

---

---

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>

---

---



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2019

---

---

## President's Corner

### Mike Beckers K6YQO

They say that March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb. It's probably because in the northern hemisphere, it's still Winter when March arrives, and the weather is still a bit unpleasant, where at the end of the month, Spring has arrived, and the weather tends to be a bit more pleasant.

March is also the time of the year that we start to think about Field Day, which takes place during the fourth full weekend in June, which this year, will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event will be starting at 11 am on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, run all night long, and end at 11 am on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

March is also the time of the year that some of us will head out to assist with the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. Most of us from the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club that volunteer to support the race, have been working at Stage 15 (re-designated as Stage 16 this year) for several years in a row. This is a stage that will be seeing runners coming in all night long! (Am I sensing a pattern here?) The timers will record the time in military-style 24-hour clock, so Stage 16 will be open for business at 2030, which is 8:30 pm to most of us, with everyone in place, with the first runners approaching the stage somewhere between 2130 and 2200. The point of view of this article will be from the side of Nevada State Route 160, or the Blue Diamond Highway, approximately one mile before the stage where the runners are exchanged. Mike Crabtree, KJ6IIR, and I, have been working at that location since the 2011 event, and I would say that we make a pretty good team out there! This race will be the third year that Diane Roberts, K6DER has joined us at the Early Warning station.

As each runner approaches our position, we will relay each runner's bib number back to Dan, W6DAS, and Adrienne, WA6YEO, who will be back at the stage, approximately one mile up the road from us. That runner number will then be announced over the P.A. system that is set up at the stage, so that team's next runner can be in position to take the baton as the runner makes it to the stage for the hand-off. The times that each runner arrives at the early warning station and the stage, is recorded.

As the night goes on, it gets a little colder, and the layers of jackets are added one by one, and the hot chocolate is helping with keeping us warm! The weather can differ greatly from year to year, as well as from daytime to night time. I have yet to experience the conditions that Dan had one year of "sideways-blowing frozen stinging mud balls", but who knows, this could be the year with the way the weather has been so far!

There is often a fairly long period of time that passes, maybe 40 minutes or more, between the next to last runner and the last runner. During this time, Diane, Mike and I will start to pack up what we have setup hours ago, including the hot chocolate.

## Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 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 **Dan Sherwood W6DAS**, who will be giving a presentation on the annual QuartzFest ham radio/RV event. QuartzFest is an ARRL convention that has been going for over 20 years, and has grown to over 1000 attendees. Several of our club members attend every year, and have a great time. Be sure to join us and learn more about this unique and fun event!



**Dan W6DAS at QuartzFest**

*(Continued on page 3)*

# From the Secretary's Desk



## AVARC General Meeting February 28, 2019

President Mike Beckers K6YQO called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm at the Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Number of individuals attending was 25. Minutes of the January 2019 club meeting were taken by Pat Okawa. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by Frank N6FOD, and seconded by Dan W6DAS. The motion was approved by the members present? YES.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES - Checking balance: \$5,947.69, petty cash: \$65.36 Total: \$6,013.05. Invoices submitted for payment: Dan W6DAS \$11.00 postage, Larry KI6BKP \$21.52 dinner.

Membership: Total members 97, percent ARRL 77.32.

### OLD BUSINESS

A new club roster is needed for Short Circuit mailing.

Suggestions were taken regarding future programs. A simple antenna workshop, grounding and bonding, book, Ed Fong's pvc high gain tri band antenna workshop.

Mike Beckers presented the "State of the Club" last month.

Betsy AJ6AF announced that on Tues. Feb 28 SCE will speak at the AV CERT monthly meeting on Electrical Safety for First Responders.

Adrienne WA6YEO announced new training for Technician license from Feb.5 to March 5 at the First Christian Church in Lancaster 7-9pm. Last day of class was Tuesday, 2/26, with the test session being Tuesday Mar 5.

### NEW BUSINESS

May have Ham Con in 2021. (Possible income source for AVARC.)

Keith K6GXO asked Dan W6DAS to follow up on Dick Norton matter at Quartzfest. transparency group in major-

ity. Expect July vote to rescind censure of D. Norton.

Dan W6DAS received permit from the City of Lancaster for Rawley Duntley park for Field Day 2019. Have we obtained the K6A callsign yet for the GOTA station? Paul, KD6SMC obtained it last year. Dan W6DAS has new insurance letter.

Margie KG6TBR Council -no convention until 2021.

### OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Lake LA park fund raiser-Larry KI6BKP Mar 15-16-17. Set up radio booth. Any interest? Yes

Need EIM # as non profit.

Vets for Vets 5K run May 19 asking for club support. Betsy to attend 1st meet Sun Mar 10, QH Library noon.

Presentation: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR - Baker to Vegas 2019

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Circuit Articles - Need by: Mon Mar 11.

Exam: Tuesday March 5 at 7:00 pm. This is an GLAARG exam, (fee \$5). need help.

Next Board Meeting is Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm

Next club meeting: Thu 3/28/2019: Presentation will be Dan Sherwood on Quartzfest 2019

50/50 drawing won by: Dan W6DAS \$ 15.00

Donations from Margie: tshirt won by Adrienne WA6YEO.

T shirt won by Larry KI6BKP.

Jacket from 2012 won by Frank N6FOD.

baton won by Randy KR6DR.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.

## AVARC Board Meeting March 7, 2019

Opening: Mike Beckers K6YQO, President

Call to order by Mike Beckers K6YQO at 7:14 PM.

Minutes from last board meeting: Motion to approve Dan W6DAS, Second Larry KI6BKP, Membership approval: YES

Treasurer's report - Matt Stewart: Checking account: \$ 6,062.69 Cash on hand: \$50.36

Total: \$6,113.05

Check to Matt K6MES for badges \$26.28.

Membership Report: 100 (30 non renew) ARRL members: 78 %.

Members present today: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, Mike Beckers K6YQO, Diane K6DER, George Becker KC6UVM, AJ6AF Betsy Haslett.

### Old Business:

- Upcoming club programs - Larry KI6BKP: Dan W6DAS in March on Quartzsite, April is Bob Heil by Skype, April is Betsy AJ6AF on Electrical Safety for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders.
- HamCon in 2020 in Yuma instead of Torrance. May be in the area in 2021.
- Vets for Vets color run on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Committee leadership meeting on March 10 at noon in the Quartz Hill Library meeting room (Betsy AJ6AF to attend).
- Betsy attended the SCE speaker presentation at the Feb. CERT meeting. She has his presentation on a thumb drive.
- Margie presented the B2V 2019 presentation at the February general meeting. A big thank you to Margie!

### New Business:

- Baker To Vegas is coming two weeks from Saturday. There will be no pre-event planning get-together for the AVARC participants of Stage 16.
- Dan W6DAS received the permit from the City Of Lancaster for Rawley Duntley Park for Field Day. We also have the certificate of liability insurance.

(Continued on page 3)

## Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 2)

- Dan W6DAS wrote to obtain the K6A call sign this year for the GOTA station. (Check dates).
- Matt announced a change in vendor for our badges with a price increase for both pin (\$9.00) and magnetic backing (\$11.00) effective March 7, 2019. Price does include sales tax.
- Vets for Vets-Betsy AJ6AF: What do we need? Course map, how many hams requested, when doing walk thru? (Larry KI6BKP wants to be there).
- Need Field Day Flyer-Diane K6DER will make one up for Board to approve.
- Betsy AJ6AF urged club to contact STEM high school teachers to introduce ham radio to students. Larry KI6BKP has School District contact; waiting for reply. Also contact BSA.
- LLA Park benefit booth Larry KI6BKP has info. Fri set up 1500 need help March 15-17.

### Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by Sat. March 9.

Next club meeting Thurs. 3/28/2019  
 Program: Dan W6DAS on Quartzfest  
 Next VE Exam: Saturday, 4/6/2019  
 GLAARG \$5.00

April Board meeting: Saturday 4/6 following VE exam.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:01PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Pat Okawa KJ6CJI  
 AVARC Secretary 2019

## Swap Shop

### SOLAR PANEL FOR SALE

Harbor Freight solar panel kit with controller and panel support brackets.  
 Never used \$50 OBO  
 Margie KG6TBR 661-297-6567

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

## Membership

If you have been a member of the Antelope Valley Amateur Club for more than one year, you know that your dues are annual and payable from December through the March meeting. After the March meeting we purge those that have not met their responsibilities to the club.

The dues collected are used for things such as Field Day, Speakers for the club meetings, and Insurance required for our various functions, and other expenses of the club.

I know that this sounds like I am standing on my soap box, but in reality, these expenses are what keep the club going.

As of this writing, there are 30 members who will be cut.

If your dues are in arrears, you can keep your membership active by simply paying your dues between now and the March meeting.

The club's address is:

AVARC  
 P O Box 1011  
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Your attention to this matter is appreciated

## President...

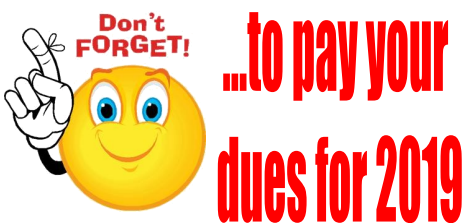
(Continued from page 1)

The final runner will come through, often somewhere between 0400 and 0500, and we will relay his or her bib number back to Dan and Adrienne, then record the time that they passed through the Early Warning station. The final runner will be followed by a unit called "Tail-End Charlie". That unit is a radio operator that follows the last runner from stage to stage. When he gets to us at the Early Warning station, he will release us from the station, and we will proceed back to the stage.

After we return to the stage and step into Dan and Adrienne's trailer to warm up a bit, the final runner will arrive at the stage, and hand the baton to the next runner, who will proceed to the next stage.

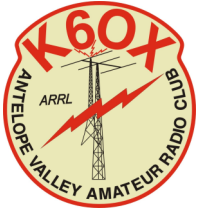
At some point after the last runners are exchanged, the stage will be officially closed, often within 15 minutes to a half hour after the runners are exchanged, we will be released for the night, or actually, morning. The scheduled closing time for Stage 16 is 0445, which is 4:45 am to most of us, which is a total operating time of eight hours and 15 minutes. The closing time is flexible, and depends on the time that the final runners are exchanged at the stage.

All-in-all, it's an exhausting experience, with very cold temperatures, unpredictable weather conditions, and sometimes, well after midnight, during the longer lulls between the runners, it may be a struggle to stay awake. I guess the main question would be "Would I do it again next year?" I think that the answer is obvious. "Aw, heck yeah!"



73,  
 Mar, K6MES

73,  
 Mike K6YQO



**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  
 Post Office Box 1011  
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Place  
 Postage  
 Here

**To ARS:**

