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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

September 2019

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## President's Corner

### Mike Beckers K6YQO

September brings the Back to School Season, and for the AVARC, that means it's time to make nominations for next year's officers and board members. The year seems to have gone by pretty quickly again. It seems like it was not that long ago that I was handed the "presidential football" at last year's Christmas party.

The weather is starting to change just a little bit too. The days aren't quite as blazingly hot as they were in August. As the searing heat gives way to somewhat more moderate temperatures, many HF operators will begin to think about perfecting their antenna farms. It won't be that long until we'll be in another exciting winter DX season. Fall is usually the time to check those sun baked antennas, make repairs, tweaks and adjustments, or perhaps try something entirely new. All effort is focused on gaining even the smallest improvement over last year.

Low band DXing can be less noisy in the winter than it is in the summer due to there being less thunderstorm activity in the Northern hemisphere. The low bands will start to be active earlier in the evening too because of the earlier sunset. AM broadcast band DXing is best during the fall and winter months as well for the same reason.

Back when I was in junior high and high school, I discovered that I could pick up radio stations from far away with my bedroom stereo. I was already familiar with shortwave radio, but I never thought that I could bring in stations from far away with just a regular radio. My first catch was KDWN out of Las Vegas on 720 KHz. It's an easy catch out here in the Antelope Valley, and can be easily mistaken for a local station at night, but in the San Fernando Valley, I had a very strong signal from KMPC on 710 KHz, from its transmitter located in North Hollywood, making KDWN on 720 quite the challenge.

I also discovered that after KTNQ on 1020 KHz, which was playing top 40 at the time, would sign off at night, I was still receiving a station on that frequency. (KTNQ had to sign off at night due to the FCC rules at the time, because they had duplicate programming on 97.1 FM, and the AM station needed to sign off at night.) That station on the same frequency was KBCQ out of Roswell, New Mexico. This was getting exciting!

It didn't take long before I found more distant stations. It involved a lot of slow, careful tuning and listening, and I would find more stations that I didn't hear before, and in areas of the band that I hadn't heard stations before. I also had to guess what the frequency was, because we didn't have digital tuners back then! I soon decided to keep a log of these new stations that I was receiving. I was picking up KOMO out of Seattle on 1000 KHz, KOA out of Denver on 850 KHz, KTWO out of Casper, Wyoming on 1030 KHz, (This was getting even more exciting!) and a top 40 powerhouse out of Mexico, XEROK on 800 KHz out of Juarez, that called themselves X-Rock 80, and came in with a good signal from a location that was right across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. I think my greatest catch at the time, though, was WHO out of Des Moines, Iowa on 1040 KHz. I was able to receive that only one night

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, September 26**, 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.

On the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing, **Brian Basura N6CVO**, launched a Pico Balloon which carried a Ham Radio payload capable of transmitting telemetry. This high altitude wind-swept balloon was aloft for a multiple day journey crossing thousands of miles. Come on out and hear the technical details, preparations, and the excitement generated during the flight.



**Brian Basura N6CVO**

## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC General Meeting August 22, 2019

President Mike Beckers K6YQO called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm at the Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by...

The flag salute and...

Introductions.

Minutes of the July 2019 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 Frank N6FOD. The motion was approved by the members present? YES

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES reviewed our income and expenses.

Membership: Total members: 86, percent ARRL 77.91%

### OLD BUSINESS

Randy, KR6DR mentioned Phil Dolver would like to get together for a multi-club T-hunt.

Field Day – How to seminar. May meeting should be preparation for Field Day

Net Control Schedule. Pat took names of volunteers for net control at the Aug general meeting. If nobody shows up to do the net, anyone can do the net. The script is on the website, K6OX.CLUB.

Mentioned at the board meeting for suggestion at the general meeting: We will try moving the Wednesday night net to the Quartz Hill repeater.

Financial info should be omitted from the meeting minutes. Text in newsletter should read "Treasurer's report given. Member report given".

Thank you to Betsy, AJ6AF for last month's presentation

Dan sent the Field Day report to ARRL. Next year's Field Day will be June 27-28, 2020. Next year we should check equipment before Field Day. With no publicity, we had half of our normal participation.

Dick Miller has moved to Oregon.

Margie KG6TBR-LAACTR Council Report: Diane Feinberg AI6DF asked us to up-

date our Website as ARRL educational affiliated club.

### NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested before the net last night that there be a published rotation of NCS operators for the Wednesday night net. Margie KG6TBR agreed to make it up. Put it on the website.

The Club will not have a booth at the AV Fair this year. We do not have enough volunteers to staff a booth over the 2 weeks (noon-midnight) and the cost is \$1500.

The LDS Earthquake Expo is on Saturday, September 14th from 9am-1pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints across from the College. Would like us to have a booth and we can do sign-ups for Technician class.

Adrienne and Dan propose: Oct. 8, 15, 22, and 29 for instruction.

Nov. 12 for a GLAARG VE session, also open to the public, (reguar Nov. session).

(Dan and Adrienne are out of the area first week in Nov.)

Venue choices:

Q H Library – Dan and Adrienne cannot do Sundays, other instructor(s) needed for that venue unless week nights can be found.

Learn for Life - great venue. Sean Dunn is POC. Dates? Charges? (Larry will arrange. A letter was sent to the Learn4Life Facility Manager.)

AV First Christian Church. Dan can get desired dates. Would like to collect \$30.00 per student to cover utilities and cleaning, \$25 will to go to the Church, \$5 covers the exam. (for duration of course).

Manual: Gordon West Technician class. Current version. Available from Amazon and other sellers.

Note: Dates are tentative pending approval from the AV First Christian Board of Directors.

(Debbie Kent can be reached at 661-492-2224)

Club referred Repeater questions to Board Meeting (Table Mountain, Quartz Hill, CERT Hauser repeater)

Jim Cox K7JAJ is a Silent Key (letter)

Future Presentations:

Brian Basura N6CVO –APRS equipped Pico balloon flight-Sept general meeting

Bob Heil by Skype,

George KC6UVM suggested Dennis Vernacchia on MARS in Vietnam.

Kawika Feltman, AVH Emergency Director

### 10 MINUTE BREAK

### PRESENTATION:

DVD on Bouvet Island DXpedition March 2019.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by: Sunday, Sep 15

Exam: Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This is a ARRL exam, (fee \$15).

Next Board Meeting is Mon Sept 9 at 6PM. Location: First Christian Church.

Next General club meeting: Thurs 9/26 Presentation will be Brian, N6CVO, on his recent APRS-equipped pico balloon flight. Started in Rosamond and lost track over the Atlantic.

Other items:

Members attending tonight: 26

50/50 drawing won by: Larry KI6BKP \$ 24.00

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm. pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Okawa KJ6CJI

### Board Meeting September 9, 2019

**Opening:** Mike Beckers K6YQO, President

Call to order by Mike Beckers K6YQO at 6:09 PM.

Minutes from last board meeting: Motion to approve George KC6UVM, Second Dan W6DAS, Membership approval yes.

Matt K6MES Financial Report was given.

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## Secretary...

back then, and could never find it again.

When I was in the Air Force stationed in England, I liked to pull in distant stations out there as well. A lot of what I pulled in there were stations that had the same programming as what was on shortwave. Radio Sweden was on 1170 KHz, Radio Tirana in Albania was on 1260 KHz, and we had a local BBC world Service transmitter in 648 KHz, with a signal that was extremely strong. That transmitter was located at Orfordness, about four or five miles from my location, and broadcasted to continental Europe. Early in the morning before the Sun came up, I could tune in some Arabic sounding music, and I always wondered what country I was listening to.

This can be a rewarding part of the hobby. Oftentimes when I'm traveling, I'll see if I can pull in stations from the Los Angeles area. I consider it a kind of reverse-DXing! KNX and KFI come in with a good signal in Washington State, and with a fairly weak signal in Denver, and not at all in Louisville, Kentucky.

