annual MS Walk has been turned over to Marcus, KE6RHV although she will still be assisting as needed. The walk will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Lancaster "Market Place". Members will be meeting at the check-in located by Harbor Freight. Although many ARES members will be participating, there is also room for our club members to participate.

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## President's Corner...



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until July of 2007 to actually take my exam and get my license.

Ok .. so with this background established .. back to the present. My brother now lives in Santa Rosa and is confined to a wheelchair. He has a lifelong friend (Mike) that keeps tabs on him.

About 2 weeks ago, I get this phone call from Margie Hoffman KG6TBR saying that she has a message for me about my brother. This happened late into the evening. So I called Margie and she was both concerned and amazed.

She had me listen to the message and it was Jimbo's friend Mike telling me that Jim was in the hospital! Mike said that he had been trying to find my number all day long and then he remembered that I was a ham.

He looked on the Internet and found the ham radio club and hoping that I just might be a member, he called the president. The ARRL being how they are, still listed Margie as the president, so Mike called her and left a message that if she knew me to please get in contact with me. So call me she did.

And yes, my brother was in the hospital, but all was taken care of and he is now safe and sound back at his home.

To Mike, thank you for what you have done and being a great friend to my brother.

But there again, ham radio came to the rescue when all else failed!

Anyways .. a few quick things. We are going to have an excellent program in April about D-STAR, so attend and expect to be enlightened.

Also, we are making plans for Field Day, so if you would like to be a participant, please contact me or Paul KD6SMC. We are in the need for people to setup stations or man stations that will already be set up.

The May meeting (May 24<sup>th</sup>) will be dedicated to Field Day so we can finalize plans and etc.

Well .. that about wraps it up for this month. We look forward to seeing you at the April meeting (April 26<sup>th</sup>).

Till then .. Happy Hamming!

73,  
Larry KG1B

## Secretary's Desk...

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George presented Larry, KG1B with a certificate of completion and membership to Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit 44, Antelope Valley.

**Break:** Larry called a break from 8:16 to 8:25 before presenting our speaker for the night's program.

At promptly 8:25 p.m., Jon, N6NQ gave a very informative presentation about Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). This organization was established by the ARRL as a service that could provide emergency communication to all emergency or special event organization without be under their direct control. The Antelope Valley has a very active group. For more information go to [www.aresav.org](http://www.aresav.org) or at [www.arrl.org/ares](http://www.arrl.org/ares).

**Raffle Winner:** Larry, KI6BKP, was the grand winner of \$22.00.

**Adjournment:** Frank, N6FOD made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Gary, WA6WFC; all in favor to close the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lou Figueroa, KA6VVD, AVARC Secretary.

**AVARC Board Meeting  
5 April 2012**

**Called to Order:** The AVARC board meeting was called to order by Larry, KG1B at 7:07 p.m.

**Members present:** Larry Bianchi KG1B (President), Paul L'Heureux

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## Secretary's Desk...



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KD6SMC (Vice-President), Lou Figueroa KA6VVD (Secretary), Larry Mock KI6BKP (Board Member), Gary Barr WA6TWT (Board Member/Membership), Gary Mork WA6WFC (Master-At-Arms), and Keith Hoyt K6GXO (Trustee), Dan Rowlan K6PQA (Treasurer), and Margie Hoffman KG6TBR (Ex-Officio).

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Rowlan reported that we presently have \$4702.26 in the bank.

**Membership:** Gary, WA6TWT, reported at present time we have 96 paid members. Club roster will be sent out next month. Hopefully, everyone will renew their membership by then.

### Old Business:

a) Field Day – VP Paul, President Larry, and Steve, KC2RKK make up the 2012 Field Day Committee. VP Paul will be in charge of publicity for the Field Day ; President Larry will be responsible for scoring and station assignments; and Steve, KC2RKK, will be in charge of set up and take down. There will be a meeting for all members that want to participate at field day on Saturday, 12 May 12, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at Keith's, K6GXO, house.

b) Larry, KI6BKP, made a motion to have a Bar-B-Q on Saturday evening. Meal Tickets to be given out to all participating club members and non-participating members and guests will be

charged a fee (to be determined) for the Bar-B-Q.

c) Lou, KA6VVD, made a motion the club should budget \$200.00 and buy the food and other necessities for the Field Day Bar-B-Q. Dan, K6PQA seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

### New Business:

a) President Larry made a second announcement that Lou, KA6VVD, Club Secretary had tendered his resignation. A call for nominations will need to be conducted at the next club meeting.

b) Keith, K6GXO, make a recommendation that when we get the approval to buy a new club generator, we should consider that we buy 2, 2KW generators instead of 1, 4 KW generator. His reason is that a 4 KW generator is very heavy and hard to move around. A 2KW generator will be much lighter and both generators can be hook up together to produce 4 KW. The smaller generators are also much quieter than the 4 KW generator. He also said that the club could sell the old generator to recoup some money from the sale.

c) After a long discussion, it was decided that Larry, KG1B, will remain as the trustee for the new vanity call, K6OXD. No other action is required.

d) VP Paul made a formal announcement that Dennis, KA6GSE, will be the speaker for April's club meeting. He will be giving a complete presentation about D-Star and how it will be used.

e) Next month's board meeting to be held at VP Paul's house.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Motion made by Larry, KI6BKP and seconded by VP Paul.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Lou Figueroa KA6VVD, AVARC  
Secretary

## Swap Shop

ANTENNA AND TOWER  
SALE: CONTACT W6FW, BILL  
HOVERMAN 661-942-8596 or  
[nhoverman@verizon.net](mailto:nhoverman@verizon.net)

160 mtr coil \$20  
40 mtr Hygain 2 element linear  
load beam \$150  
20 mtr 4 element lite weight (36 ft  
boom approx 70 lbs) \$300  
17 mtr WARC 3 element  
beam \$100  
15 mtr 5 element M<sup>2</sup> 32 ft  
boom \$200  
10 mtr 4 element 16 ft boom \$80  
Hygain TH3 tribander 10-15-  
20 \$100  
5 band Hygain vertical \$60  
9 band vertical Butternut \$300  
6 mtr 3 element beam \$60  
54 ft crankup tower 13 FT mast  
avail. \$150  
HZN Tri-Ex rotating tower 72ft  
attachments to 94 ft \$2000

## From the VEEP...

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small. There will soon be a new repeater in the Antelope Valley that is D-STAR capable. We have been asked to support this endeavor. Why should we? I'll probably never own a D-STAR radio. I enjoy ham radio and I'm having fun on HF. I have a lot of hobbies and I have to divide what little spare change I have among all of them. The extent of digital radio in my shack is a digital speaker that I got for Christmas. It will be a long time before I can afford a new transceiver. But digital is here to stay and as hams we need to support new technologies even if we as individuals can't afford to get involved. As a club, we are obligated to support advances in the hobby, especially in our own community. We are an educational club. New members will embrace new technologies, especially the younger hams who have grown up in a digital world with smart phones and all the other digital toys now-a-days. Imagine having a QSO and sending and receiving QSL cards as you speak. And of course the benefits to emcomm are obvious. With D-STAR, you can talk and send data simultaneously.

Finally, next month's meeting will be set aside as our Field Day meeting. So think about what you want to do to participate, even if it is on a small scale. Till then,

73's  
*Paul KD6SMC*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21-22 — Baker to Vegas  
 April 26 — AVARC Meeting  
 April 28 — MS Walk  
 May 3 — AVARC Board Meeting  
 May 7 — GLAARG Test Session  
 May 18-20 — Dayton Hamvention  
 June 2 — ARRL Test Session  
 June 23-24 — Field Day



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

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

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**Fax 818-842-5283**



### 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  
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To ARS: