

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 2017

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Make amateur radio great again? As some cellular providers advertise, "Talk is Cheap". "Traditional" ham radio, typically "ragchew" – calling CQ and waiting for an answer is something I find myself doing less now than in my younger days. In thinking about when I troll the bands looking for a casual QSO now, it's usually following some kind of improvement or modification to either equipment or antenna. Get some reports, and move on. All is good now – everything works, so back to doing something else. I'll often flip on my K3 and spot some activity on 75 meters on the pan adapter. Tune up there, (happens to be 3.840 MHz) – YIKES! These are adult men with amateur licenses? I guess having a ham license doesn't make one immune from the ills that plague society in general. Time to go elsewhere.

CW is a better place for the casual stuff. It started for me there as a novice, and except for some of the DX pileups still remains relatively civil. On the rare occasions when bands are open, working a couple Russians on late-night CW is a great cure for insomnia after the QSO's are done. Been a while though – not many signals these days.

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 16, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Quartz Hill Library, 5040 West Avenue M-2. *Note that the meeting this month is a week earlier than usual, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.* 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.

This month's program will feature **Scott Hanley WA9STI**, who will present a program on SOTA (Summits On The Air). SOTA is a fun and exciting award program that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. Scott will demonstrate how he prepares for a mountaintop operation, and display the gear from his backpack. This will be a fun and informative meeting, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



Scott Hanley WA9STI

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Heading up to the mountains is a good way to relax, spend some time in nature and explore our beautiful country. The trip is even better if you are able to incorporate ham radio in the experience if you can do it with equipment that is easy to take along and set up. It's also fun to spend it with other friends and ham friends that have the same interests in joining into the group.

This is what I did last week with a combination of hams and family, or my ham family. Together with Dan W6DAS, Adrienne WA6YEO, and Minnie, (of course) we headed up north of Mojave to California City and spent several days with our RV group, the Sam's Radio Hams. This is a group that we have been affiliated with since about 2009, and with which, we usually take a single trip once a year to Quartzsite, Arizona. It's hard to coordinate the trips when one member is still working, but every once in a while, we are able to take some time off and make the various trips which occur on a monthly basis. It's good catching up with the other hams and find out what they have been doing throughout the year.

On each trip, there is a member who acts as a host and many times, that host takes us to his favorite place or even to his own city to show the others his local places of interest where he lives. The host also plans the field trips and activities that we do during the particular trip. This time, our host was a past member of the AVARC, Lou Figueroa KA6VVD. Our campout took us to Sierra Trails RV Park, which is in South/East Kern County. While there, we participated in field trips in Boron and visited the Rio Tinto Borax Museum and the mine, and the Twenty Mule Team museum. Some of you may remember the television show entitled Death Valley Days where at the beginning of the show,

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting October 26, 2017

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Number of individuals attending was 28.

Minutes of the September 2017 club meeting were taken by Pat Okawa. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Carol Humpherys AF60V, with one correction and seconded by Frank O'Dell N6FOD. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES - Checking balance: \$3,682.90, petty cash: \$185.44 Total: \$3,868.34.

Invoices submitted for payment: LAACARC annual dues \$20.00.

Membership: Total members 91, percent ARRL 81.3%

OLD BUSINESS

Future programs: Margie KG6TBR – Nov 16 Scott Hanley WA9STI will speak on Summits on the Air.

LACARC/HAMCON: (Margie) LAACARC exchanges ideas and speakers. All clubs are facing their membership declining due to old age. October 3, meeting dealt with disaster preparation and ARES vs DCS. Dues are now due of \$20. HAMCON will meet November 1, to wrap up 2017. The next HamCon will be held in February, 2018 in Yuma, AZ.

Website update, Dan Sherwood W6DAS: Message phone number has been established. The web site has been updated to reflect this.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for 2018 officers:

President: Nominee: Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Elected: Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Vice President:

Nominees: Larry Mock KI6BKP

Elected: Larry Mock KI6BKP

Secretary:

Nominees: Pat Okawa KJ6CJI

Elected: Pat Okawa KJ6CJI

Treasurer:

Nominees: Matt Stewart K6MES

Elected: Matt Stewart K6MES

Master at Arms:

Nominees: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Elected: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Motion to close the nominations was made by Matt Stewart K6MES. Frank O'dell N6FOD seconded the motion.

The 4 officers ran unopposed and were elected by unanimous acclamation.

Board Member:

Nominees: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Diane Roberts KD6DER, Mike Becker KC6YQO, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC

Elected: Mike Becker KC6YQO

Elected: Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC

Other new business:

Field Day 2018: I've received three comments on where to do field day as a result of my article in the Short Circuit. One was for staying in Steve Owen park, and two recommended locations in the mountains. Would the club members drive 2.5 hours to a location? Wrightwood, Table Mountain, the Tehachapis? Mt Pinos off Hwy 138? Reserve America requires a credit card (3 x \$39=\$117). Have to speak to Forest Service Ranger on the total number of people per camp site. Does anyone know of private property or a church camp we could use? Would our club cover the charges if Dan charges 3 sites on his card? Yes. Keith Hoyt K6GXO: Will you still reserve Steve Owen park for 2018? Yes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by: Sunday, Nov 5.

Next Board Meeting: Immediately following this meeting, October 26.

Club meeting: 11/16/2017 – (Third Thursday). Program-Scott Hanley WA9STI Summit on the Air

Exam: 11/6/2017 Monday 7 PM – GLAARG at the church.

Program Intro: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR Anchors Aweigh sales.

50/50 drawing won by: Adrienne Sherwood \$18.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

AVARC Board Meeting October 26, 2017

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS called the Board Meeting to order at 9:06 pm at the Quartz Hill County Library.

Present were: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Matt Stewart K6MES, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, John Isles III, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC.

OLD BUSINESS

Dan Sherwood W6DAS gave Matt Stewart a total of \$248.77 from the monthly meeting box. The Budget for the Christmas Party at the church was discussed. A total gift amount was discussed. Last year members also donated items from Harbor Freight. The church honorarium was \$100. Brian has agreed to entertain us again for \$100. The harpist has agreed to provide soothing music to dine by. A ham has been purchased for the pot luck dinner. Sodas, ice tea and water will be donated. Last year plates, cups, napkins & cutlery were also donated.

The date will be Friday, December 15, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

FIELD DAY 2018

Look for other locations the end of June. Waxing moon. Reservations America requires a credit card. Will the club repay if Dan pays for 3 sites for \$117.00 with his card? Yes. It is non refundable. National Parks are increasing their fees. Forest Service annual pass was \$30.00, or \$6.00/day for dry camping. There may also be a limit to the number of people allowed per site (18). Other vehicles will have to park in the parking lot.

Meeting ended at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Okawa KJ6CJI

AVARC Secretary 2017

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



(Continued from page 1)

To rephrase my opening sentence: "For great amateur radio, one must make." Unlike other radio services, we are "open source", and unique in our ability to craft communications solutions and legally implement them. This is where our strength lies. Stuff like WSJT-X is kicking butt right now. Free, open source digital modes that get through well under the noise level. Simple DX for folks with stealth wire loops in their CC&R-restricted attics. For those who want to tinker, build a micro-wave rig. I'm going to get Pat, N6RMJ in to a meeting to show this stuff off some day. Time to get building again, just like we did in the old days. Recycling old 5-tube radios and tube TV sets may be a thing of the past, but after a long drought we have China, Inc. with \$20 oscilloscope kits, \$15 signal generators, and \$30 computers more powerful than workstations of the last decade. This is where it's at folks!

November's presentation will be a unique facet of amateur radio, SOTA, (Summits On The Air). Ham station in a knapsack. Again, something unique and non-traditional. Come hear about it when Scott Hanley WA9STI gives his presentation. Not your grandfather's ham radio!

73,
Jan W6DAS

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you could watch the team of mules carry the borax materials across the desert from Death Valley to Boron where the mine exists today. It is the largest mine of its kind in the world. We learned about all the products that come from the ingredients produced there, including some I had no idea about previously. Those included, of course, the hand soap Boraxo, Corning ware dishes, the heat shields from space shuttle and other heat resistant everyday items that we all use in our households. At the museum, they showed us a movie that detailed how the mules are hitched up to a very large and heavy load of borax materials. That is why it took so many mules to haul it. The mule team still is used today, but mostly for parades. This past year, they walked in the Rose Parade in Pasadena.

It's good to learn about places in your local areas and about the history around us without having to travel long distances to get there.

While in Tehachapi, Dan and I looked at some local campsites, scoping out ideas for Field Day 2018. Dan will discuss more about these ideas as time gets closer to deciding what our club will be doing for our next field day as those plans are still very much in the planning stages.

Well, speaking of going to the mountains, this month, our guest speaker will be Scott Hanley WA9STI who will bring us his presentation of "Summits on the Air". Scott will show us how he packs, travels and operates ham radio working on mountaintops and other local mountain areas. I know I am looking forward to hearing his talk and am sure you will too.

See you at the meeting,

73,
Margie KG6TBR

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2017

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 Eastside Wall Mart).

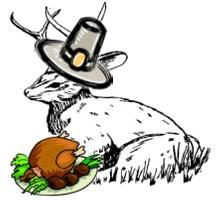
Please enter parking lot off the end of the cul-de-sac 17th Street East, enter the classroom annex, and look for the "FCC Exams" sign outside the correct classroom. Monday Nights: Please do not disturb the A.A. group or other groups that may be using the facilities.

Dates/times may be subject to change.



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2017 Officers

President	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
Treasurer	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838
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 potluck 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 Newsline, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX
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