

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

April 2014

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Hello All!

April is here and almost over. Now we have completed the annual Baker2Vegas event and are ready to move forward with our plans for the next series of club activities. I don't have the final results of the B2V race as in statistics, but hear it was better than last year. Less casualties due to the cooler weather and each year we learn from the last one. This is true of any event we participate in whether it be with our club or as a volunteer outside with other ham radio operator friends. Coming up in the first week of May will be the MS walk. The event takes place on Saturday, May 3 from 8am – 12:30pm. This is a much smaller event as B2V, but as a club, we provide about 15-20 volunteers to watch the runners and be able to report any urgent issues. For the past three years, I have been riding in the "sag wagon", in which I keep listening to the radio and pass traffic as I hear it and direct my driver to pick up walkers along the way who are too weary of going forward. We also provide water drops as needed if the stages run out. The event only lasts a half a day, but it is a lot of fun.

The next event is Field Day, an event where many radio clubs and other hams participate all around the country. It is always held on the last full weekend of June and this year will be on Saturday, June 28 to Sunday, June 29. Our club already has our permit and will be operating from the Lancaster City Park. We will have access to begin setting up on Friday from Noon on and tear down on Sunday by around 2pm. This event has been a major discussion at both the Board Meetings and mentioned at the

(Continued on page 4)

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 24, 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. Eyeball QSO starts at 7 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30.

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

2014 AVARC Newsletter – March presentation details

This month's meeting will feature our own **Brian Basura N6CVO**, sharing his tale of sailing the South Pacific while relying on amateur radio as a critical lifeline. During his journey Brian repaired generators, delivered health supplies, and conducted scientific surveys. We'll learn how he coped with the elements, dealt with food shortages, and depended on his radio. You won't want to miss this exciting story! See you at the meeting!



Brian Basura N6CVO

From The Veep

Carol Humpherys AF6OV

Have you ever dropped a pebble in a pond and watched the ripples spread until they covered the entire area? The good that we do in the world is similar to ripples in a pond, ever spreading, ever increasing, and ever influencing.

Have you ever thought about the influence you have in the world, specifically in the ham radio world? Each time you help out as an Elmer, participate as a Volunteer Examiner, or encourage a newbie, your influence, like ripples in a pond, is felt.

Last month Pat Coker (N6RMJ) delivered an insightful presentation on increasing the efficiency of our HTs by using tiger tails and simple antennas. (Yes, tiger tails really do make a difference!) Pat created a ripple in our pond—and his influence has been positively felt. During Field Day this June, Eugene (KG6SLC) and I (AF6OV) now plan to facilitate an exercise whereby individuals can build their own Tiger Tails custom fitted to their personal HTs.

This month's AVARC presentation, Brian Basura's (N6CVO) story of sojourning in South Pacific, captivates the imagination. Brian will detail the scope of his journey—ranging from humani-

(Continued on page 4)



From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting 3/27/2014

Meeting called to order by Margie Hoffman at 7:31 pm.

Flag salute and member introductions. Total people present: 31

Secretary's report: Dan Sherwood – minutes as printed in the Short Circuit. Moved Larry KI6BKP, Seconded John N6NQ Approved.

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr – Balances, checking \$4,490.79, Cash on hand \$124.00, Total \$4,614.79.

Membership report: 96 total confirmed, some pending.

Welcoming of visitors.

Old business:

1. Additional test session results: Margie KG6TBR thanks to all VE's who volunteered and assisted the test session March 1 held at the Acton Library. Margie had a total of 28 applicants, 17 who passed including 2 upgrades to General.
2. Baker to Vegas updates, Margie KG6TBR – 2015 B to V will be March 28 – 29, 2015. Stage 12 was staffed by Keith Hoyt K6GXO who led about 8 volunteers and did a good job. Race ran ahead of schedule and had to be held back to allow safety personnel to be in place. Time credited to runners held.
3. Eugene KG6SLC updated on Stage 15 at B to V. Thanks for volunteers who participated. He gave a synopsis of operations for hams not familiar with the event.
4. Margie KG6TBR – need current status of recruiting plan in place

for AVARC. Mailout status: Gary Barr reported one response.

5. Margie: City of Lancaster received our insurance documents. We are good for meeting at park location as well as the use of the LC Park for field day. Paul has met with the Scouts, and the District commissioner is on board for supporting field day. Paul will be putting a committee together to handle FD functions. See Paul KD6SMC to volunteer for field day.
6. Carol AF6OV completed Club inventory.
7. Dan W6DAS sent the donation for the ARRL Centennial fund. \$100.
8. Doug W7HAN reported on his first contact experience using a Baofeng HT.
9. Carol AF6OV mentioned the Quartz Hill repeater they are sponsoring on 146.865.
10. Adrienne WA6YEO: Next test session Monday April 7, 2014 Monday night 7:00 PM 1702 E. Ave. J. GLAARG test fee \$5.00. Applicants and examiners needed.
11. Margie: Still need net control and newline operators for Wed. night nets.
12. Keith K6GXO: Apr. 5-6 Visalia DX convention. Looking for someone to share a ride in his truck and RV. Also mentioned Dayton in May. He will go from

5/14 – 5/20. He encourages all to give it a try.

13. Margie: Will order FD T-shirts. Looking for folks interested in buying shirts from ARRL.

Break at 8:06 PM.

Carol introduced our guest speaker: Pat Coker, N6RMJ on the subject of Things to do to improve your HT. Pat's presentation followed.

Announcements:

Margie: Next Council meeting May 6, 2014

Next Board meeting: Carol's house – April 3, 2014. Talk in on Hauser repeater.

Next General meeting: April 24, 2014
Brian N6CVO – Guest speaker
Short Circuit deadline: April 13.

50/50 drawing: Winner Jim NB6V - \$15.00

Meeting adjourned 8:48 PM.

AVARC Board Meeting April 3, 2014

Opening: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR - President

7:08 p.m. @ Carol & Eugene Humphreys QTH

Minutes from last meeting: Read/reviewed by Secretary Dan Sherwood WA6PZK. Any corrections: No

Motion made by: Carol, Seconded by: Eugene Approved? yes

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr - Balance: \$ 4579.79 + cash \$149 = \$4,728.79

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Members: # 97

Members present tonight:

Margie KG6TBR, Carol Humpherys AF6OV, Dan W6DAS, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, Larry

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

Mock KI6BKP, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Donald Hosman N6NAI, Shirley Hosman

Old Business:

1) What is the status of the recruiting plan in place for AVARC?

Eugene printed AVARC Invitation postcards and brought some in to last meeting. Were they given to Gary to add labels with the list of prospects and then given to Paul for mail outs? More cards needed. Carol will print out cards as needed.

Discussion: Officers and Board members to discuss. Conclusion – Gary mentioned labels come 30 to the sheet. Good time to run cards when a sheet of labels to be printed.

2) Field Day. Discussion of the Chair and committee assignments. Copy of permit should be posted in each trailer. Larry Mock will do GOTA station. Eugene and Carol will consider doing antenna builds, with Paul Boyd. They will also build “tiger tail” HT counterpoise whips. W6DAS to do SSB station, K0BGL will do CW if a available. Discussion of approaching LDS officials to announce field day. Contact information to be given to Donald so that LDS can be contacted. Discussion of obtaining ARRL publicity packets – these can be downloaded. Paul will put together FD committee members including station captains and other FD functions. Larry will contact ARES and CERT. Paul will work with the Boy Scout council leaders in order for them to show up. Donald recommended having Paul run an announcement in the Short Circuit to seek committee help, and to update the status of FD preparation.

Margie attended the W6SD meeting last week in which Marty Woll N6VNI was the guest speaker speaking on Field Day Strategies. Margie took 3 pages of notes and got some ideas for review for our own club. Paul will be speaking at our May meeting and Margie would like to get together with him for this presentation to go over the strategies that would apply to our club.

3) Carol made a list of the club inventory of any and all club equipment. We still

need to review and finalize in order to keep official club record. We need a projection screen for use in the meeting. Check around for a screen.

4) Bank – Gary states US Bank charges for new checks.

• New Business:

1) Who is the guest speaker for April? Brian Basura N6CVO. Topic on his sailing adventures in the South Pacific. We will try to get him started no later than 8:10.

2) Gary Barr suggests avoiding acronyms in the general meeting presentation, so as not to confuse the new hams in attendance.

3) Next HAMCON meeting to be held on Saturday, April 19, at 4pm at the Sizzler Restaurant in Fullerton. Margie will be attending. We are still working on the

logo. Make sure folks sign up to San Diego HAMCOM for this year. For 2015, Carol suggested our club provide some of the speakers. Speakers can contact Steve Wardlaw at HAMCON.

4) Gary Barr: State filings – wanted to confirm the requirements for the various filings regarding non-profit status. Form 199n just completed.

5) Meal compensation – After reviewing expenses for guest speakers, future speakers will be compensated for the meal and one non-alcoholic beverage.

6) Club needs an historian position. Need to better document Club's history.

• Announcements:

• Adrienne WA6YEO – Next VE session to be held on day, Monday, April 7.

(Continued on page 5)

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2014

5/5/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
6/2/2014	Monday	7pm.	ARRL
7/12/2014	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
8/4/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
9/6/2014	Saturday	9am.	ARRL
10/6/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
11/1/2014	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
12/1/2014	Monday	7pm.	ARRL

Test sessions are offered on a monthly basis in Lancaster. Testing fee is \$5.00 for GLAARG sessions and \$15.00 for ARRL sessions. Applicants should bring a photo ID and a copy of your current amateur radio license if you have one. If you are applying for your first ham license, you are urged to apply for an FRN number prior to the test session. You can apply at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

The test sessions are located at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 East Avenue J, across the street from WalMart, in Lancaster.

Pre-registration is not required, unless a special accommodation is required. For more information, please call Adrienne WA6YEO, at (661) 264-1863, or send an e-mail to w6y eo@arrl.net.

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

General meetings. Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC is our Field Day Chairman and is assigning the team captains for the various radio stations, but he still needs someone to step up and handle the organization of the food. We usually have a barbeque on Saturday evening around 6pm, and this means that someone needs to pick up the food and bring it to the field and set it all up. That person will also need helpers who are willing to set up and clean up as well.

We now have about 40 members who regularly attend our monthly meetings, so I think we should be able to get many of us to participate. Please contact Paul or myself and ask how you can be involved.

In May, Paul will speak about Field day and will have with him George Curtin, District Commissioner of the Western Los Angeles County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. That organization has showed us a commitment to bringing out their scouts and participating as well. We look forward to the chance to show the scouts just what it is that we do in amateur radio.

Since I actually work (volunteer) for Baker2Vegas for 7 months out of the year, now I have 5 months off. Just like a vacation, but not. I have been seeing my grandkids more, something that I really enjoy and have been missing since being so busy. I plan to find other activities to fill up the time, but mostly just to catch up, clean up around the house and reorganize. Hopefully, I will be able to do that and begin to make a new list of ham opportunities for the rest of the year. I hope you are doing the same. See you at the meeting!

73,
Margie KG6TBR

From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

tarian service repairing generators and distributing medical/health supplies, to environmental efforts surveying reef habitats and baselining ecosystems—all while depending on amateur radio communication as a critical lifeline. Brain's efforts made a difference and created positive ripples in the pond of the South Pacific.

As amateur radio enthusiasts, we are a special breed of people, and we know a lot more about those pond ripples than the average guy next door. In a sense we are highly accomplished nerds—and I say this with pride.

As radio specialists, we know how waves operate—whether pond waves or radio waves, and we understand the science of transmission. As super nerds we understand that waves can be classified by how the energy moves—transverse waves, longitudinal waves or surface / circular waves. We know that waves can require a medium (physical waves) or function in a



vacuum (electromagnetic waves). We understand the ocean wave, the high frequency radio wave, and, of course, the baseball stadium wave.

As amateur radio operators we may understand science of waves, but we do not always realize the extent of positive ripples created in our community when we share our hobby. Participation in CERT, ARES and DCS makes us radio ambassadors. As we practice good ham radio etiquette, our actions have an important influence on those around us.

Even your presence at the AVARC meeting is a positive pebble in the pond. By your attendance you are influencing others in banding together as part of a larger group to promote ham radio interests. Your dues help other club members enjoy our mutual hobby and benefit the larger radio community.

73,
Carl AF60V

Swap Shop

For Sale

Flex 1500 SDR

I just upgraded to a Flex 3000 so must sell this rig.

Radio is one year old. (Bought it at Visalia 2013)

Flex 1500 QRP (5 watt) 6 thru 160 all mode radio.

Radio is "As New" with all original parts and in original box.

All you need to get on the air is a computer and a mike.

Radio did not come with mike when I bought it.

A Yaesu mike with a modular connector will work.

Asking \$550.00

Dan Warren W6DAW

Contact me at W6DAW@arrl.net

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. “It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test,” admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC’s director of examinations. “We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can’t.”

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

“This isn’t going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests,” noted Dasher. “We’re going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key.”

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. “We discussed it,” said Dasher, “but decided that since most Techs can’t even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment.”

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. “We’re beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something,” she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No-Nonsense” amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.

Collector Pins from HAMCON 2010/2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

Did you attend the 2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention (HAMCON 2011) at the



Torrance Marriott and not purchase an official pin? A limited number of cloisonné

pins from this convention will be available for \$3 each at AVARC's April 24 meeting. All proceeds go toward staging HAMCON 2015, which will also be held at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.

Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

7:00pm at First Christian Church. Address: 1702 E. Ave J - Across from WalMart. This is a GLAARG session and fee is \$5. See Adrienne and give her a definite confirmation that you will be there to help her and Dan out.

- Next board meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2014 7pm – Meeting will be at Eugene and Carol's place.

- Next General meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2014 7:30 pm.

Guest Speaker: Brian Basura N6CVO
Reminder: Addie needs the Short Circuit by Sunday night April 13, at the very latest.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Sherwood W6DAS
AVARC Secretary 2014





Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2014 Officers

President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Vice President	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Treasurer	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838



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
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Place
 Postage
 Here



To ARS: