

# The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2013

## President's Corner

Larry Bianchi KG1B

Slow down! You're going too FAST!

Where is this year going? It seems only yesterday that we were recovering from our various New Year's celebrations and preparation!

And after a short summer (or so it seemed) the kids are headed back to school. My oldest grandson is in Jr. High School excited about his classes. I am sure the excitement will wear off as he gets further into the school year, but then that is to be expected.

Enough about me, let us see what is happening with the club!

As a BIG REMINDER!!! Our August 22<sup>nd</sup> club meeting will be:

JANE REYNOLDS PARK CLUBHOUSE  
716 W. Oldfield

Broadly speaking, 716 Oldfield is between Sierra Hwy and 10 St W. about 4 blocks south of Lancaster Blvd.

Times will be the same: 7:00 eyeball with meeting starting at 7:30 to 9:00. Parking will not be as plentiful as it was at the EOC. There is some parking in front of the clubhouse along with street parking.

And to kick off our inaugural club meeting, our own Dan Sherwood W6DAS will be our speaker. He

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 22, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Jane Reynolds Park, 716 West Oldfield Street, in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions.

The new phone number for the club is **(661) 265-6131**.

This month's meeting will feature our own **Dan Sherwood W6DAS**, who will give a presentation on automated messaging using the MT63 digital mode and FLMSG, a way to pass messages via digital means using a computer and VHF/UHF transceiver. He will discuss equipment configuration, program setup, and technical issues regarding this mode, along with a demonstration of its capabilities.

This mode is becoming very popular for EMCOMM and MARS emergency communication, so you won't want to miss this! See you at the meeting!



**Dan Sherwood W6DAS**

## From The Veep

Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC

Bang! Ouch, I just had my soap-box kicked out from under me. I sometimes have to shake my head and laugh at how naïve I can be. I'm always asking for responses to my Short Circuit articles and usually get nothing. Last month's article generated a very long e-mail from John Pollock, KF5TJR. It's long. I've read it several times and in it John says a lot. I'm still digesting it. Thanks, John, I appreciate the response and your candor.

I would love to see younger hams, those under 30, but realistically, I'll take anyone of any age. I got interested in ham radio at a young age but didn't get my novice ticket till 1993 when I was 45 years old. Like most hobbies, amateur radio is not cheap. It can be done fairly inexpensively by buying used equipment or making your own. But if you are young and don't know what you are doing, you can waste a lot of time and money going it alone. We would all like to see our club grow, so I'm glad for any member of any age.

For those of you with computers and internet access, do a search for 'amateur radio clubs' and read their newsletters. You'll see what other clubs are doing and maybe there are things we can try also. One thing that no club exists to do is to 'entertain' you. A club is a collec-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Corner...

*(Continued from page 1)*

always brings exciting things to talk about so we are looking forward to see what he will bring!

We have a few things to consider as we approach the end of the year. First, we have "Anchors Aweigh" in October. This is our annual club "Swap Meet". Some fun things oftentimes show up for people to purchase or swap. It is always interesting to see what people will bring.

In September, we will be holding nominations for next year's Officers and Board Members and hold more nominations and final elections at the October club meeting. So anyone interested in any of the positions should consider running. It is good to have new blood in the club leadership as there are many good ideas that flow and that is a very good thing.

And while we are on the subject

of the end of the year, the club meetings in November and December will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. So November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> will be our club meeting dates. We will remind everyone of those dates as we get closer to those months.

Well, looks like that about wraps things up for this month. Will look forward to seeing all of you on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Again, if you want to contact me, feel free to call me at 818 237-0706 or you can email me at Strad3@Hotmail.com.

73 and Happy Hamming!



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

1525 W Magnolia Blvd  
 Burbank, CA 91506  
 (Between Sparks and  
 Beachwood)  
 Open 10:00 to 5:30  
 Closed Sundays  
 Voice 818-842-1786  
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AVARC Members,  
 Thanks for letting HRO  
 meet your  
 Amateur Radio needs.

## From the VEEP...

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion of like minded individuals who share a common interest and want to increase their knowledge and share that knowledge with others. My definition, not Mr. Webster's, made up just now.

Eugene and Carol Humphreys are planning a 'J-pole' building party in September and after attending the last one that they had, I recommend that everyone who doesn't have one of these nifty little antennas go and build one. They work great, make a good base station antenna, and they are inexpensive. Plus you get the satisfaction of building it yourself. These are 2-meter (144.000 MHz) antennas and can get you into the local repeaters from a long ways off. The date for the party hasn't been set yet, but watch the next newsletter or listen to the Wednesday evening net (8 pm) and it will be announced.

Well, that is about it for this month. Remember, the club meeting has been moved to Jane Reynolds Park. After all the reminders over the net, in the newsletter and at club meetings since before Field Day, you will get quite a ribbing if you forget and show up at the EOC!

Dan Sherwood W6DAS will be giving the talk this month but I don't remember the subject. Yes, old age, dang it. Till then.....

73's  




## *From the Secretary's Desk*

### AVARC Club Meeting Minutes July 25, 2013

Called to Order at 7:30PM by Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC. Flag Salute. Member introductions, Members in attendance 35.

Officers' Reports: Membership report given by Gary Barr WA6TWT: We have 104 members.

Financial report: given by Gary Barr WA6TWT, we have \$3,960.17.

Old Business: Club Trailer: We had a higher bid of \$501, by Dale Snider KØBGL.

Corrections for Board Meeting Minutes for July as follows: Two documented items: 1. At Field Day ARES collected \$50.00, and was given to Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. Money was given to Gary Barr WA6TWT. 2. Gary Barr WA6TWT will now be paid for postage for Short Circuit.

New Business: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, The test session of August 3rd is changed to Monday August 5th at 7PM.

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR is going to a Telephone Conference tomorrow July 25th at 10AM, it goes all day. For the 2014 Convention ARRL, start to make reservations.

Our Meeting for August 22 will be at Jay Reynolds School 716 West Oldfield St. Limited parking, also street parking.

August 1st Board Meeting canceled.

Dan Sherwood W6DAS Our web site has to be changed because of different location of meeting place.

Carol Humphries AF6OV asked if there was any interest in making J-poles. There was a show of hands.

Our Speaker: Steve Fox, Assembly member 36th Assembly District gave our presentation.

Raffle was \$21.00 won by Dan Sherwood W6DAS.

We adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Harnos KC2RUJ  
AVARC Secretary 2013

### The Sun is About to Flip

Scientists predict that the sun's magnetic field is about to flip, according to a NASA Science article. The celestial event may mark the midpoint of the current solar cycle 24.

"It looks like we're no more than 3 to 4 months away from a complete field reversal," the article quotes solar physicist Todd Hoeksema, the director of Stanford University's Wilcox Solar Observatory. "This change will have ripple effects throughout the solar system." As the article explains, the sun's magnetic field switches polarity approximately every 11 years at the peak of each solar cycle. The pending reversal means we're halfway through the current cycle.

Wilcox is one of the world's only observatories that monitor the sun's polar magnetic fields. NASA says that since 1976 magnetograms at Wilcox have recorded three "grand reversals" — with a fourth in the offing.

Solar physicist Phil Scherrer, also of Stanford, explains it this way: The sun's polar magnetic fields "weaken, go to zero, and then emerge again with the opposite polarity. This is a regular part of the solar cycle." "The sun's north pole has already changed sign, while the south pole is racing to catch up," says Scherrer. "Soon, however, both poles will be reversed, and the second half of solar max will be underway."

#### Twin Peaks

A ScienceCasts video, "Solar Max Double Peaked," linked from the article, quotes Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center as predicting a double peak to cycle 24. Pesnell believes that cycle 24, which saw peak sunspot numbers in 2011 followed by a dip in 2012, could rebound later this year and into 2014 — possibly 2015.

The last two solar cycles, with peaks around 1989 and 2001, respectively, each had two peaks, with the second "mini-cycle" lasting about 2 years each time. Pesnell believes history could be repeating itself.

- from the ARRL Letter

# PACIFICON 2013

## October 11, 12, 13 Marriott Santa Clara



**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2013 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	(818) 237-0706
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Harnos	KC2RUJ	(631) 754-5853
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Gerry Anderson	W6GWA	942-1912
<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 Newsline, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

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

Place  
 Postage  
 Here



To ARS: