
The Short Circuit



<http://www.k6ox.club>

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

May 2018

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Hamming through a solar minimum: Having been in amateur radio since 1976, I've experienced four solar maximums, with cycle 21 peaking in 1980, and subsequent cycles peaking in 1991, 2002, and 2014. I felt fortunate to have experienced cycle 21 around the time I got my Extra class license, running around operating mobile with a QRP 10-meter converted CB SSB rig making DX contacts with a quarter-wave whip antenna on the back of my vehicle. I remember 20 meters being open all night, even 15 meters sometimes. In talking to old timers remembering cycle 19 in the late 1950's, they had it even better. Nonetheless, ever since cycle 22, the peaks have diminished every cycle, with the most recent peak, approximately 2014, being half as good as cycle 21. If you follow the science of this online, you will find this as part of a longer periodic cycle of where the solar peaks decline then come back on a much longer period, like 70 years. Right now, we are at the very bottom of the 11-year cycle, between 24 and 25. Yes, things should get better over the next few years, but when things peak again in 2022 – 2023 propagation is expected to average a bit worse than we had a few years ago, (so the predictions say).

So, what would I say to a relatively new ham just passing his/her General exam? My advice would be to not be discouraged, but to be flexible and resourceful. HF radio still "works", but you need to focus on the lower bands, e.g. 40 – 160, as the upper bands may not yield any results, although sometimes this can be misleading. I was tuning 17 meters today, heard no CW and one really weak SSB signal, but found this "hotspot" of FT-8 digital activity around 18.1 MHz. Most of these guys run just 20 watts or so, leading me to believe the rest of the band was also open – but no takers! FT-8 is hot now, especially for making DX contacts, although not good for those want to ragchew. It could be an assumption for any band, that you don't know it isn't open until you try it. Also, if you desire a ragchew, give PSK-31 a try, and if you do CW – try a slow-speed CQ and you might be surprised. Another observation I have made is what I call "lightswitch propagation", or fast QSB. I picture the ionosphere as like a disco ball mirror, sending little spots of your signal careening across the country as it rotates. Here one second, gone the next, then back again. With this, patience is a virtue, but contacts can still be made.

For the Technician class, or any license class, there's a whole lot more to the VHF and higher bands than just FM and repeaters. There's VHF/UHF weak signal work using SSB, CW and digital modes. All of this being independent of the solar cycle. Then there's the microwave bands, 10 GHz and higher. Come to the AVARC meeting on May 24th to see a demonstration of microwave rig, courtesy of Pat Coker N6RMJ. You'll be surprised what microwaves can do.

73,
Jan W6DAS

Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 24, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Quartz Hill Library, 5040 West Avenue M-2. 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 meeting will feature our own **Pat Coker N6RMJ**, who will present "10 GHz and Up", a demonstration of microwave amateur radio. Pat is a well-known expert in this field, and it should be a very interesting and informative evening, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



Pat Coker N6RMJ

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting April 26, 2018

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS called the meeting to order at 7:53 pm at the, Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Number of individuals attending was 28.

Program: Skype session, (DX Engineering series).

Presenter Tim Duffy K3LR, Topic: Antenna Basics

Business meeting resumes:

Minutes of the March 2018 club meeting were taken by Pat Okawa KJ6CJI. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC and seconded by Eugene Humphreys KG6SLC. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES - Checking balance:\$5,990.99, petty cash: \$104.97 Total: \$6,095.98.

Invoices submitted for payment: 0.

Membership: Total members 81, percent ARRL 75%.

OLD BUSINESS

LAACARC: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR: Second letter was sent to ARRL regarding Code of Conduct issue. Bylaws are in revision.

Upcoming Club Programs – Larry Mock KI6BKP: May will be Pat Coker N6RMJ on Microwaves, June will be Diana Feinberg AI6DF, July will be Glenn Olson on Nuclear Survival.

Field Day Update, Dan Sherwood W6DAS – Change of venue due to being preempted by a large softball tournament on 6/23. Location now at Rawley Duntley Park on Ave. K near 30th West. I walked the park and identified the likely place to set up. I recommend not setting up antennas or transmitting stations with 100 feet of the adjacent housing in order to prevent any RFI complaints to the City. Space will be somewhat limited due to the layout of the park. I recommend limiting vehicles to those hauling in supplies or RV's. Visitor parking is in the front parking area. Also visited De-

nise at Lancaster Parks and Recreation to confirm ability to drive vehicles on to the grass. They will remove two bollards to facilitate RV access. Obtain maintenance phone contact to turn off sprinklers. Margie KG6TBR & Paul KD6SME have the 2 banners, food will be bought, not cooked, RVs will be Dan W6DAS, Dale KØBGL & Keith K6GXO. Paul KD6SMC will have GOTA on pick up. Stations will be GOTA as K6A, K6OX, SSB, 6 meters, and CW. There will be no PA system. Bring chair, water & sunscreen. Theme is Amateur Radio is the Original NON COMMERCIAL Social Media.
Membership roster: (Matt K6MES) Updated to 81 members.

NEW BUSINESS

John Comish AB3VY-ARES, CERT & general hams are invited to call into to DCS drill on Sat. May 5, 0800-0900 Grass Mt repeater 147.645 (CERT 1 simplex). Conflicts with VE session.

Tonight, we have a table with books from Gary Barr Silent Key.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO has aluminum tubing for antennas.

Public Service dates:

Vets 4 Vets on 6/10/2018. Carol Rice on the V2V Board of Directors is in need of a few operators to handle comms for a 5K race on Sat 6/10. This is much scaled down version of the event run on 4/1/17. Location is Pelona Vista Park in Palmdale. I do not have specifics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Circuit Articles - Need by Sunday, 5/13.

Next Board Meeting: Sat 5/5/2018 10 am after VE Session at church.

Club meeting: Thurs 5/24/2018 7:30 Quartz Hill Library

Exam: Saturday May 5. This is a GLAARG exam, (fee \$5)

50/50 drawing won by: Andy Gippetti KM6ROL \$ 13.00

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI Secretary

AVARC Board Meeting May 5, 2018

Opening: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, President Call to order by Dan Sherwood W6DAS at 9:58 am.

Minutes from last board meeting: taken by Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI.

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit Made by: Matt Stewart K6MES.

Seconded by: Mike Beckers K6YQO. Approved by all present.

Treasurer's report – Matt Stewart: Checking account: \$6,125.94 . Cash on hand: \$105.04 Total: \$6,228.01.

Membership Report: – 82 ARRL members: 75%.

Members present today: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Pat Okawa, KG6CJI, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Mike Beckers K6YQO, Diane Roberts K6DER, George Becker KC6UVM, Andrew Gippetti KM6ROL, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC,

Old Business:

Upcoming Club Programs – Larry KI6BKP: May Pat Coker N6RMJ Microwaves, Diane Feinberg AI6DF June ARRL, July Glenn Olson Nuclear Preparation.

Vets 4 Vets Race: Still need to meet up with organizers to identify requirements. Last response from Carol Rice was to volunteer to pass out promotional flyers on Sat/today 5/5. . Scope of operations needs to be explained.

Our organization is race day comms support. Need a volunteer for the Wednesday meetings. I suspect next one is June 6 at 5:00 – 6:30 PM at Central Christian church. Need Ops plan & course map for 5K at Paloma Vista Park visible from Hiway 14.

Larry Mock KJ6BKP will go to that meeting.

New Business:

Field Day operation in Rawley Duntley Park: There are 2 shade ramadas. Ramp has 2 removable bollards. Get contact in mainte-

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Desk...

nance to cancel sprinklers that weekend & unlock bollards. 2 ball fields and basketball court gives us smaller space to set up away from nearby residences. We will use vertical antennas and 4 RVs with low noise generators. 2 popups and 2 banners. Larry Mock KI6BKP will bring 3 tables, Dan Sherwood W6DAS has 2 tables, Matt Stewart K6MES has a table & chairs. Larry Mock KI6BKP moved to spend \$200.00 for food for Field Day. Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC seconded & motion passed. Jon Clark N6NQ is needing names & addresses to send radiograms to for credit via WINLINK. Margie Hoffman KG6BTR will prepare trifold brochures.

Other New Business:

Andrew Gippetti KM6ROL asked how to join ARRL since he has the radio club affiliation

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by Sunday, 5/13.

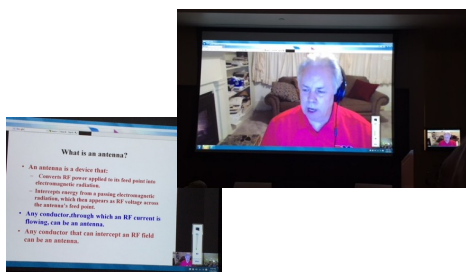
Club meeting Thurs. 5/24/2018 – Program: Pat Coker N6RMJ Microwaves

VE Exam: Monday 6/4/18 7 pm ARRL \$15.00 fee.

Board meeting: Thurs 6/7 dinner at El Toreo 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Okawa KJ6CJI
Secretary



Last month AVARC enjoyed a Skype presentation from Tim Duffy K3LR of DX Engineering. It was very successful, and we will have many more in the future.

Membership, what's new ...

By Matt Stewart K6MES

The club has received some requests from new hams looking for assistance with a variety of aspects of Amateur Radio. Items ranging from setting up a station at home to various digital modes including APRS. In short, these requests are for Elmers. For those who don't know what an Elmer does. An Elmer is an Amateur Operator that demonstrates, assists and helps new hams learn the hobby.

This is accomplished by working with the new ham. It is not working for the new ham so that the new ham does not learn these tasks, but to mentor this ham so that they learn and has the confidence to try it on their own.

This approach has its roots the Apprentice, Journeyman, Master program from medieval Europe and has continued through the trades and traveled from Europe to the Americas. As a matter of fact, the structure of the educational system (Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate) is based on this structure.

(Continued on page 5)

Swap Shop

RADIO, POWER SUPPLY

Astron VS-35M variable power supply.

Icom AT-150 auto tuner.

IC-735 HF Radio, 2 mics and power cord.

For sale: \$300.

Contact Mike KJ6IIR

661-236-1944

kj6iir@gmail.com

ALUMINUM AVAILABLE

Various sizes of aluminum poles and masting from antennas that have been taken down. If interested, contact Keith K6GXO at 661-633-4025.

Swap Shop ads will be run at no cost to local hams. Ad must include price and contact info - phone number and/or e-mail. Contact Adrienne at 661-264-1863 or wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

May 24 - AVARC Club Meeting

June 4 - ARRL VE Exam

June 7 - AVARC Board Meeting

June 10: Vets for Veterans race

June 16: Santa Maria Annual Swapmeet and BBQ

June 22-24 Field Day at Rawley Duntley Park

**ANTELOPE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
HOME OF THE "JACKALOPES"**

K6OX

P. O. BOX 1011, LANCASTER, CA. 93584-1011



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ DATE _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL COPY _____ HARD COPY MAILED _____ (Email copy is preferred)

EMAIL _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL _____

PRO RATED DUES SCHEDULE IS FOR NEW AVARC MEMBERS ONLY. NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	REGULAR	SENIOR (60 YR)	#
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	\$20.00	\$15.00	
DEC - JAN - FEB - MAR	\$20.00	\$15.00	
APR - MAY - JUN (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$15.00	\$11.00	
JUL - AUG - SEP (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$10.00	\$8.00	
OCT - NOV (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$5.00	\$4.00	
FAMILY MEMBER	\$5.00	\$5.00	
AVARC MEMBER BADGE	\$6.00/\$8.00	\$6.00/\$8.00	

CHECK #

CHECK
AMOUNT
\$

CASH
\$

NOTE: NEW MEMBERS ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO THE AVARC.

NOTE: NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN DECEMBER WILL BE CHARGED A FULL MEMBERSHIP FEE.
THIS WILL COVER DUES NEXT YEAR.

NOTE: A ONE TIME SURCHARGE OF \$6.00 WILL BE ASSESSED ON ALL NEW MEMBERS FOR AVARC
MEMBER BADGE. ADD \$2.00 FOR MAGNETIC PIN.

AVARC 7 Nov 2013 FORM

Membership...

(Continued from page 3)

An Elmer in Amateur Radio is the equivalent of a journeyman or a master in the hobby. No, we do not have such classification within the hobby. What I mean by my example, is that an Elmer should be one who not only knows the basics of the hobby but knows the subject matter at a level that it appears to be second nature. This would make it so that the Elmer teaches without having to lecture the new ham.

The club has some very good candidates for the task of Elmering. I know that I am not one of them, as I am still having to look up information that I should know off the top of my head. There is only one that can decide who is qualified for the task, and that is the Amateur Operator alone.

Perhaps the club should establish a list of areas that those who feel that they are qualified in aspects of Amateur Radio and the areas of the hobby they are willing to assist others. I think this may be something that would be a benefit to the club and the amateur community at large.

What do you think?

73,
Matt, K6MES

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2018

6/4/2018	Monday	7 pm	ARRL
7/7/2018	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
8/6/2018	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
9/8/2018	Saturday	9 am	ARRL
10/1/2018	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
11/3/2018	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
12/3/2018	Monday	7 pm	ARRL

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

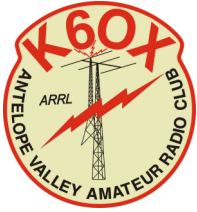
1702 East Ave. J., Lancaster, CA (Across the street from the East-side Wall Mart).

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 2018



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2018 Officers

President	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Vice President	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
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	Michael Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555
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:

