

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

December 2019

President's Corner

Mike Beckers K6YQO

Happy Holidays to one and all!
Wow! Another year is just about gone, and 2020 will be here before we know it. This month, I'll take a break from the normal article format, and share a little poem written by Gary Pearce KN4AQ and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC on December 2, 1996. It's a little poem called...

"A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas"

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

Meeting Notice

Friday, December 20, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 E. Avenue J in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions. **Note that this month's meeting is a week earlier than usual, due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and will be on Friday instead of Thursday.**

The meeting will start at 6:00 pm. The room will be open at 4:30 for early set-up. If you can help with setup and/or cleanup afterward, it would be greatly appreciated. Membership renewals will be taken until 6:00. Be sure to mark this on your calendars!

This month's meeting will feature our traditional December potluck dinner. We have collected some mighty fine prizes for this year's Christmas Party Membership Raffle. So be sure to come to the Club Christmas Party, bring a dish to share, (we hope to get a few main dishes) and get in on the fun!

Our special guest will be our ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager, **Diana Feinberg AI6DF**, who is always a welcome visitor at our meetings.



Diana Feinberg AI6DF

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting November 21, 2019

President Mike Beckers called the meeting to order at 7:33 P:M followed by; Flag Salute and introductions.

Minutes of the October 24 club meeting were taken by Loretta Smalls, AJ6HO. Motion to approve them as printed in The Short Circuit was made by Allan Evans KJ6ZYQ, seconded by Dan Sherwood W6DAS and was approved by members present.

The Treasurer's report was given by Matt Stewart K6MES.

Invoices submitted for payment:
Membership total: 94 Percent
ARRL 79.35%

Old Business

Bob Heil, K9EID was scheduled to do a presentation this evening via Skype but he had something unexpected come up so he had to cancel. Kawika Feltman, the head of security at Antelope Valley Hospital stepped up to be our speaker but he too had to cancel. We still had a great night with presenters that were already at hand, and they shared great information at the meeting.

Mike Beckers K6YQO did hear back from Corey at the Transplants Brewing Company about their board meeting and so far we have a date of December 15. Location and time TBD. Loretta Smalls AJ6HO will attend and take notes, but others are also welcome to attend their meeting once we find out a definite time and place.

Other Old Business

Loretta also stopped by to visit Pat Okawa KJ6CJI and she is doing well, watching football. It will be hard to fill her shoes but she had some great advice for this new NAG JR. She is sorely missed and we hope to see her at the Christmas party next month.

The new repeater should be installed after the first of the new year. To help offset the cost Brian Basura N6CVO presented the club with a check donated from the Acton/Agua Dulce Amateur Radio Club. They held a special board meeting of their own to approve the donation which was warmly accepted by AVARC members. Many thanks to Brian and the Acton/Agua Dulce Amateur Radio Club.

New Business

Thank you to the folks who submitted new/renew memberships at the club meeting. AVARC will still accept membership submissions at the Christmas party, and also by mail. If you choose to mail the membership application the address is on the header of the membership application form and also on our website under 'Contact Us'.

Speaking of the Christmas Party we will be having our next club meeting/holiday party at the First Christian Church Lancaster located at 1702 E. Ave. J across from the Wal Mart gas station. If you want to arrive early to help with setting up and/or remain afterward to help tear down this would be greatly appreciated. Party begins at 7:00 P:M on Dec. 20th, and for those who want to help set up you are welcome to arrive around 4:30 or so. There will be raffle items at the party including manuals, possibly a couple of HTs, a stereo headset, and Nagoya Antenna model GPK-01 Ground Plane kit. Items donated for the raffle can be brought to the Christmas party.

10 Minute Break

Presentations

Regardless of the two presenters that were scheduled not being able to make it, the meeting went on very successfully with very capable Hams that were already on deck.

Frank O'Dell N6FOD and Dan Sherwood W6DAS brought up the recent petition that was started by NYU about the digital use of amateur radio especially Winlink and Pactor modes. This was discussed at length and the FCC still has the comment period open about this petition. The link for all

this information can be found at docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-1130A1.pdf.

Dan Sherwood also gave a presentation about the recent hospital drill this past Thursday November 21 at the Antelope Valley Hospital by ARES members. The Hauser Repeater as well as the D.A.R.N 8 were utilized but also some simplex frequencies were tested out in various locations around A.V Hospital. This turned out to be a successful test of the radio equipment and how they worked in and around the perimeter of the hospital. There is discussion of installing HF radio but this is TBD at a later time.

Randy Estrella KR6DR gave a presentation about T-Hunts with other Amateur Radio Clubs, an idea that was championed by just about everyone at the meeting. T-Hunting is an activity that is enjoyed by even non-hams, so keep watch in The Short Circuit for any T-Hunt events planned for the future. Some locations mentioned included Apollo Park, Steven Sorensen Park, Agua Dulce Vasquez Rocks, and even Tehachapi.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are needed by December 10 includes corrections and additions.

Exam: Saturday December 7 @0900 ARRL exam (fee is \$15).

The next board meeting is right after the exam @10:00 A:M. Both are at the First Christian Church of Lancaster across from the Wal Mart gas station on J and 17th East. The next club meeting/holiday party also at this church December 20th 7:00 P:M.

Possible Future Presentations:

It was also mentioned at the club meeting about having an antenna party. This could be beneficial to new hams, and to some of us not-so-new hams as well.

Other items:

Members that attended this night: 23
50/50 drawing won by Larry KI6BKP
The meeting was adjourned at 2102hrs.

Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

AVARC Board Meeting December 7, 2019

The board meeting was conducted after the ARRL Ham exam which began at 0900 hrs. Congratulations to those who passed their test.

Meeting called to order by President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 10:36. Motion to approve board meeting from November 2 by Matt Stewart K6MES seconded by Loretta Smalls AJ6HO.

Treasurer's report by Matt Stewart K6MES:

Bank balances stated

Club membership: 92

ARRL percentage 79.35%

Old Business:

The Transplants Brewing Company will hold their board meeting on December 15, at 1600 hrs. It will be at their facility in the tasting room at 40242 La Quinta Ln. Palmdale, CA 93551. Loretta AJ6HO will be attending to record event but anyone else is welcome to join in and ask questions.

The new repeater for Hauser will be installed soon and it was recommended that the installation be photographed as part of a presentation for one of our club meetings. Speaking of photographs an old photo album representing our club will be brought to the Christmas party. There are some neat old photos in there but not any new ones. To document our clubs history, if there are any photos of Baker To Vegas, Field Day, Fox hunts, etc...let's add them to this photo album and we can keep adding as events come and go, including the installation of the new Hauser Repeater. The next club meeting/Christmas party will be Friday, December 20 at the First Christian Church of Lancaster. Party will be at 7:00 P:M but those helping to set up can be there around 4:30 P:M.

Pat Okawa KJ6CJI continues to improve from her injuries, and is up and about. We look forward to seeing her

soon, and to once again hear her on the radio.

New Business:

The Quartz Hill Library has been secured for the next year for our club meetings.

Motion to give one (1) raffle ticket per club member at the Christmas party made by Matt Stewart K6MES and seconded by Larry Mock KI6BKP and approved on by majority vote. This will give more people a fair chance at winning a prize rather than one or two walking away with multiple prizes.

This is a potluck so bring a food item such as a side dish, salads, beverages, snack items, entrees, as well as cookies, pies etc..Lumpia was mentioned, as well as a bucket of chicken and even a Tofurkey roast for those non-believers.

It was suggested that the next field day be conducted at Chiloquin Oregon. This can be discussed further at club meetings.

Presentations:

Dianne Feinberg, ARRL Los Angeles Section Control Manager will be at the Christmas Party.

Mike Beckers K6YQO will give the state of the club presentation at the club meeting in January.

Future Presentations:

George Becker KC6UVM is working on getting Dennis Vernacchia to give a presentation on MARS in Vietnam as well as inviting Tom Fischer on the status of CERT and DCS.

Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR can come in and do a presentation on B2V.

It was also suggested that we invite Dick Miller in to do a presentation, perhaps after the installation of the new Hauser repeater with photos.

Coming Events:

Club meeting/Christmas party/potluck December 20th, 7:00 P:M at the church.

Next Board mtg TBA as well as next test session.

Transplants Brewery 5K/10K Charity run. The first one is March 15. The second one is October 25. We will have more details after their board meeting December 15.

Baker To Vegas is April 4th and 5th 2020.

Field Day is the fourth full weekend of June so in 2020 it will be June 27th and 28th.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31

Respectfully Submitted,
Loretta Smalls AJ6HO
AVARC Secretary 2019

Tuesday Morning HAM Brunch at Fox Field

Al Almeida N6JZ invites all hams, prospective hams, and interested folks to the Tuesday morning brunch out at Foxy's Landing, (restaurant inside the Fox Airport terminal), between 9:30 AM and noon, (sometimes later), every Tuesday morning. Great food and great camaraderie has been the tradition for many years. The location is Ave. G and 50th West – north of Ave G. Follow Wm. J. Barnes Ave. north around the bend and into the terminal area. Unlike LAX, plenty of free parking. Many amateurs monitor the Mt. Cam repeater on the way there: 444.575+ pl 173.8.



...to pay your dues for 2020

Dues -- It's that time again.

As we all know the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club cannot provide its members the services that we expect from a club without having revenue.

The members dues and donations are the only source of revenues that we must keep the club in existence.

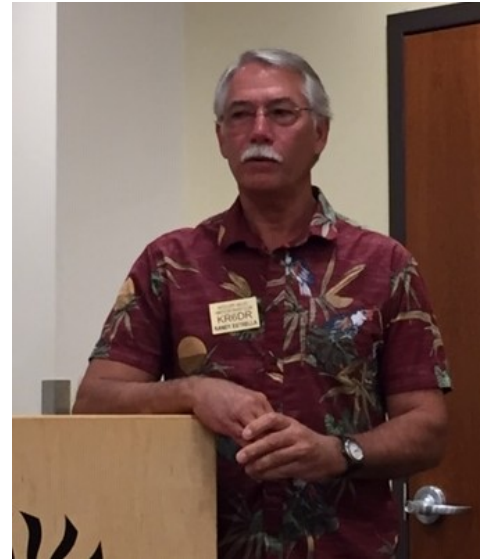
So, we will be collecting the dues from December's meeting to the March meeting.

After the March meeting members that are in arrears will be dropped from the roles.

As usual I will be collecting at the December meeting. This year to expedite the process, I will use a pad of paper on the table on which I will need to have you print (legibly) so that I can read your Call, First Name, Last Name, and email. This will make the process move more quickly and will allow me to get some of the food while it is warm.

Thank You,

73,
Matt, KG6MES



Randy Estrella KR6DR

Randy stepped up and gave an impromptu talk about T-hunting at the November meeting. When both our speaker and his alternate had to bail out on us, Randy came forward and gave a very engaging presentation to the club. There has been a renewed interest in this activity in the last few months, so it looks like there will soon be some transmitter hunting in the near future. Many thanks to Randy for a great presentation!



President...



(Continued from page 1)

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.



He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
“A new rig?” I thought!

“A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!”
(If he thought I’d been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.



I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month’s rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
“To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three.”

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.



Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham’s Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
“Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX.”

73, Merry Christmas, and Happy
New Year!

Mike K6YQO

HAM RADIO Operator RV'ers/Tenters...



QUARTZFEST
2020

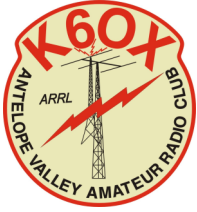


What? Quartzfest® is an annual HAM Radio RV'ers Boondocking event which is held in late January every year with dates coinciding with the Quartzsite Arizona "RV Show".

When? January 19th thru 25th of 2020 (make sure you add these important dates to your 2020 calendar)

Where? 7 miles south of Quartzsite Arizona - on US 95 at La Paz Valley Road

Who Can Attend? ANYONE! If you don't have your Amateur Radio Operators License yet, you'll be able to take your Amateur Radio Operators License Exams at Quartzfest®



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2019 Officers

President	Michael Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555
Vice President	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Secretary	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
Treasurer	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Diane Roberts	K6DER	805-444-4430
Board Member	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	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

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To ARS:

