

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

December 2015

## President's Corner

**Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**

Hello All,

It is once again hard to believe that this is my last article as President of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club. I have served continuously as an officer in this club for ten years to date having begun for two years as your Secretary 2006-7, two years as the Vice President 2008-9, two as President 2010-11, two as Ex-Officio 2012-13 and finally that last two years again as your President 2014-15. This is kind of like writing a job resumé, but I have enjoyed every minute of it. This has been a great experience and opportunity for me to become involved as leader and at the same time to get to know many hams that make up this community of amateur radio enthusiasts. I want to mention my officers and board members for working with me this year and to thank them as they have all done a wonderful job with me in leading this club. Thanks to Carol Humpherys AF6OV, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC, John Isles K6RJC, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, to our Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO and to our current Ex-Officio, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC. I also want to thank Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO for editing the Short Circuit.

Don't forget, that this month in lieu of our General Meeting, we will celebrate with our December Christmas/Holiday party together. I hope to see all our members at our annual holiday party in which we will have a potluck dinner, a prize drawing for many gifts, and other entertainment for your enjoyment. Please cook your favorite dish that will serve 10-12. We will also have a special treat in store: Brian Hoffman

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Meeting Notice

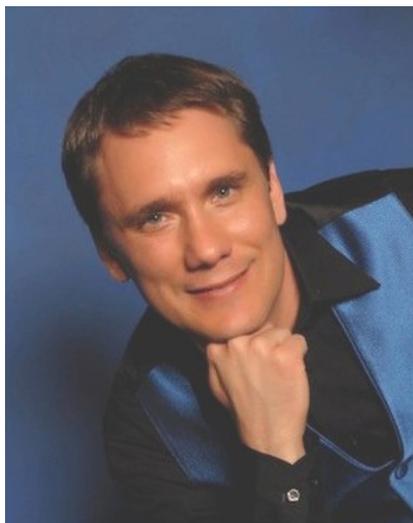
**Friday, December 18**, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 E. Avenue J in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions. **Note that this month's meeting is a week earlier than usual, due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and will be on Friday instead of Thursday.**

The meeting will start at 6:30 pm. The room will be open at 530 for early set-up. Be sure to mark this on your calendars!

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

This month's meeting will feature our traditional December potluck dinner. We have collected some mighty fine prizes for this year's Christmas Party Membership Raffle. So be sure to come to the Club Christmas Party, bring a dish to share, and get in on the fun.

**Brian Hoffman KI6LUE**, a member of the Magic Castle, will be back by popular demand, to share his wonderful magic with us. This will be a fun and entertaining event for all club members and their families.



**Brian Hoffman KI6LUE**

## From The Veep

**Carol Humpherys AF6OV**

Hello! And Happy Holidays!

I've written previously of my father's service during the Korean War. In that article, I described how he built a radio using his bed springs and a pencil stub. Waxing nostalgic about my family this Christmas, I stumbled across an article in the current issue of *Popular Science* that describes in detail how to build such a radio – or something very similar. The article is entitled "*Listen In with a Foxhole Radio*".

Inspired, I'm in the process (well, kind of...) of building this simple set. Pondering the activity makes me feel closer to my father, who passed away in 2014. The instructions to build this radio are described below. I'm hoping to get it right on the first try.

- Using a toilet paper roll and a safety pin, poke a hole in one end of the cardboard tube.
- Create a coil by tightly wrapping the wire around the toilet paper holder – about 120 times. (As you know, the number of loops determines the listening frequency.)
- Formulate a ground by stripping a wire, attaching one end to the coil and the other end to an old fashioned radiator, or in my case, to a metal coat hanger buried in the ground.
- Create an antenna by attaching a second wire to the other end of the coil and hanging the wire outside the window.
- With additional sections of wire, attach each end of a razor blade to each end of the coil.
- Create a 'cat whisker' by poking a safety pin into the eraser of a pencil. Attach a wire to the safety pin and link

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## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC General Meeting November 19, 2015

Opening: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR - President

7:31pm – Call to order followed by Flag salute and introductions.

Minutes from last meeting: Taken by Dan Sherwood W6DAS. Any corrections: Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit : Made by: Frank N6FOD Sec-onded by: Brian N6CVO Approved? Yes

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT: Balance: \$ 3,571.00 (inc. cash \$167.00 )

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Members: # 104 ARRL members: 74.04 %

Members present tonight: 22

#### \* Old Business:

1) Board Meeting was held on November 5, 2015 at Texas Cattle Co.

Topics included: Election results, December Holiday party details, growing the club

2) Elections: Margie congratulated 2016 Officers and Board.

President: Carol Humpherys AF6OV  
Vice President: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

Secretary: Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Treasurer: Gary Barr WA6TWT

Master at Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board Members: Dick Miller KJ6W and Matt Stewart K6MES

Non Elected Officers: Ex Officio: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Trustee: Keith Hoyt K6GXO,

Appointed Other Non Voting Positions: Short Circuit Editor: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Membership Chairman: Gary Barr WA6TWT, also serves as Short Circuit publisher.

3) Officers job description list status: Board members felt that this was all in our By-Laws, so Margie suggested we review those By-Laws and bring them to be relevant to current situations. This was tabled and will likely be handled in 2016 with the incoming officers and board.

4) Net Control Ops and Newline Ops: Still needed now. Please contact Margie to sign up.

5) 50/50 Drawing towards holiday party event: Margie received the \$400 from club for funds to purchase the drawing items. We now have \$154.75 + \$400 for the total of \$554.75.

Margie requested additional new condition donated items to include new non-ham items.

#### New Business:

1) Annual December Holiday Party will be at our next General meeting: Friday, December 18.

This is one week earlier due to the Christmas holiday. Please remember to mark your calendars.

Discussion: Doors open around 5:00 PM. Dinner 6:30. Activities around 7:00Pm including Adrienne performing on harp, and Brian Hoffman doing his magic show. All membership renewal activity must be completed before dinner at 6:30 PM, so Gary can enjoy the activities as well.

Margie asked if anyone had comments or questions: Gary Barr recommended members bring spouses, family or friends.

2) Margie mentioned Baker to Vegas. Contact Eugene Humpherys regarding stage 15 volunteers. Betsy and Pat Okawa suggested getting more CERT members interested in HAM activities, including B to V and the activities of the Club. Students graduated from Technician classes early 2016 can be steered toward the Club or B to V participation.

3) Brian B. mentioned that Acton / Agua Dulce will be doing a cless in Acton in early March. Exact dates TBA.

4) Betsy – CERT doing a workshop. Good place to mention amateur radio and the Club.

#### Break

**Program: Larry Mock, KI6BKP: CERT**

#### Announcements:

Next board meeting: Thursday, December 3.

Location Texas Cattle Company. Arrive at 5:30-6pm for dinner. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm is open to all AVARC members and should end by 8:00pm.

Adrienne WA6YEO: Next VE session - Saturday, December 12, 9am at First Christian Church.

Address: 1702 E. Ave J - Across from Wal-Mart. Session is ARRL session with \$15 fee.

Short Circuit articles for December will be due on Sunday, December 6.

Please submit them directly to Adrienne at wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00pm Door Prize Drawing: \$15 – winner was Larry Mock, KI6BKP

### AVARC Board Meeting December 3, 2015

Opening: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR - President

7:04 p.m. @ Texas Cattle Co.

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

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit: Made by: Paul Sec-onded by: john Isles Approved? Y

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Balance: \$ 3,868.61 (inc. cash \$356.00)

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Members: # 104, ARRL membership- 74.04%

Note: 54 people have NOT renewed for 2016. Margie said that notice should be put in Short Circuit for people to renew before 6:30 PM on the night of the holiday party.

Members present tonight: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, John Isles K6RJC, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Matt Stewart K6MES.

# Secretary's Desk...



**Old Business:**

1) Margie requested the Board get their paperwork and other documents ready to pass on to the newly elected Board members. This can be done at the next Board meeting, which will be January 7.

2) 50/50 Drawing status and Holiday gift items status:

We received a total of \$189.40 from the drawings this year. After adding in the \$400 to the Holiday gifting this brings our total to \$589.40. Margie has purchased the gift items, but is still requesting other donations of new items as well as printing of the 3 membership renewal gift certificates. Adrienne should have the template for this. Gary Barr wants to place the verbiage "Please Complete ASAP" on the certificate so they can be turned into him to be placed in the data base. Outstanding certificates can be a liability, as we do not remember who won them. There are about 5 or 6 larger items in the prize collection. We do have about \$100 in donated other items so far. Margie donated a \$30 gingerbread house to be used as a prize.

3) Holiday Meeting in December status: The event is on Friday, Dec 18 at the First Christian Church.

The Board spent tonight going over the timelines and final planning lists.

Building open by 5:00 PM, perhaps sooner.

Food setup: 5:00 PM – 6:30. People can do renewals up until 6:30.

Margie will announce 6:30 that there will be no more renewals.

Food: 6:45 PM – line up for food.

Dinner: 6:45 – 7:30. Harp 6:45 – 7:00 as dinner gets started..

Brian begins his performance about 7:30 – 8:00 give or take.

Prize drawing will follow this: 8:00 - ???

Paul will bring utensils and paper plates. Church dishes not to be used. Paul will bring 10 table cloths.

Gary Mork will bring coffee and punch. We will use the Church's 30- cup pot.

Margie will bring one case of small bottled water. People need to bring more

main course items. Too many desserts and salads in the past.

**New Business:**

1) Net Control Officers/Newsline Report Operators:

Discussion: Still need more to sign up. Margie has been unable to handle the net due to station issues from the recent winds. She brought the sign up list and requested volunteers. Thanks to Paul and Dan for covering for Margie.

2) Growing the club: Margie asks that we keep working on ideas on this subject and discuss at the January Board meeting.

3) Email addresses. Gary will update email addresses on Club reflector for the new Board member assignments.

**Announcements:**

Adrienne WA6YEO: Next VE session Saturday, December 12, at 9am at First Christian Church.

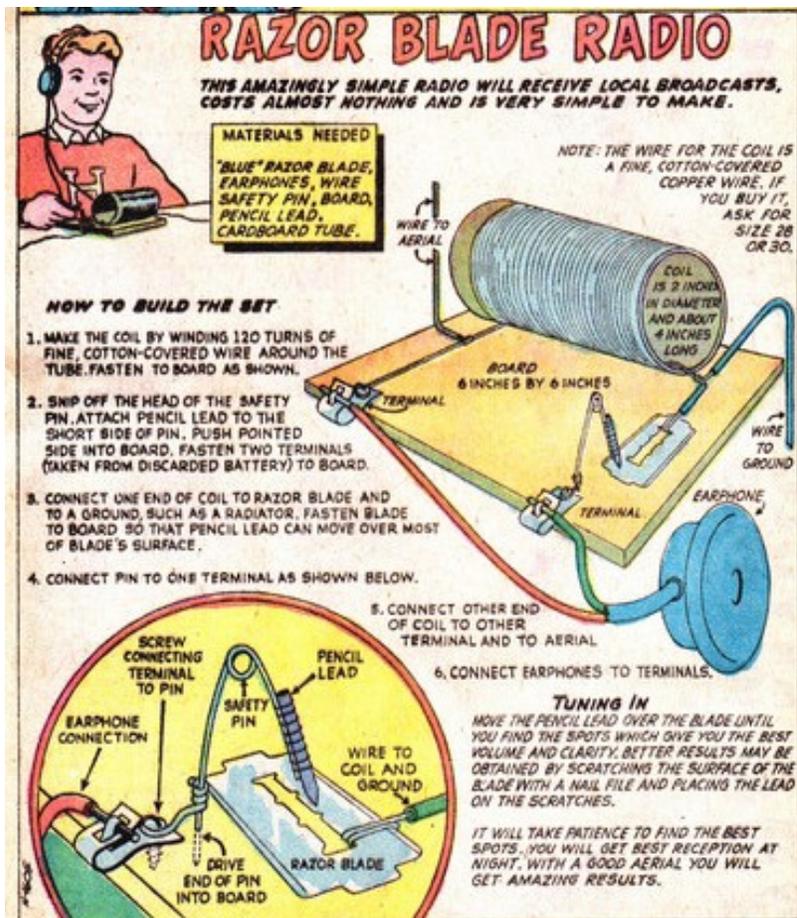
Address: 1702 E. Ave J - Across from Wal-Mart. Session is ARRL session with \$15 fee.

Next board meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Location TBD. Arrive at 5:30-6pm. The meeting begins at 7pm is open to all AVARC members and should end by 8:30pm. If this is a potluck, all attending will bring a dinner dish to share with 8-10 others.

Short Circuit articles will be due on Sunday, December 6.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan Sherwood W6DAS  
AVARC Secretary 2015



# From the VEEP... President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

the safety pin wire to the razor blade wire and to a headset wire.

- Listening with the headset, move the pencil across the razor blade, until you tune in a station!

Easy huh? Maybe, maybe not. I've built the radio in my mental world, but not yet in the physical world—but I pledge to do so!

As I type this, I'm actually sitting in a hotel in Galveston Texas, preparing to depart on a cruise to Roatan, Belize, and Cozumel in the morning. I'm bringing my two children and their families along with the intent of creating happy memories—even though no ham radios are allowed aboard ship. Listening to my father's life stories is a happy memory, one that I'm revisiting today.

The AVARC Christmas party is just around the corner. Come; bring food and family as we share this season. I'll be carting along this tribute crystal set—a physical not just mental version. Perhaps together we can see if it works!

Happy Holidays!

73,  
Carl AF60V

P.S. This issue of *Popular Science* contains several other wonderfully odd articles, such as 'Create Speakers from Office Post Its', 'Build your own Particle Detector', and 'Mix Magnetic Silly Putty'. I plan to do the latter, and watch the silly putty move when subjected to a strong magnet...



(Continued from page 1)

(www.santaclaritamagic.com) will dazzle us with some fun and entertaining magic. Adrienne Sherwood will open the evening with her harp music skills. It will be held on Friday, December 18. Note, this is on a Friday and will take place at the First Christian Church at 1702 E. Ave J in Lancaster. Be sure and mark your calendar to attend this festive event.

The doors should open by 5pm for event set up, (tables, chairs) and food set up from 5-6:30pm. We can use help with set up and clean up at the end of the evening. Membership renewal cutoff time is 6:30 sharp. 6:30-7 is opening announcements and line up for pot luck with eating from 7-7:30. Entertainment will begin at 7:30 to just after 8pm, followed by drawings and closing by 9pm. Please stick around and assist with clean up in the sanctuary afterward as it will be much appreciated.

We have picked out a variety of prizes to be given away at the membership drawing. There is no money involved to get your ticket. If you have been a member this year, you will be given 1 ticket and if you renew for 2016, prior to 6:30 pm at the beginning of the

meeting, then you will be given an extra chance to win! Life members always receive two drawing tickets.

Please let me thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President of this club. As we all look forward to the New Year ahead. I hope everyone will find a way to become involved in amateur radio, either through the community activities that you may find throughout the coming months or by working with fellow hams on the club activities such as Baker2Vegas, The MS Walk and especially Field Day 2016. Start thinking now how you can stay active and participate in all these exciting events.

Don't forget, this is your hobby and we all can find some way to contribute our skills in this great world of Amateur Radio.

Happy Holidays to all!

See you at the meeting!

73,  
Margie KG6TBR



# ...to pay your dues for 2016

# SWAP SHOP

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1. Kenwood TS-940S lo-band station xcvr package which includes numerous accessories. A lot of equipment for a reasonable price. This package was previously sold but not picked up.
2. Kenwood TS-430S lo-band xcvr with PS-430S power supply. This unit may have some switch contact problems but could be obtained for a very reasonable price and would be good for a knowledgeable amateur to work on. Hand mic included.
3. Icom 22A 2 meter FM xcvr with hand mic. Condition unknown.
4. Also available is a 54 crank-up tower in excellent condition and 2 lo-band yagis, one tri-bander and one 12/17 meter, along with some coax.
5. I have numerous smaller items available such as an electronic keyer, regulated 12vdc power supplies, and test equipment.

All of this equipment came from the estate of a deceased AVARC club member.

You may contact me directly by e-mail or phone.

Keith Hoyt  
661-533-4025  
K6GXO (at) AS.net

## QUARTZFEST 2016

### ... and Much More!

Quartzfest is a "must-see" activity for anyone in ham radio but its unique desert setting and warm climate offers much more for the entire family:

- ✓ Stargazing
- ✓ Rock Hounding
- ✓ Off-Roading
- ✓ Geocaching
- ✓ Group Dinners
- ✓ Campfires & Music
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Hiking & Tai Chi
- ✓ Cooking Classes
- ✓ Children's Programs

#### other nearby attractions



- Quartzsite Sports, Vacation & RV Show
- International Rock, Gem & Mineral Show

### Where is it?



Quartzfest is held every year in the Sonoran desert on government land just south of the city of Quartzsite, Arizona in the USA. Participation is always **FREE** and camping is **FREE** for up to 14 days!



[www.QuartzFest.org](http://www.QuartzFest.org)



<b>President</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	president@avarc.club
<b>Vice President</b>	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	vicepresident@avarc.club
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	secretary@avarc.club
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	treasurer@avarc.club
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	masteratarms@avarc.club
<b>Board Member</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	boardmembers@avarc.club
<b>Board Member</b>	John Isles	K6RJC	boardmembers@avarc.club
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	trustee@avarc.club
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	exofficio@avarc.club



**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2015 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
<b>Vice President</b>	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616
<b>Board Member</b>	John Isles	K6RJC	942-1337
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	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:**

