

The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2017

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Quartzfest 2017

As most are aware, AVARC had its meeting a week early in January. This is because both our VP, Margie and I trek off to the annual shindig better known as Quartzfest which is typically held the latter part of January every year down in Quartzsite, Arizona. This is a weeklong event held concurrent with the annual Quartzsite RV and Gem and Mineral shows. Unfortunately, for Margie, she injured her foot before the event and was unable to make it at the last minute. That left me and Adrienne heading off to meet up with the Sams Radio Hams club, W6SRH, at the prescribed GPS coordinate location in the Sonoran desert five miles south of Quartzsite.



What is Quartzfest? It is an ARRL-sanctioned convention, which is held *al fresco*, no hotel and NO registration fee! Bring your own room, (RV's from million dollar semi's, diesel pushers, every kind of motor home, trailers on down to home-built teardrop trailers). There was provision for tent camping, although the Caliche which paved the entire desert would require a good air mattress and a hardier back than I have. Rooms are scarce in Quartzsite, most being found in Blythe, 30 miles away. Seminars were plentiful and varied. I went to tech talks on the use of ladder lines, Winlink,

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 23, 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. Eyeball QSO starts at 7 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30.

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

This month's meeting will feature our vice president, **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**, who will give a presentation on the upcoming Baker to Vegas event. Many members of our club have been participating for the past ten years. Mark your calendars and plan to come and learn about this popular activity and how you can become involved. See you there!



Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

This month, I have two very important subjects to discuss: Net Control and Baker2Vegas.

First off is Net Control. We currently have three hams that work with the script: myself (Margie KG6TBR), Jon Clark N6NQ and Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC. I have been trying to get other club members to also take on this assignment once in a while with no success. To me, this is very disappointing. The other very important part of running the net is the job of running News Line Report. The task now is only done by Jon Clark N6NQ and by Dan Sherwood W6DAS. My main concern about this situation is that last month I was asked to also share and do net control for ARES. Honestly, I won't do it as long as there are now eleven members of our own club who are willing to run the ARES net, but who will not step up and help out our own club with running our net control. I don't feel that this is right, but I am just saying this and letting all the members know how I feel about this. I hope this brings up conversations on the subject and that all our members will search their schedules and see if we can make this turn around in a positive way. So, on that subject, that's all I got.

At this month's General meeting, I will be speaking on Baker to Vegas. I have been involved in this event one way or the other since 2007. I spent the first five years working with other ARES members as well as AVARC members on stage 15. It's a variety of temperatures on that stage ranging from hot during the daytime to very cold throughout the night. It is not always that extreme, but there is a need to be ready for whatever comes your way. Each year brings new experiences.

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting January 19, 2017

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by flag salute and introductions.

Minutes of December 22, 2016, were taken by Dan Sherwood, W6DAS.

Motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Carol Humphreys AF6OV, seconded by Frank O'Dell N6FOD with no correction. Motion was approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report by Gary Barr WA6TWT listed Checking account balance of \$4,598.46 with cash on hand of \$144.00 for total of \$4,742.46.

Membership Report by Gary Barr WA6TWT: Members 102. 30 have not renewed. 2 renewed for 2018, 3 renewed for 2019, 13 life members, 3 honorary members, 7 ARRL life members. ARRL members are 78%. Members present tonight are 24.

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS presented Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to outgoing officers Carol Humphreys AF6OV and Eugene Humphreys KG6SLC. Dick Miller KJ6W was not present to receive a certificate.

A telephone message was received on the club message line (AVARCVM) and action was taken by Gary Barr WA6TWT.

LAACRC and HAMCON Reports were given by Margie Hoffman KG6TBR.

LAACRC meeting will be held on Feb. 4, 2017.

HAMCON meeting will be held on January 27, 2017, in Hawthorne, CA.

Convention will be held after only 2 years this September 15-17, 2017, at the Torrance Marriott. No Early Bird pin or patch will be offered this year. Twelve clubs contributed \$200.00 each in seed money for cover initial expenses. Booklet this year will not be in color and will have 6 pages. So Cal DX club has offered to produce the booklet for \$300.00 for supplies. Entry fee will be \$22.00 for Early Birds and \$27.00 at the door. Marriott has increased their dinner and ban-

quet prices. Package will be \$139.00 to include breakfast & lunch. A raffle will be offered. 23 Vendor Booths are available from 63 offered. Website will be ready soon. Dan Sherwood W6DAS sent in a Logo design.

Club Net Manager Report by Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. The same individuals are again covering the net: Carol Humphreys AF6OV, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Larry Mock KI6BKP. More help is needed. Newline Report follows message traffic.

OLD BUSINESS

1) December Holiday Party was very successful with a lot of good prizes. Thank you to Brian Hoffman KI6LUE for the terrific magic show with lots of new material.

2) Board Members attempted to sign new bank signature card at US Bank Lancaster on January 7th, but were turned away by difference in names between the November club minutes and drivers licenses presented. November minutes need to be modified to show Secretary as Patricia J. Okawa KJ6CJI and President Daniel A. Sherwood W6DAS. Matt Stewart K6MES so moved with George Becker KC6UVM seconding the motion.

All present approved and the motion carried to amend the November 2016 minutes. Signing of the bank signature card will be held following the Saturday March 4, 2017, VE session.

3) Field Day 2017 will be held at Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park in Lancaster. Paperwork for Lancaster City has been finalized.

4) Website has been returned to plain text by Dan Sherwood W6DAS and framework was updated to display 2017 newsletters.

Correct VE Exam Schedule was also updated for 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Margie Hoffman KG6TBR will speak on the March Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup relay race at the February General Meeting.

2) President Dan Sherwood W6DAS will present the "State of the Club" following our speaker tonight.

Vice President Margie Hoffman KG6TBR introduced speaker, Eric Christensen K6EJC of Ham Radio Outlet in Burbank,

Eric announced the Palm Springs Ham Fest February 4, 2017, at the Air Museum hanger. Entry is \$17.00. Library upstairs contains several flight simulators.

The Las Vegas Hamfest will be held March 31-April 2.

He then spoke on and passed around several new handheld radios, scanners, Comet CA500 Antenna analyzer, and a Bioenno lithium iron 20 amp battery.

Just before the Break, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR announced no drones will be allowed at Baker to Las Vegas race.

2) President Dan Sherwood W6DAS presented his "State of Club"

Club income is \$1200 annually with monthly expenses currently:

1st Christian Church rental \$600/yr

Insurance \$200

PO Box \$100

Newsletter postage \$ ___

Copy fees \$ _____

Speaker meal \$25 occasionally

Matt Stewart K6MES moved to have club officers create a budget with projected Hamcon income and without it for the next General Meeting. Frank O'Dell N6FOD seconded the motion.

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR read from club bylaws that the President in January of every year, will present "State of the Club" with current financial status, general plans for the year, proposed operational budget, any changes to dues. Motion was tabled to the Board Meeting of February 2, 2017.

Club's income since 2010 was \$14,305.45 with expenses of \$13,457.28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Next VE session will be held on Monday, February 6, at 7pm at First Christian Church, 1702 E. Ave J across from Walmart. Session is GLAARG with a \$5.00 fee.

2) Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thurs. February 2, at 630. This is a potluck dinner at Carol & Eugene's QTH in Palmdale. This meeting is open to all AVARC members.

3) Next Regular AVARC Membership meeting will be held Thurs. February 23 (normal 4th Thursday) at First Christian

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Secretary's Desk...



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Church. The Program will be about the Baker to Vegas relay race (Margie Hoffman KG6TBR)

4) Second attempt to complete new signature card for US Bank will be done on Sat. March 4, following the VE examination at approximately 10 am.

Reminder: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO needs the articles for the Short Circuit by Sunday, February 12. Please submit them directly to Adrienne at wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net.

50/50 drawing of \$15.00 was won by Wes Weathers W6QQ who donated the funds back to the club.

A container of candy gumdrops was won by Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO. A container of Peanut Butter Monkeys was won by Keith Hoyt K6GXO.

The meeting was adjourned at 940 pm.

AVARC Board Meeting February 2, 2017

Opening: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, President

Call to order by Dan Sherwood W6DAS at 7 pm

Minutes from last board meeting: Secretary Pat Okawa KJ6CJI. No corrections.

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit Made by: Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR.

Seconded by: Keith Hoyt K6GXO. Approved.

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT. Checking \$4,598.46 Cash \$204.00 Total \$4,802.46 .

No new expenses submitted.

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT -102 current members, 25 did not renew yet.

ARRL % of membership: 79%.

Members present tonight: Carol Humpherys AF6OV, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, Dan W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI ,Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Betsy Haslett KK6RHN.

Old Business:

Field Day:

Dale Snyder KØBGL will not be in attendance this year, he is going to a reunion this year. Need CW station and operator. Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, has accepted being Chair for Field Day. Paul L'Heureux will run the GOTA station on solar power. Invite club members to come operate a

station. Paul L'Heureux will write for a station license (K6A).

Tax filing: Matt Stewart K6MES: nothing new.

LA Council of Clubs rpt: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR: Meeting Tues. Feb. 7th.

Web site update: Dan Sherwood – Nothing new.

Bank signature cards: Set for March 4 after VE session. (10:30)

New Business:

Discussion of ideas for programs for 2017: Dan Sherwood W6DAS spoke to Norm Hinkling and Steve Hofbauer KM6AIT about speaking to us at a meeting at AV Transportation Agency.

Dan Sherwood W6DAS will speak in March on mobile antennas.

Club Operating Budget:

Income: Dues: \$20 HAMCON: \$600 Other income:

Expenses:

Church Rental: \$600

Insurance: \$200

Meeting Services, (Speaker fees, meals, etc.): \$150.00

Field Day: \$150.00 (food)

Equipment: \$50.00 (tables & chairs)

P O Box rental: \$86.00

Short Circuit hard copies: \$90.00

Stamps for hard copies: \$24.00

Web hosting: (\$84.00/yr) 0.0

Domain Name cost: \$17.00

Banquet prizes and entertainment: \$350.00

State of California tax: \$10.00

Total: \$1,727.00

Will current dues structure be enough? We spend \$2.00 for every \$1.00 taken in.

Goal for 2017 must be to cut some of our expenses.

Can we find a meeting venue that doesn't cost us much money? Investigate Lancaster

Senior Center and Quartz Hill County Library.

Ideas from Quartzfest 2017: Dan Sherwood –It was very cold for the 20th anniversary.

Dan Sherwood W6DAS took a lot of photos of portable antennas.

Membership survey will be sent out to 600 email list. How can we grow the club?

What can we do to support new Technicians? Membership growing older.

Correspondence from Brian Hoffman KI6LUE.

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR got inquiry from ARES. She supports MS Walk, Baker to Vegas, Field Day.

Noted 11 AVARC members did not control operator for ARES. Why not for AVARC?

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles: Need by: Sunday, February 12.

Next Club Meeting: February 23, 2017, at the First Christian Church. Address 1702 E. Ave J – Across from Wal-Mart. Normal 4th Thursday.

Next Board meeting: Sat. March 4, 2017, at First Christian Church, 1702 E. Ave J across from Walmart. 10 am.

Next VE Session at First Christian Church on February 6. Address 1702 E. Ave J across from Wal-Mart. Session is GLAARG with a \$5.00 fee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Okawa KJ6CJI
AVARC Secretary 2017



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



(Continued from page 1)

MESH networking, Elecraft users group, emergency preparedness, Lithium Iron batteries, and the list goes on and on. There were many presentations unique to the area, such as prospecting, metal detecting, cast iron cooking, and Adrienne was particularly fond of the beading class where they built beautiful bracelets. All in all, many, many activities to be taken in. A trip to the main RV show is always in order with a tent full of commercial vendors waiting to take your money. Prices were more reasonable outside the main tent up in Tyson Wells. Think of Harbor Freight on steroids!



Drones ruled the skies over Quartzfest. There was plenty of show and tell on the use of drones, plus when it came to antennas, an emphasis on compact portable HF antennas was there:



(Gordon West showing off a Magnetic Loop antenna).

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The members of ARES and AVARC who work the stage now have been working it for eleven years, so by now, they have become pretty adept in managing the stage and making it work for the communication efforts necessary for the better of the entire race. Others have looked to this stage and have used their ideas, as well as many other stages also find ways to improvise and work on new solutions and become more efficient through the years. This, my fellow hams, is what it is all about. Putting your skills to use and working with your ham co-parts to improve communication functions and share your knowledge. Make it work. Know that you have done well.

I am looking forward to this presentation as for the past 6 years; I have been on the operations side of the race, spending eight months out of the year recruiting hams and

other volunteers to work at the 20 stages. In 2012, I set up a new webpage, which hopefully has everything you would need to know about working this yearly event. I encourage anyone that is interested in participating to check out the website: radiobaker2vegas.org. There are still opportunities to join in, so just contact me or use the form links from the website.

Please join me in learning all about the 33rd annual Baker 2 Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race.

See you at the meeting.

73,
Margie KG6TBR



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The real beauty of Quartzfest is everyone brings their stuff to use and to show off. They have an “antenna walkabout” consisting of show and tell from clever crafters of homebrew antenna selections. There’s an “antenna shootout”, on the air with remote judges stationed in various geographical areas and headings to judge the performance of antennas on the air. Solar solutions are big there, with a solar walkabout” where folks show off their stuff. If you need a solution, somebody’s done it there. For example, being tired of stringing wire all over the place, I needed a solution for a vertical that is a one-man, 10 minute deploy right off the back of my trailer using an Icom AH-4 tuner which I happened to have in my closet. Was it there? Yup!



Although this install was ground-mounted, I particularly liked the mast, (Max Gain Systems), which I had never seen before. Came home and ordered one. With all the other RV-based mounting schemes I saw, crafting my own solution could not be easier.

In summary, Quartzfest is a celebration of the creative minds of radio amateurs, with plenty of takeaways that can be presented locally. It’s full of MacGyvers building all sorts of cool stuff and taking it off-grid. Be ready to stop, look, and listen and be ready for a new idea you haven’t thought of. Dress for the weather though, wind and freezing temperatures prevailed, although little rain. Hopefully 78 degree temperatures will return next year, but in any weather good or bad, always a good time to be had.

73,
Jan W6DAS

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2017

3/4/2017	Saturday	9 am	ARRL
4/3/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
5/6/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
6/5/2017	Monday	7 pm	ARRL
7/1/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
8/7/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
9/9/2017	Saturday	9 am	ARRL
10/2/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
11/4/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
12/4/2017	Monday	7 pm	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 East-side 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.



**...to pay your
dues for 2017**



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2017 Officers

President	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
Treasurer	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	441-4671



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:



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