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# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>

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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2019

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## President's Corner

### Mike Beckers K6YQO

How about this weather, huh? A wet season can mean that the wildflowers will soon be blooming in abundance. The desert floor is greener than it has been in years. The Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve is expecting a "very good or even great bloom", according to their Facebook page.

So what does that mean to you and me? It means that it may be time to check that feed line between the radio and the transceiver. A wet season often means that moisture may have crept into your coax at the antenna connector, or inside the connector itself. Effects of this may range from not noticeable to serious. The shield and conductor may suffer from corrosion, which will most likely change the impedance of the feed line. Where there is a change of impedance, there is a change in SWR (Signal reflection). You may notice a loss of sensitivity, or a weaker signal being transmitted, and you may have a harder time getting into your favorite repeater, or making that rare DX contact. A high SWR can damage your transmitter, due to too much of the signal that you're transmitting being reflected back into your transmitter. This can damage the final output transistor, causing your transmitter to output little to no signal at all.

How can we avoid this predicament? You need to weatherproof every connection that is exposed to weather. There are various products sold for this. Also, you can use the cheap black plastic electrical tape for weatherproofing. There is also a mastic sealing rubber tape that is sold at most home improvement stores that sticks very well to itself, and does a fine job at keeping the water out. A 10-foot roll of this type of tape is a little less than ten bucks at Home Depot. It's a lot more expensive than electrical tape, but it does a fine job in wetter locations than the Antelope Valley. Back in my Air Force days, we used a variant of this tape, and it was nicknamed "F-4 tape", because the wiring harnesses on an F-4 aircraft was had this tape liberally wrapped around them!

There are several videos on YouTube that will show you how to weatherproof coaxial connectors. When done properly you should be able to go years with no water in the cable. Obviously, the best

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## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, February 28**, 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 **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**, who will be talking about the upcoming Baker to Vegas race, an annual event that has involved many of our members since 2007. This year's race will be the weekend of March 23-24. Be sure to plan on joining us for an interesting and informative meeting. Mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss it. See you there!



**Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**

# From the Secretary's Desk



## AVARC General Meeting January 24, 2019

President Mike Beckers K6YQO 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 24. Minutes of the abbreviated December 2018 club meeting were taken by Pat Okawa. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Keith K6GXO, and seconded by Bruce KM6OOL. The motion was approved by the members present. Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES - Checking balance: \$5,775.59, petty cash: \$50.28 Total: \$ 5,825.87. Invoices submitted for payment: Matt \$21.90 Membership: Total members 92, percent ARRL 70.65%.  
**OLD BUSINESS**  
 The presidential "football" was transferred from the outgoing president to the incoming president. New Board members George Becker KC6UVM and Diane Roberts K6DER were announced. Holiday party was very successful. A big thank you to Diana Feinberg AI6DF for a great presentation. Congratulations to Betsy Haslett, AJ6AF, and Lance Moreland, AB6CX, for each winning an FT-70 radio, and to Brian Basura, N6CVO for winning the ARRL Handbook box set. The new president signed the bank signature card and removed

the outgoing president from the bank signature card on Saturday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Members suggested new programs that cover simple tape measure antennas, talk on lightning & grounding protection. Members suggested returning in June 28-30 to Raleigh-Duntly Park for Field Day. Discussion will move to the Board Meeting. Upcoming Club Programs – Larry KI6BKP has Margie KG6TBR for Feb to discuss Baker to Vegas and ask for volunteers while Dan W6DAS in March will talk about Quartzfest. Bob Heil in April on Pineboard Project. Program tonight: President Mike Beckers K6YQO will present the State of the Club.  
**NEW BUSINESS**  
 A new club roster is needed for Short Circuit mailing. Mike Beckers will present the "State of the Club" tonight. Other New Business: Betsy AJ6AF announced that on Tues. Feb 28 SCE will speak at the AV CERT monthly meeting on safety. Adrienne WA6YEO announced new training for Technician license from Feb.5 to March 5 at the First Christian Church in Lancaster 7-9pm.  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 Short Circuit Articles - Needed by: Sunday Feb. 17.  
 VE Exam: Monday February 4. This is a GLAARG exam, (fee \$5), with a Board Meeting to follow. Next club meeting: Thurs. Feb. 28 at 7:30 pm

50/50 drawing won by: Larry KI6BKP \$ 14.00  
 The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

## AVARC Board Meeting February 4, 2019

**Opening:** Mike Beckers K6YQO, President  
 Call to order by Mike Beckers K6YQO at 20:44.  
 Minutes from Jan 2019 Board Meeting. Motion to approve by Larry KI6BKP, Seconded by Dan W6DAS. Members present approved: Yes.  
 Treasurer's report – Matt K6MES Checking account: \$5,947.69 Cash on hand: \$ 50.28 Total: \$ 5,997.87.  
 Membership Report: 92; ARRL members: 70.65%.  
 Members present today: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, Mike Beckers K6YQO, Diane K6DER, George Becker KC6UVM, Dan Schrader N6SLU.

### Old Business:

- Bank signature card signed following January's Board Meeting.
- State of the Club Presentation given at the January club meeting by Mike K6YQO
- Dan, Adrienne, and Margie were not at the January meeting; at Quartzfest.

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# Secretary's Desk...

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- Adrienne WA6YEO will present a series of classes for Technician license at First Christian Church on Tuesday evenings beginning February 5. The final class will be the test session on Tuesday, March 5.
- P.O. Box fee was paid. Mailbox key is held by Gary WA6WFC. Second key transferred from Keith K6GXO to Matt K6MES.
- Upcoming club programs – Larry KI6BKP Margie KG6TBR BtoV in Feb., March is Dan W6DAS about Quartzfest.
- Other old business: ARRL Directors' meeting repealed Code of Conduct. 4 new Directors.
- Additional training of ICS 300 & 400 made optional. (classroom, expensive).

**New Business:**

- Keith K6GXO asked Dan W6DAS to follow up on Dick Norton matter at Quartzfest. nothing.
- May have Ham Con in 2019. (Possible income source for AVARC.)

- Suggestions taken regarding future programs. A simple antenna workshop, grounding and bonding, book, Ed Fong's pvc high gain tri band antenna workshop.
- Board suggested returning to same park for Field Day weekend in June. Dan W6DAS to talk to Denise at Parks Dept and pull permit. Request letter of insurance for City. Dan to take Larry KI6BKP along.

**Announcements:**

Short Circuit articles needed by Sun Feb. 17, 2019  
 Club meeting Thurs. Feb 28, 7:30 – Program: Margie – Baker to Vegas  
 Next VE Exam: Tues, Mar 5, at 7:00 PM GLAARG \$5.00 (instead of Saturday March 2 due to Technician class testing)  
 March Board meeting on Thu March 7 at 7pm.

**Meeting adjourned at 2115**

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Pat Okawa KJ6CJI  
 AVARC Secretary 2019

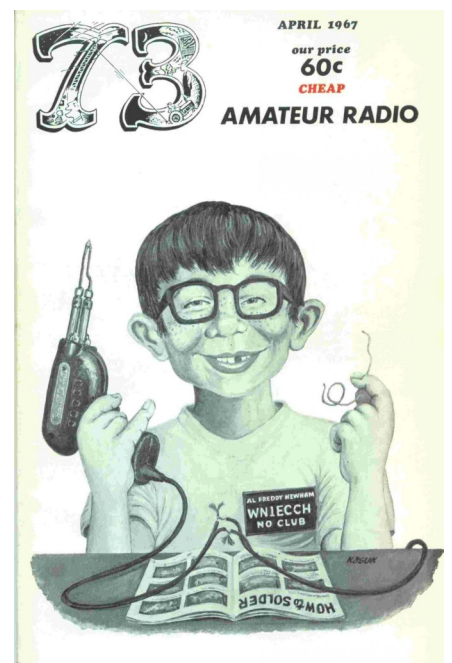
# President...

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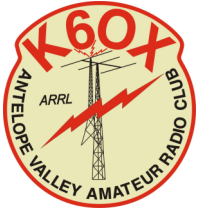
time to do this is when the weather is good. If you find that you have moisture in your coaxial cables, it may be easiest to just replace the cable, rather than to try and repair the cable, as it is possible that the moisture may have even infiltrated most of the cable as well. Hopefully, a good moisture proofing of the connectors will help to prevent this.

Once your antenna is up and everything is weather-proofed, it should give you several years of reliable performance.

73,  
 Mike K6YQO

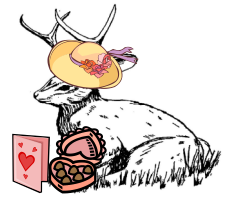


...to pay your dues for 2019



**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2019 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Michael Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555
<b>Vice President</b>	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
<b>Secretary</b>	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
<b>Treasurer</b>	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Diane Roberts	K6DER	805-444-4430
<b>Board Member</b>	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863



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  
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 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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**To ARS:**

