

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 2018

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

The Challenge of Elmering – Part 4: Going About It

In this final installment, I will discuss areas where AVARC members can go about helping newcomers get the most out of their newly-earned privileges and to avoid frustrations over their inability to get on the air and have a good time doing so.

Let's start with post-examination "elmering" classes. These should be scheduled immediately following the license-class examination session preferably before the new licensees even purchase equipment. These need to be highly interactive – don't bother with PowerPoint, but prepare to do live demonstrations. The licensees won't know anything about how to install a mobile rig in a vehicle. This can be extremely frustrating as a lot of vehicles such as hybrids and electric cars can stump even experienced amateurs. Licensees need to be taught about programming radios – yes, you need a PL tone. Some rigs easy to program, some impossible. Frequency, split, and tone issues have been deal breakers for new amateurs I've visited in the past. Issues like distracted driving need to be discussed. What we don't want are any incidents that would jeopardize our rather fragile exemptions in distracted-driving laws. Mobile technology is evolving rapidly thus escalating the challenges for the mobile operator to maintain a safe and functional operating experience. How does a 75-watt 2m signal "play" with all these lane control, autobraking, parallel parking, and other "features" in some of these vehicles? Good question here – perhaps the "elmer" needs some "elmering". A strong emphasis on antennas, especially "do's" and "don'ts" is needed. I have visited new hams setting 5/8 wave magnetic mount antennas on cardboard boxes, then wondering why they can't get into the repeater! These issues should all be included in the "elmering" class, and for licensing class instructors, I recommend a brief overview of our capabilities and limitations before license class instruction even begins.

Equipment purchase advice is a key part of the "elmering" process. New licensees will encounter vendors ready to sell things that are incomplete, overpriced, or inappropriate. Frustration avoidance is the name of the game here. I had a case where a new general was sold an HF rig with an autotuner *option*, and a commercial G5RV antenna. It had 300-ohm twin lead terminating in a standard PL-259 connector. Well, I know it needs a BALUN and an antenna tuner to work. I pushed the "tune" button on the rig – Nada! This is what he was sold. Go spend \$350 more for the tuner board, and another \$100 for the BALUN. Nonetheless, I never heard this follow on again.

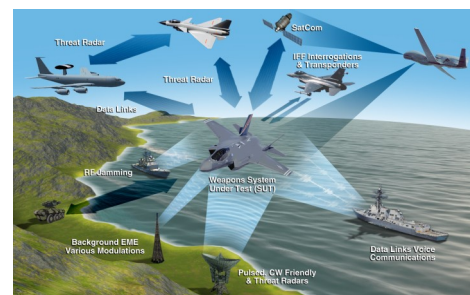
One-on-one "elmering" may consist of going back to new hams when they put their calls out on the repeater. It may involve going out and looking at someone's setup to perhaps troubleshoot an issue, give advice on putting up antennas, or even helping doing so. On the PAPA system, they have a philosophy of "no call unanswered" when someone throws their call out there. In addition, they have a new ham net every Wednesday night. Anything you do on or off the air is helpful.

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 15, 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 **Chris Abramson**, who will tell us about electronic warfare. This should be an interesting and exciting program, so be sure to plan on joining us for a fun evening.



From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting October 24, 2018

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 36.

A motion to approve September minutes as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Frank N6FOD and seconded by Allen KJ6ZYQ. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES – Checking balance: \$ 5,991.74, petty cash: \$ 49.27 Total: \$ 6,041.01.

Invoices submitted for payment: 2 to Dan W6DAS \$379.34 HRO

Membership: Total members 84, percent ARRL 71.34%

OLD BUSINESS

LAACARC: Margie KG6TBR: Renew Council dues \$20.00

Upcoming Club Programs – Larry Mock:KI6BKP: Electronic Warfare Nominations for office. The following members are nominated so far:

President Mike Beckers K6YQO, VP Larry Mock KI6BKP, Secretary Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES, MAA Gary Mork WA6WFC, Board: George Becker KC6UVM and Diane Roberts K6DER.

There were no further nominations. Bruce KM6OOL moved to close the nominations. Adrienne WA6YEO seconded. Motion was approved. Adrienne WA6YEO moved to elect the nominees unanimously; George KC6UVM seconded. Members present approved. There were no ballots.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 officers:

President –Mike Beckers K6YQO

VP –Larry Mock KI6BKP

Secretary-Pat Okawa KJ6CJI

Treasurer –Matt Stewart K6MES

Master At Arms –Gary Mork WA6WFC
Board Members (2)

–George Becker KC6UVM

–Diane Roberts K6DER

Holiday Potluck:

Date-Friday 12/21

Program suggestions – Diana Feinberg AI6DF

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio Prize budget of \$1000 was approved by Board.

General Membership approved a maximum of \$800.00. Motion by Adrienne WA6YEO. Seconded: Margie KI6TBR Approved by all present.

Types of prizes purchased: Yaesu FT-70, Antenna Comet M24M (2), 2018 Handbook box set, other ARRL books, Repeater Directory, coax, calendar, popcorn.

S W A P T I M E

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by: Tues Nov 6. (early)

Club General meeting Thurs 11/15/2018 – Program Electronic Warfare.

VE Exam: Saturday 11/3/2018 GLAARG \$5.00 fee.

Board meeting: Saturday 11/3/2018 After 9:00 exam.

Other announcements: Baker to Vegas Relay Mar 23-24, 2019.

50/50 drawing won by: Allen KJ6ZYQ \$ 11.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

AVARC Board Meeting November 3, 2018

Opening:

Call to order by Dan Sherwood W6DAS at 10: 26 AM.

Minutes from October board meeting: Motion to approve as published: Matt K6MES, Seconded by Keith K6GXO. Membership present approved.

Treasurer's report – Matt Stewart: Checking account :\$ 5,787.40 Cash on hand: \$ 14.28

Total: \$ 5,801.68.

Checks written: \$10.00 to Dan W6DAS, \$57.90 to Matt K6MES, To bring petty cash up.

Membership Report: 89 , 65 ARRL members: 73.03%.

Members present today: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Adrienne Sherwood

WA6YEO, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Mike Beckers K6YQO, Diane K6DER, John Isles Sr K6RJC, Harrison Isles.

Old Business:

Upcoming Club Programs Larry KI6BKP- Electronic Warfare not confirmed or video from Keith K6GXO.

Club tri-fold brochure: work in progress.

Business card: Temporary Handout made for VE sessions-work in progress.

Web site: nothing.

Room use permit and schedule: Quartz Hill Library-Pat KJ6CJI/Larry KI6BKP. Request new copy of insurance binder.

Other Old Business: John Isles K6RJC has no email address. Get on mail out list. Used old website address.

New Business:

Adrienne had a list of prospective ham students from Debby Kent's Quake Expo. Debby has no venue. Adrienne will be doing a technician class after Quartzsite in late January at First Christian Church. List of students will be advised by email soon. \$30 for use of room. Bought black folding chairs.

Club has (3) outstanding gift certificates. These can NOT be voided. Announce at General Meeting, in Newsletter, on website. Who has one in a drawer?

Holiday party:

December 21, Friday. I will be here around 4:30 PM to start set up. Request assistance. Discussion of logistics.

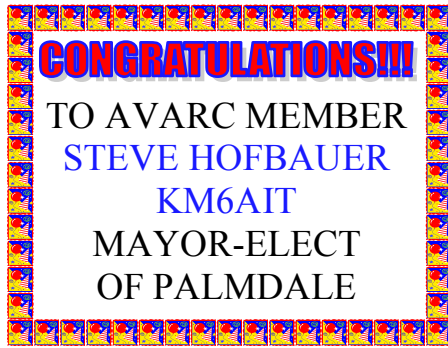
Entertainment Adrienne on harp. Diana's presentation. Fun Side of Ham Radio.

Prizes purchased by Dan W6DAS:

#0895 Boxed Set Handbook 2019 QTY (1) 64.95

#0758 Repeater Directory QTY (2) \$35.90

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Secretary...

(Continued from page 2)
 #0345 Portable Antenna Classics QTY (1) \$19.95
 #0970 ARRL 2019 Calendar QTY(2) \$25.90
 FT-70DR Handheld QTY (1)
 M-24M Mag mount mobile antennas QTY (2)
 Total spent so far \$379.34 I have all products delivered.

Other suggestions:
 25' RG8-x coax assembly: <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-011980>
 50' RG8X coax assembly: <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-011988>
 Powerwerx Anderson Assemblies bag of 10: <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=71-002059> Get 2 or 3 of these
 Non-HAM stuff : popcorn tins, Sees candy.
 Other Holiday party details: (One ticket / current member + additional ticket for those who renew, one ticket to Life Members.)

Food/drink/utensil issues: From Gary Mork along with coffee. Allen will buy Shasta soda.

Announcements:
 Short Circuit Articles - Needed by Wed. 11/7/18 (Early this month)
 Club meeting Thurs. 11/15/2018 – Program: Electronic Warfare or DX video.
 VE Exam: Mon. 12/10/2018 ARRL \$15.00 fee. (Session recently rescheduled due to conflict with SRH event).
 Board meeting: Fri. 12/21 during setup. (This should be the transitional board meeting for 2019 officers.)
 Holiday potluck: Fri. 12/21. Bring a main dish.

Meeting adjourned time:11:25 AM

Respectfully submitted,
 Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI
 Secretary

President's Corner....

(Continued from page 1)
 In my first installment, I addressed lack of motivation being the biggest impediment to getting people interested in getting on the air. It is, but even highly motivated people who pass their examinations can quickly become unmotivated when frustration sets in. This is especially true when large sums of money are spent and nothing to show for it. Frustration avoidance – this is what “elmering” is all about.

73,
 Jan W6DAS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 15 - AVARC Meeting
- December 10 - VE Test Session
- December 21 - AVARC Christmas Party

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2018

12/10/2018 Monday 7 pm

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 WalMart).

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.

Swap Shop

HAM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

- Kenwood TS 440 AT HF Transceiver
- Kenwood MC 80 Desk Mike
- Kenwood Hand Mike - Never used
- Astron 30 Amp SS Power Supply
- MFJ 1.5 KW Dummy Load
- Drake 1000 Watt Low Pass Filter
- Swan WM=2000A PEP Watt Meter

All in excellent clean condition.

\$600.00 Cash Only Pickup Only

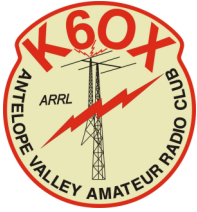
Bob K6MIT (661) 949-8511
 Near Ave K and 12th Street West

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

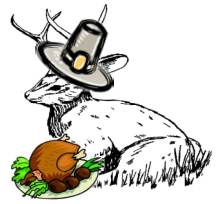
ALUMINUM AVAILABLE

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



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:

