

The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 2016

President's Corner

Carol Humpherys AF6OV

There is a first time for everything! Have you ever thought about serving as an officer or board member for the AVARC? If not, please consider it!

Would you like to be club vice-president or president? If so, Eugene and I would be happy to hand over the reigns and mentor you in your new position. Officer nominations start at the September club meeting. Additional nominations are taken in October shortly before the October vote. Serving on the board is tremendous fun as individuals work together to accomplish club goals and objectives. Make this year a first--think about serving. Better yet, make the leap and actually put your hat in the ring! (You could say that YOU ran for president in 2016!)

On another note, Eugene (KG6SLC) and I have been horridly busy this month: We had unexpected houseguests, which turned out to be an absolute delight! Nathan Ricks (AB6GO), an old high school friend of my husband's, was one of the four individuals that stopped by. Visitors, combined with a busy work life and the tasks of placing our house on the market, made time go by quickly. (We've signed papers with our realtor and have started taking down the antennas!) It's now the eleventh hour, the Short Circuit article is due and I am beyond exhausted.

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, September 22, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 East Avenue J, in Lancaster. This is the same location where the monthly VE sessions are held. 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**.

"Amateur Radio's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend"

You might be surprised to learn the world's 15,500 lighthouses have much in common with the world's nearly 2.5 million amateur radio operators. **Diana Feinberg, AI6DF**, will present how hams in over 50 countries operate from lighthouses every August to promote preservation of these unusual structures while also promoting amateur radio. Diana has been fascinated by lighthouses since age seven and has since studied them extensively. Her highly-illustrated presentation also includes a brief history of lighthouses and where you can find them in Southern California. Diana is serving her fifth term as President of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club (K6PV) which operates from the U.S. Coast Guard's Pt. Vicente Lighthouse in Rancho Palos Verdes during Lighthouse Weekend. She was appointed ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager in June 2016 and will also briefly speak about recent ARRL developments.



Diana Feinberg AI6DF

From The Veep

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

"Catch a wave and you'll be sitting on top of the world" is a line from a Beach Boys hit song that I recall listening to years ago and still hear occasionally. While they weren't singing about amateur radio the line aptly describes our feelings as amateur radio operators when we catch a radio wave that gives us that long awaited DX contact or adds a new grid square to our contacts map.

Sometimes catching that radio wave is not as simple as one would expect as many factors come into play. For example, I have an atomic clock at work. I could not get the clock to update no matter where I put it. I had finally given up and placed it at an out of the way location on my desk with the intention of taking it to my home QTH so it could get an updated time signal. I didn't take the clock home that evening. The next day while picking up the clock to take it home, I noticed that the display indicated that it had updated. Hmmmm, I decided to experiment a little. Each day I repositioned the clock and discovered there is an area of about 6"x6" on a specific section on my desk that the clock will receive the signal consistently but only within that area. Anywhere outside of that area results in the clock not receiving updates. I was surprised that even when placing the clock against the window it would not update.

The same phenomenon occurs with my cell phone. I get such a weak phone signal at my house that I typically turn my cell off when arriving home. However, there is a place just at the top of the stairs that I get a really strong signal. The signal at that one spot is better than standing by any window even on our second floor. It seems that some of the radio waves are a bit picky as to where they hang out (or, perhaps, they were absent the day propagation was covered.)

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AVARC General Meeting August 25, 2016

Opening: Carol Humpherys, AF6OV, President

7:30 pm call to order

Flag salute

Welcome to members and visitors.

General business:

Minutes from last meeting submitted by Dan Sherwood W6DAS, and printed in the Short Circuit. Any corrections? Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit made by Frank N6FOD, seconded by Eugene KG6SLC. Approved? Yes

Treasurer's Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT: Balance \$4,334.40, Bank acct: \$4,236.40 (Inc cash \$98.00)

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT: Members # 100 ARRL members 79.8%, Members present tonight 29.

VP report: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC:

Sept: LA ARRL Sect mgr Diana Feinberg AI6DF

Oct: Anchors away

Nov: Satellite program for the US government

Dec: Annual Christmas party

New Business:

Dan Sherwood: Moved to amend the AVARC bylaws as proposed at the August Board meeting:

1. Reading of the changes.
2. Motion to approve: Dan Sherwood W6DAS. Seconded Matt K6MES.
3. Passed with unanimous vote.

Carol AF6OV: Nominations next month. People need to step up and run.

Council of Clubs report: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. HAMCON: September 15-17, 2017.

From the Secretary's Desk

Dan Sherwood W6DAS: Update on Club web site. Development site: dev.avarc.club.

Break:

Presentation: Gurbux Singh W6BUX "When amateur radio was outlawed in Burma".

Announcements:

Adrienne: Next VE Session at First Christian Church on Monday, September 12 at 7 pm. Address 1702 E. Ave J across from Wal-Mart. Session is ARRL with a \$15.00 fee.

Carol: Next Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 8 at Carol and Eugene's QTH. Arrive at 6 pm for dinner. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and ending by 8:30 pm. The meeting is open to all club members.

- 50/50 drawing won by Ken, W6DIH for \$22.00.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

AVARC Board Meeting September 8, 2016

Opening: Carol Humpherys, AF6OV, President

Call to order by Carol Humpherys AF6OV at 6:55 pm

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

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

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT - Checking, \$4,251.40 cash \$98.00, total \$4,349.40. New

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT Membership 101 members.

Members present tonight: Carol Humpherys AF6OV, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Matt Stewart

K6MES, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO Margie Hoffman,

Old Business:

Tax filing: Thanks to Matt & team! Getting changes ready for filing. Back returns need to be filed from 2010 to 2015. Matt working with Gary to reconstruct back returns from financial records.

Non-profit status: Pending.

VP report: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC – upcoming meetings:

Sept: LA ARRL Sect mgr Diana Feinberg AI6DF. Nominations for AVARC offices.

Oct: Anchors away. Do we need something else? (Keith had DXpedition videos).

Nov: Satellite program for the US government. Donald Sather

Dec: Annual Christmas party: Magic with Brian Hoffman? Friday Dec. 16 – (Dan check with Church for sanctuary availability. Discussion of next year's speakers followed.

LA Council of Clubs rpt: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR – Convention planning is in progress.

Hauser repeater: Dick will keep it running as long as possible. Margie still needs people to step up as NCS on the Wednesday net. Gary Barr suggested contacting net regulars by telephone and trying to get them to commit to be NCS.

Web site update: Development site appears to have been made live. Dan will confirm.

Club shirts, hats & patches: Paul came up with a provider for shirts for about \$14 each. This, but only for NON-PERSONALIZED shirts. Personalized shirts much higher. Embroidery must be done separately at extra cost. Strategies to work around custom patches were discussed. This

Secretary's Desk...

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will be presented at the next club meeting.

New Business:

Concern: Meeting attendance down last month. Thoughts to change/improve - Use PA system to improve hearing over the church HVAC system. Paul will try to get info the Valley Press community bulletin board.

Elections: Discussion of potential future officers. Lobby non-participating members to try running for office.

Announcements:

Up coming VE Sessions:

at the First Christian Church. Address 1702 E. Ave J – Across from Wal-Mart

:

Monday, September 12 at 7 pm ARRL and Saturday, October 1 at 9 am, GLAARG.

Next Club Meeting: September 22 at the First Christian Church. Address 1702 E. Ave J – Across from Wal-Mart.

Next Board Meeting, October 6 - Texas Cattle Company, 7 pm.
Short Circuit Articles due Sunday, September 11
Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Sherwood W6DAS
AVARC Secretary 2016



President...

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So for another first: This month I am sharing an article from when I served as club VP. It's one of my favorites. I hope you enjoy it too!

I occasionally listen to old radio shows while driving. I recently tuned to a 1950's presentation of "Our Miss Brooks" with Eve Arden that had a hilarious tie to radio communications.

Miss Brooks was substituting as the school principal when one of the students brought in their newest creation--a homemade radio. Listening intently, the class heard the news that a hurricane was heading straight for their area! Miss Brooks decided to dismiss the school, and join others in taking shelter. They dutifully followed the radio's instruction to use the living room furniture to board up the windows. The radio's suggestion to dismantle any straw huts made them realize that some of their neighbors might be rather poor. Directions to disperse the natives to the hills made them think that the neighbors were actually rather odd, but directions to tether elephants carefully left them completely baffled. Realization dawned abruptly when the station signed off the air giving the station location as Bombay, India.

Radio is fun--and it can be funny! I've found several hilarious ham radio snippets on the Internet.

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Local Hams Present Amateur Radio To Quartz Hill Girl Scouts



A group of hams representing the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club and the local ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) gave a presentation to a group of Girl Scouts in Quartz Hill. The hams included Marcus Martinez KE6RHV, Pat Coker N6RMJ, Michelle Souder KK6GAD, Dan Sherwood W6DAS and Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO. The girls were very interested in emergency communications and asked a lot of good questions. It looks like we can look forward to a lot of enthusiastic young hams in the near future!

Eve Arden Is 'Our Miss Brooks'



School was never like this!
Eve Arden is OUR MISS BROOKS and you'll want to stay after class. Listen! And don't miss . . .

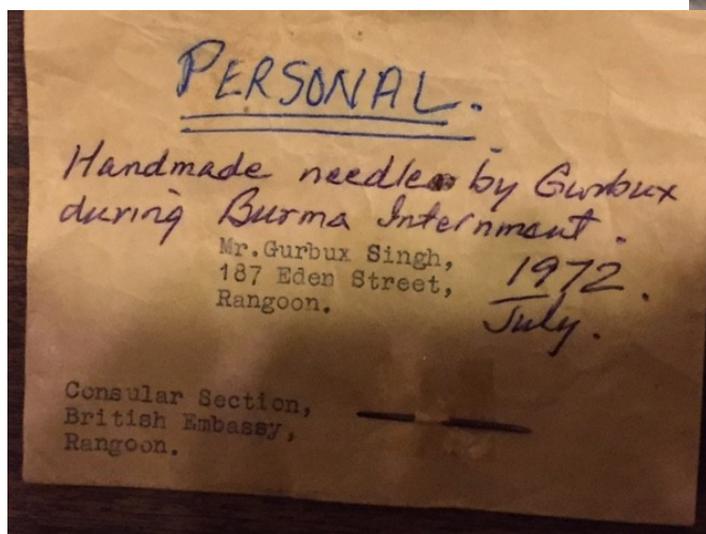
* * * * *
OUR MISS BROOKS at 8:30
* * * * *



The club enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Gurbux Singh W6BUX. On the left he is pictured with Eugene and Carol Humpherys.



This is a close-up of the beads made by Gurbux while he was held prisoner in Burma.



This is the needle which was painstakingly made by Gurbux while he was imprisoned. It is on the bottom right of the paper.



UPCOMING CLUB MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Sept: Los Angeles ARRL Section Manager Diana Feinberg AI6DF

Oct: Anchors Away

Nov: Satellite program for the US government

Dec: Annual Christmas party



President's Corner...

You know you are a ham when:

- You pick up the phone and say "QRZ?" instead of hello.
- You tell a joke in person and end it with "HI HI".
- You reset your GMT clock for daylight savings time.
- You use a Geiger counter to check FCC radiation exposure compliance.
- You think you've broken Ohm's Law, and you're going to wind up in Circuit Court being charged by a capacitor.

I also learned on the Internet that by rearranging the letters of "The Morse code" it becomes "Here come dots".

Oh, and in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "The problem with quotes on the internet is that you never know if they are authentic."

73,

Carl AF6OV



Swap Shop

CUSHCRAFT BEAM FOR SALE

Cushcraft A-3 Three Element Beam -
New in the Box

10/15/20 Meters

Asking \$400.00

Contact Frank Fedor N6SRZ

661-733-0789

From the VEEP...



(Continued from page 1)

I think repeaters went to the same school as my atomic clock and cell phone because they share the same habits. Going through the repeater directory I have found over twenty repeaters that I can hit from my house that have a signal of S5 or better. Some of them were quite a surprise for me. For example, in San Joaquin Valley there are two repeaters that hit me with a S++ signal while other repeaters with the same location listing I can't even kerchunk. At least one repeater in San Bernardino County can be kerchunked from my QTH with power settings as low as five watts on my rig.....of course my 8.5dB gain antenna may have something to do with that. However, I lose the Hauser signal around six miles away from my home each day on my way to work.

One advance tag e of understanding how radio waves propagate takes the seemingly "randomness" factor out each of the above scenarios. Simple analysis will reveal reasons for each "mystery" occurrence when one thinks about it. As hams, we work around these obstacles and learn to work within the scope of our environment and make things work in spite of Murphy. Perhaps that is one reason why "When all else fails...Amateur Radio!" And now, I think I'll go catch another wave.

73,

Eugene KG6SLC

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2016

10/1/2016	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
11/7/2016	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
12/3/2016	Saturday	9am.	ARRL

The regular exam location is the First Christian Church of the Antelope Valley.

1702 East Ave. J., Lancaster, CA (Across the street from the Eastside Wall Mart).

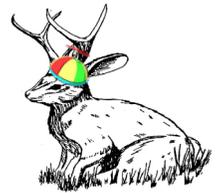
Please enter parking lot off the end of the cul-de-sac 17th Street East, enter the classroom annex, and look for the "FCC Exams" sign outside the correct classroom. Monday Nights: Please do not disturb the A.A. group or other groups that may be using the facilities.

Dates/times may be subject to change.



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2016 Officers

President	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Vice President	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Treasurer	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Board Member	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	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
 Post Office Box 1011
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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