I can talk about this for hours, but that would make for a very long article, so I'll pull the plug right now. 73 all, and happy DXing!

73,

Mike K6YQO

## Swap Shop

### TOWER FOR SALE

Tilt-up NRG met. tower base and first 4 sections, ~30ft.

Great for an antenna tower! Asking \$1000 OBO  
Will trade for IC-7300. [kn6azk@yahoo.com](mailto:kn6azk@yahoo.com) for pics & more info.

(Continued from page 2)

Membership Report: 86 members, ARRL members: 77.91 %.

Members present today: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, Mike Beckers K6YQO, George Becker KC6UVM, Loretta Smalls AJ6HO, Betsy AJ6AF, Allen KJ6ZYQ, Margie KG6TBR, Trisha Pedroza KJ6ZYR.

### Old Business:

Published rotation of NCS operators for the Wednesday night net. (Margie KG6TBR)

The Earthquake Expo is on Saturday, September 14th from 9am-1pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints across from AV College. They would like us to have a booth and we can do sign-ups for classes.

Oct. 8, 15, 22, and 29 for instruction.

Nov. 12 for a GLAARG VE session, also open to the public, (regular Nov. session).

(Dan and Adrienne are out of the area first week in Nov.)

Venue TBA

Manual: Gordon West Technician class. Current version. Available from Amazon and other sellers.

(Debbie can be reached at 661-492-2224)

Randy, KR6DR mentioned Phil Dolber would like to get together for a multi-club T-hunt.

Field Day – How to seminar. May meeting in 2020 should be preparation for Field Day

Financial info should be omitted from the meeting minutes that are published.

### New Business:

Meeting with Dick Miller, KJ6W before the board meeting to discuss the Hauser repeater. He has moved to

Oregon. Our club would need to make approximately \$1500 in repairs & upgrades. Repeater would

remain property of LA County radio club and on LA County land.

Received an e-mail from Justin Cornwell, Webelos II den leader for the Edwards AFB Cub scout pack. They have an event coming up where scouting organizations world-wide gather around HAM radios and internet terminals to share cultures over

vast distances. The weekend of 18-20 October, while this is occurring, we've already scheduled a family campout and see this a great opportunity to collaborate with one of the local amateur radio clubs on Saturday 19 October. Would like to know if we do outreach events like this, where we can share the technology and spirit of communicating. They would be looking for someone to provide a radio & operator to allow their pack to participate in the JOTA (Jamboree On The Air); anyone with base access would be best, but they can organize a lot if anyone is willing to share their Saturday with them. Larry KI6BKP will

write to them about not enough time to prepare. Dan, Adrienne, Diane and I will not be able to participate as we will all be at Pacificon that weekend.

There will be a Celebration of life service for Mike Clark, WB6SCI on Monday, September 23 at 2:00 pm (the Monday before the general meeting) at Halley-Olsen-Murphy Funerals and Cremations, 44831 N Cedar Ave. The family said that in lieu of flowers please make an donation in Mike Clark's name to the American Lung Association, as Betsy and her daughter are both allergic to flowers. Food will be served at the service so Betsy needs to know who will be coming.

### Other new business:

#### Future Presentations:

Bob Heil via Skype

George KC6UVM suggested Dennis Vernacchia on MARS in Vietnam.

Kawika Feltman, AVH Emergency Director

#### Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles - Needed by Sun, September 15, 2019

Next club meeting Thu 9/26/2019

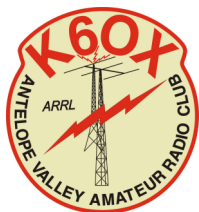
– Program: Brian Basura N6CVO on LightAPRS Pico-Balloon

Next VE Exam: Saturday October 5 @ 9:00am, VEC: GLAARG, Test fee: \$5.00

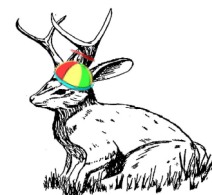
October Board meeting: Sat. 10/5 10 am at church

**Meeting adjourned time: 7:13 PM**

Pat Okawa, Secretary



### 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:**



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