
The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2018

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

The Challenge of Elmering – Part 1: The Need for Elmering

Having been involved with AVARC for decades, I have heard countless ideas kicked around to promote ways of educating new and prospective amateurs in the hobby in ways that go beyond the knowledge required to pass the basic licensing examinations. In amateur radio speak, this is known as “Elmering”. The examination questions used today are developed by the Question Pool Committee, (QPC), of the National Council of Volunteer Exam Coordinators, (NCVEC). This committee is elected by the NCVEC, and like most elected volunteer positions there are not a lot of folks beating down the doors to take these positions. Four people are tasked with reviewing each of the three class question pools every four years. The pools are rotated with one year off.

Question pools have around 350 – 500 questions each. This seems like a lot, but must contain a mix of certain categories and sub-categories. For example, “Rules and Regs / band limits of a particular band”. You may then have “Basic Electronics / Ohm’s law”. These classifications are apportioned in an FCC-prescribed ratio into the 35-question element 2 and 3 exams, and the 50-question element 4, (Extra), exam. Question pools have about ten questions for each one on any test, thus if one category is represented, the pool will contain about ten questions of that category.

As you can well imagine, the whole question pool development is only going to assess very generic knowledge of all aspects of the hobby, and being the government it is not in the business of promoting any particular vendors. So yes, the Technician operator will have to know that the standard 2-meter repeater offset is 600 KHz, but that’s it! That freshly-minted Technician will be clueless about where the local repeaters are, what’s the coverage, the PL tone, and how to make that 600 KHz offset happen on a Baofeng UV-5 handheld. It is obvious that licensing exams, and licensing classes fall way short on preparing the amateur for even the most rudimentary aspects of the hobby. We’re passing amateur licensees, not amateur operators. Those that remain licensees are never heard from. Unfortunately over the decades of VE testing I have done, we end up with about one operator in every six licensees that leave our sessions with certificates in hand. Not good!

Having wrapped up a career in the Radiology business, I learned the ways to MINIMIZE radiation was the use of Time, Distance, and Shielding. That is when you cut things short, stay far away, and put impediments between you and it – any or all of these will give the desired result. In our case, we want to MAXIMIZE the licensee’s willingness to get on the air, (radiate!), so we want the opposite: More time, Less distance, and Fewer Impediments. How do we accomplish each objective as experienced individual amateurs, or collectively as a club? I’m going to make these agenda items for my remaining Board meetings, and address these in my remaining President’s columns.

73,
Dan W6DAS

Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 23, 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 **Dennis Kidder W6DQ**, with a talk on the Voice of America station in Delano, how it was dismantled, and what became of the equipment. This is a very interesting topic that many people have asked about, so it should be a really great evening for all of us. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to be there!



Dennis Kidder W6DQ

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting July 26, 2018

Vice President Larry Mock, KI6BKP called the meeting to order at 7: 33 pm at the Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Number of individuals attending was 22.

P R O G R A M F I R S T

Diana Feinberg AI6DF, ARRL Section Manager showed a video of some SoCAL clubs holding Field Day. Weather was colder this year. We noticed jury-rigged antenna lines and a bucket too close to power lines. Diana then spoke on RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND KEY ISSUES IN ARRL

- 1) Progress in eliminating RFI/EMI
- 2) Amateur Radio Parity Act
- 3) Volunteer Monitors to replace Official Observer Program
- 4) Director Code of Conduct
- 5) ARES Program Enhancements

BREAK

Minutes of the June 2018 club meeting were taken by Pat

Okawa. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Frank O'Dell N6FOD, and seconded by Paul L'Heureux KD6MES. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES Checking balance: \$ 6,157.74, petty cash: \$ 110.07 Total: \$ 6,267.81.
Invoices submitted for payment: 0
Membership: Total members 84, percent ARRL 76%

OLD BUSINESS
LAACARC: Margie HoffmanKG6TBR – next meeting 8/7/18. Website down.

Upcoming Club Programs – Larry Mock KI6BKP : Dismantling Voice of America Station in N. CA and disposition of equipment.

Club brochure – A Club “bio” was written by Dan W6DAS for the AV Cert folks who requested it. Copy circulated to Club officers. Still seeking input on the design of the club brochure.

City of Lancaster EOC: Dan W6DAS followed up with Andrew Noga, Emergency Manager for Lancaster. Upgrade suggestions were made with next step being a review of their radio room and its remaining coaxial runs up the City tower and to the rooftop that once contained their HF antenna. A follow-up via telephone is scheduled for 8/13/18.

Other old business: On Field Day 2018, High Desert club cooperated with Acton club to have some 4-5 year olds talk on the radio. Dick Norton N6AA observed in Acton and smiled.

NEW BUSINESS
Club elections coming soon. Consider running for office.

Margie KG6TBR reminded us of Pacific Con in San Ramon, CA Oct 19-21.

Eugene KG6SLC has coax and 2 10 ft push-up masts available. Please call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Short Circuit Articles - Need by: Sunday, August 12, 2018.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday 8/2/18 at First Christian Church 7 pm.

Club meeting: Thursday 8/23/2018
Program: Dismantling Voice of America station.

Exam: Monday Aug 6, 7:00 PM at 1st Christian Church. This is a GLAARG exam, (fee \$5)

There was no 50/50 drawing held.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI
AVARC Secretary

Swap Shop

SILENT KEY ESTATE SALE

HF Station

Kenwood TS-520S HF Transceiver \$450

OBO

Dentron Clipperton QRO HF Amplifier

\$650 OBO (rare item)

Dentron AT-3K High-power antenna tuner

\$300 OBO

VHF Station

Kenwood TR-9000 2M all mode base

station with BO-9A Dock/Power Supply

with Mirage B10B 80W amp - \$250 OBO

Have miscellaneous antennas and towers

here in Boron.

Please contact Michael Henderson at (760) 680-1357

ESTATE SALE

I am trying to dispose of the unwanted items left over from the estate of a SK, which includes several pieces of Heathkit equipment, some station accessories, connectors, and miscellaneous odds and ends. Everything goes as a lot for \$400. Here is a partial listing of the larger equipment:

Heathkit:

- Mohican Receiver with original manual
- HW-101 with power supply
- SB-610 Monitor
- VFO HG-10
- VTVM IM-5218
- Counter IM-4100 with original manual
- DX-20 with original manual
- HP-10 with original manual

Two D-104 microphones

Loudenboomer Mark II amplifier with

power supply

hy-gain transmit/receive direction

control

Proto Board PB-503

Proto Board 203A

2 Yaesu handhelds

Yaesu FT-2FB with original manual

Dentron Jr Monitor Transmatch with

original manual

Telrad Frequency Standard

Jim, K7JAJ

661-478-1698

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2018

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.

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

August 23 - AVARC Club Meeting

August 25 - ARES Meeting at AV Hospital

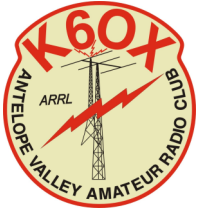
September 8 - ARRL VE Test Session

September 29 - Earthquake Preparedness Fair

October 19-21 - Pacificon convention

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

AVARC WANTS YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE



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

Place
 Postage
 Here

To ARS:

