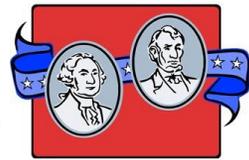


The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2015

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

When all else fails, there's Skype! What did I just say? Here's why sometimes that may actually apply.

This month, the biggest deal in the world of ham radio contesters is the subject of the Navassa Island Dxpediton 2015. I happen to be one of those contesters, trying to get the rare contacts on at least one band. And while this mission may not be important to all of us, it is one that I look forward to and have done my best to take part in if and whenever I get wind that there is a rare one out there to be sought after. Normally, I take part in the Cal QSO Party (California QSO Annual contest) in which you try to make contact with all of the 50 states and include the Northern territories into Canada. I also have worked the annual ARRL VHF/UHF Contest both in January and June as well as in September. And of course, there is the annual CQ worldwide DX contest, taking place in October. I work phone. This is not to say that I do not work CW, but it is difficult for me and many operators are much faster and more experienced than I, so alas, I work phone.

During the last CQ WW DX contest, I worked it from home and was able to hear and be heard far into the West, encompassing Japan, Hawaii, and some distant islands, then into the East, working France, Germany, and Croatia. To the North, Canada, even getting a contact with Prince Edward Island. I got South America, and even Africa, but could never be heard in the Caribbean. That is sure disappointing after I myself took part in the All YL Dxpediton to Curacao, PJ2T. I could hear them clearly, but they could not hear me. So, I was sure that there was no way that I would be able to get Navassa Island into my very own logbook. I later found out that I was mistaken as I found out after

(Continued on page 4)

Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 26, 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**.

Marty Woll N6VI, ARRL South West Division Vice Director, will be speaking at our February 26, 2015, AVARC meeting on "*Being DX, Tales of a Contest Expeditioner*". Marty will share anecdotes from nearly twenty contest operations outside of the "lower 48", describing both the unique aspects and common threads of the expeditions. Always a dynamic speaker, this presentation by Marty is one you will not want to miss!



Marty Woll N6VI stops by for a visit with W6DAS, WA6YEO, AF6OV and KG6SLC on Stage 15 at Baker 2 Vegas 2014.

From The Veep

Carol Humpherys AF6OV

Marty Woll (N6VI) Vice Director ARRL South West Division is our February AVARC speaker presenting "*Being DX, Tales of a Contest Expeditioner*". Although I've done limited DXing in the past, the idea of joining a Dxpediton holds great lore and romance for me.

I love hearing Keith Hoyt's (K6GXO) accounts of Dxpeditons as well as the narrative of Margie Hoffman's (KG6TBR) experience. As I dream of participating, I wonder what it would be like to be on the other end of pileups. I imagine the skill and speed required to operate effectively. The logistics are mind boggling, contemplating packing up and operating away from home. Dxpediton DVDs utterly captivate me, as I dream that someday I too may have that enthralling experience.

While musing on what Marty Woll has in store us in his February talk, I surfed the Web and found several interesting DX related links:

The DXZone Amateur Radio Internet Guide - A portal dedicated to amateur radio with fabulous links. A wonderful resource! Check out the *1966 US Army Morse Code Training Film*.

DXCoffee.com - A popular ham radio blog expressly for dxers. Daily DX news.

ARRL DX Bulletins - ARRL W1AW generates dx news as well as general interest bulletins and propagation reports.

(Continued on page 4)



**AVARC Board Meeting
February 5, 2015**

Opening: **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**
- **President**
6:37 p.m. @ Texas Cattle Company

Minutes from last meeting: Secretary Dan Sherwood W6DAS.
Any corrections?

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit: Made by: Paul, Seconded by: Eugene Approved? Y

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Balance: \$ 4410.46 (inc. cash \$187.00)

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Members: # 112
Of note: Jack Conklin N6EHL became a silent key, (life member).

Members present tonight: (1 visitor) Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, David Greenhut N6HD, Dick Miller KJ6W
Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC.

Old Business:

1: Margie: Discussion – Regarding offer from Marcus – High Desert Em-comm Group with AV ARES to assist our club with setting up a mesh network for use during Field Day 2015. Discussion by board and decisions made at the January meeting was that we would invite Marcus and those involved to attend our board meeting in order to present their info for discussion. This issue was tabled until the FD site issue can be resolved.

2: Margie: ARRL Southwestern Divi-

From the Secretary's Desk

sion Convention September 11-13, 2015 status update for the Torrance convention. For more information, please go to the website at www.hamconinc.org, which is being continually updated with new information. PayPal Registration applications online are working and we now have our registration flyer printed in each Short Circuit from now to date of the event. We encourage all our members to attend this once in four years event. Registrants may either print and fill out the form, and then attach a check and mail it to the address on the form or use the PayPal option.

By telephone: HAMCON 2015 attendees may secure room reservations at our special \$119 per night rate with free in-room high-speed internet and \$5 per day self-parking by phoning Marriott's national reservations center at **1-800-228-9290 and using the words: "HAMCON Convention"** (at the Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel.) Please remember: Rooms at these special rates must be booked by August 15, 2015. We need VE's for running the exam sessions. This is our official function.

New Business:

1) Margie thanked those who took over the January meeting in her absence. Thanks to Paul KD6SMC and Carol AV6OV for supplying the State of the Club updates. Thanks to Eugene for his filling in as speaker for the evening.

2) Field Day 2015: Margie was called by the staff at Lancaster City and informed that we will not be able to conduct our Field Day activities at Lancaster City Park this June due to the City has booked another large event which preempted our application. This in no

way was due to our negligence in making a timely application but due to a decision made by the City of Lancaster in their best interests.

Margie has been working with Paul KD6SMC, our Field Day Chair on this situation and Paul has been in contact with those that take reservations at George Lane Park in Quartz Hill. Both Margie and Paul have researched this option and we feel that it is a good one. They went over to the site to survey our options and speak to their representative. This park will allow overnight parking and RV's and antenna's as we are used to setting up for this type of operation. Margie asked for a discussion on this tonight among the Board and stated that we will make this decision and try to come to an agreement and if necessary, get the required paperwork processed in order to secure the reservation.

Discussion to follow: A proposal was written by Paul to be submitted to LA County parks. The County will allow overnight parking and access to the site by vehicles. The site looked good. David recommended checking for interference from nearby power lines. Eugene moved to file the proposal, Gary Barr seconded. Motion carried. If issues developed, the proposal can be cancelled later.

Margie also mentioned there's a clubhouse there, as a potential to become a permanent meeting place with far better acoustics. This room available after March. Gary Barr moved to investigate this, Eugene seconded. This process pending approval of the County, and approval by the general membership at the next Club meeting. Motion carried.

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

3) Newline and Net Control operator shortage.

Paul KD6SMC has had a change in work schedule for now and is unable to run the net. Margie will pick up those dates for now.

Also, Renee KJ6MOO has announced his pending move to Texas and will no longer be able to assist in Newline Report. His last date will be on February 11. David Greenhut offered to pick up some NCS duties as he can get into Hauser from Woodland Hills.

As a result of this, Margie is making a suggestion that we announce the location of Newline Report on the ARRL website and those who wish to either read or hear the audio may go onto the location and get the report on their home computer as needed. This for nights where no Newline operator is available.

Discussion to follow:

Announcements:

Adrienne WA6YEO: Next VE session to be held on Saturday, February 7, at 9am at the First Christian Church. Address: 1702 E. Ave J - Across from Wal-Mart. This is a GLAARG session and fee is \$5. Let Adrienne know that you will be there to assist.

Next board meeting: Thursday, March 5 at 7pm. and will be hosted at Carol & Eugene's QTH and will be a potluck. We can arrive at 6pm. Call Margie if you have items for the agenda.

Next General meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2015. Eyeball at 6:45-7:30, Meeting 7:30-9pm.

Next HAMCON meeting is Saturday, April 11, 2015 and will be held on at Spitfire Grill in Santa Monica. Margie will attend.

Next LAACARC meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7-9pm and will be held at the Toyota Museum building in Torrance. Margie will attend.

Reminder: Adrienne needs the next Short Circuit articles or any other submissions absolutely no later than Monday night February 16.

Please submit them directly to Adrienne WA6YEO At wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

Meeting Adjourned: 2011

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Sherwood W6DAS
AVARC Secretary 2015



**...to pay
your dues
for 2015**

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2015

3/9/2015	Monday	7pm.	ARRL
4/4/2015	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
5/11/2015	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
6/6/2015	Saturday	9am.	ARRL
7/13/2015	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
8/1/2015	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
9/14/2015	Monday	7pm.	ARRL
10/3/2015	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
11/9/2015	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
12/12/2015	Saturday	9am.	ARRL

President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

receiving a heads up from my brother-in-law Dan Sherwood W6DAS, who always looks out for my best interests when it comes to ham radio or just about anything.

He gives me a call early on Saturday morning and tells me that the operators are offering a very special opportunity for those of us who are considered "small pistols". That certainly is me when it comes to operating HF from my home station. The title was ATNO – All Time New One. That meant that if you have not yet worked K1N on any band or mode they would have the log at their fingertips and would be taking contacts from only those hams and just for a very short period of time and only on 15 meters. My immediate thought was "great, I will try and try". Well, I was not able to be heard, so Dan and I decided that he would assist me and operate "remote" which I have sometimes had to do when running the net when conditions in my shack have failed me. We set up a situation where I would be connected through vox, listen on my radio, listen through Skype and try to time this so that the transmission both through the radio and Skype would fall into place and the operator could hear me and I would respond in just the right timing that it would be heard as a continuous conversation with no "jet lag" of silence. It worked! After a few minutes I was able to make the contact and be logged in on 15 meters and believe me, I was pretty happy to get just this one.

Why is this so interesting to me? Well, if you read up on this particular DXpedition, their story is quite interesting to me and hopefully it will be to you. The last time there was a DXpedition was 22 years ago. That was in 1993 and prior to that date, in 1974. This very tiny 1,280-acre island is located in the Caribbean and sits just to the West of Haiti. History shows, that the attraction of this island originally was the prized agricultural fertilizer deposits of bird droppings or "guano". Apparently this was used widely in the

remote islands and after the Guano Islands Act of 1856, the U.S. gained possession of the island in order to harvest the product. After this supply was exhausted, the U.S. Department of the Interior managed the island along with many other small islands and included Desecheo and Navassa. Then the responsibilities were transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and thus the islands became national wildlife refuges.

The project of KP1-5 is to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow periodic access to both Navassa and Desecheo for Amateur Radio operations. At this point, the agreement is to not have another contesting station set up until ten more years has passed. This is why this was such a highly wanted contact for all those serious and the not so serious radio contesters. To get this one into your logbook is almost a once in a lifetime experience.

I hope you have learned something out of this as I sure have. Some of the things I like about radio contesting is the opportunities to try to send and be heard, testing my skills and equipment and to learn as much about the particular area where the DXpedition is being held and just why do they choose these locations.

Thanks for listening and I will see you all at the meeting next week!

73,
Margie KG6TBR



From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

- **DX-info.de Weekly DX Information** - New weekly DX information about DXpeditions, Special Event Stations, and more.
- **DX Calendar by dxwatch.com** - A calendar for current, future and past DX activations

DXing aside, I also stumbled upon links to several interesting Ham Radio Android Apps:

- **Amateur Radio Call Log** - A basic ham radio logging app for Android 1.5 and above. It stores date, time, station, freq, mode, RST, and additional comments. It also has the ability to easily look-up call sign information from the FCC database.
- **U2APRS Android APRS Tracker** - An APRS client Android application. It locates your position using GPS, 3G, and WiFi, and uploads it to the APRS-IS.
- **Training fast CW on Android (Koch method)** - Free Morse Code CW training software for Android supporting the Koch method by IZ2UUF.

Amateur Radio is a fascinating hobby. While the internet provides wonderful ways to learn more, hearing first-hand experiences is even better. I look forward to Marty's talk and hope that someday I too can go to a rare and perhaps dangerous place to activate the bands.

73,
Carl AF60V



HAMCON 2015 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

September 11-13, 2015
Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503

Convention Registration Form

Visit us at: www.hamconinc.org/

All attendees over 16 years old must have a separate paid registration; no charge for registered children under 16 when accompanied by paid Adult registrant. Children under 16 will receive different color ID.

Call Sign: _____

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Street or mailing address: _____

City: _____

State & ZIP Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____

Additional Attendee #1

Call Sign: _____

Adult: Child:

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Additional Attendee #2

Call Sign: _____

Adult: Child:

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Additional Attendee #3

Call Sign: _____

Adult: Child:

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Every adult Early Registrant receives a free Convention Pin or Patch (a \$5 value): # of Pins _____; Patches _____

	Per Person	x	Number	= \$ Total
Early Registration, postmarked by July 31, 2015:	\$22			
Regular Registration, Aug. 1-Sept. 13, 2015:	\$27			
Saturday Lunch**: ___Chicken ___Vegetarian	\$32			
Saturday Dinner**: ___Chicken ___Vegetarian	\$50			
Saturday Dinner**: ___Beef (reflects hotel's cost)	\$58			
Sunday Breakfast** (plated meal: meat, eggs, +)	\$25			

** Each meal has a special prize drawing exclusively for attendees

Additional Convention Pins _____ or Patches _____	\$5 ea.		
Total Amount Paid:			
		Cash	Check

For discounted HAMCON room rates at the Torrance Marriott Hotel, visit www.hamconinc.org by Aug. 15, 2015; in Main Menu click on "Hotel Room Reservations"

Please send Registration Form and Check to:

For HAMCON staff use:
Registration received by: _____
Date received & registration #: _____
Amount received: \$ _____

HAMCON Inc.
c/o Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR
21612 Grovepark Dr.
Santa Clarita, CA 91350



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2015 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	John Isles	K6RJC	942-1337
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

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To ARS:

