

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2020

## President's Corner

**Mike Beckers K6YQO**

Greetings, and a fine February to you all! I'll start this month by sharing a Christmas gift that Diane and I received from the North Pole. We both received his and hers Kenwood TH-D74A tri-band D-STAR radios! We're both exploring a wonderful world that we haven't experienced before receiving these radios. There is one local D-STAR repeater that covers the Antelope Valley. It is owned by the PAPA system, and is located on Blue Ridge, which is above the Mountain High ski resort near Wrightwood.

Before you can talk on D-STAR, you will need to register with an organization, such as the PAPA System, or on [dstargateway.org](http://dstargateway.org).

As with the IRLP network, D-STAR has "reflectors" that you can connect to, and speak with others that are going through repeaters or hot spots that are connected to the same reflector. (More on hot spots later in this article.) The repeater on Blue Ridge is connected full time to reflector 12A ("Reflector 12, module A"), and the usage for reflector 12A is "permalink repeaters", that is a group of repeaters that are always connected to that reflector, and relay the same audio between them. There is a list of reflectors and their usage that you can find at [dstarinfo.com](http://dstarinfo.com). There is a lot of useful information about D-STAR on that web site.

I have always felt a little "funny" about disconnecting repeaters from reflectors and dialing up other reflectors, as I'm not sure how others might feel about my disconnecting from what they might be monitoring, or they might not want to listen to what I would connect to, so I purchased what is called a "hot spot". This is an interface which is essentially a low powered mini repeater that connects to your network, and accesses the D-STAR network, or the DMR network, or one of the other digital radio services, and transmits on the 70 cm band to your D-STAR radio on a frequency that you configure on initial setup, and it lets you talk on D-STAR,

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## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, February 27**, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 East Avenue J, across from WalMart. This is the same location where the monthly test sessions are held. The Quartz Hill Library is not available this month, due to the election. 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 April 4-5. 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 Veep

**George Becker KC6UVM**

As I write this column today, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring. We'll just have to see what Poor Richard's Almanac has to say about that....

Our February 2020 featured presentation is our own AVARC club member, past president and AVARC delegate to the Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. Margie will be our guest speaker for a presentation about Baker 2 Vegas.

For those that don't know or never heard of Baker 2 Vegas, Baker 2 Vegas is a marathon foot race for Peace Officers. From the <https://bakervegas.net/> web site:

The world's most prestigious and unique law enforcement foot race... Starting in Baker, California and ending in Las Vegas, Nevada, Law enforcement officers from around the globe battle it out every Spring for the chance of winning the coveted cup trophy.

Those that choose to participate, volunteer in support of this race, hams and all others are subject varied weather depending on the elevation or time of day. Margie will have more information on how to volunteer and what you'd be getting into should you choose to volunteer. More information can be found at <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/home> and Margie's presentation.

As I complete this column, it is 68 degrees in Baker, CA, 68 degrees in Pahump, NV and a balmy 38 degrees in Las Vegas, CA. Burr.

*73 de KC6UVM,*

*George J. Becker*

## From the Secretary's Desk

### AVARC General Meeting January 23, 2020

The General meeting was called to order by President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 1938 hrs, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Minutes taken at the December 2019 general meeting/Christmas party were taken by Loretta AJ6HO. Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Short Circuit made by Larry KI6BKP seconded by George KC6UVM and approved by members present.

Treasurer's Report by Matt K6MES:

Checking balance: <as stated>

Petty Cash: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Invoices submitted: \$1593.23 for the repeater which is already paid for.

Membership totals: total members: 93  
ARRL percent: 79.35%

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Keith Hoyt K6GXO has possession of the new repeater which will be installed when the snow melts and the road is passable probably around end of January WX permitting. The old repeater will remain with Dick Miller KJ6W.

The Transplants Brewing Company has canceled their 5K run originally scheduled for March 15 2020 due to a tragic death in the family. An email was sent to Cory extending our condolences on behalf of the club.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The general meeting on February 27 will not be at the Quartz Hill Library. It will be at 1930 hrs at the First Christian Church of Antelope Valley at 1702 E. Ave. J Lancaster, CA. 93535.

There is some interest in club participation during the Fox airshow on the weekend of March 21 and 22. It may be as simple as a presentation at the STEM table but we will know more as the event draws closer.

This will be a couple of weeks before the Baker 2 Vegas event which is on April 4 and 5. The website is 'Radiobaker2vegas.org' and from there you can 'click here for official Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup

Relay Site for maps and route information. Those who are participating should arrive at their stages well before the race starts as traffic will be an issue once the race begins. Most of us either camp out at the staging area, or at RV parks or hotels around Pahrump, Baker, or Stateline.

We were asked for our participation in the scouts JOTA which Brian Basura N6CVO has generously offered his assistance with this event.

We need to reserve the park for our field day reservations and it should be done soon. We will need to secure the insurance for this. Betsy AJ6AF recommended that the flyers for our field day need to be drawn and printed at least by May.

Those of you who have not renewed their membership have until the club meeting on March 26 upon which the list will be purged of non members. Please renew at the next February general meeting or the March general meeting.

We are still thinking about getting safety vests with the club logo for club members to identify us as radio operators during events such as field day, JOTA, charity races, and drills which will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

Mike Beckers K6YQO club president, gave us an outstanding January presentation addressing the state of our club. One of the biggest changes has been on the board.

Mike Beckers K6YQO remains our President.

George Becker KC6UVM went from Board Member to Vice President

Larry Mock KI6BKP went from Vice President to Board Member.

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO Secretary (aka NAG JR) when Pat Okawa KJ6CJI (aka NAG) became injured.

Matt Stewart K6MES remains our club Treasurer.

Gary Mork WA6WFC remains our Master At Arms.

Dan Sherwood W6DAS Board Member and Ex Officio. He is also the trustee of K6OXD our digital call sign.

Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO Short Circuit Editor.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO remains our K6OX club trustee.

Bob Holland KG6DHQ club historian

Revenue for the club: <as stated>

Costs: <as stated>

Deficit: <as stated>

Members: 89 ARRL percentage: 71.91%

State of the club remains in great shape and there is no need to raise club dues.

#### Future Presentations:

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR will be our presenter for the February 27 meeting. The topic will be the Baker 2 Vegas relay race in April.

Tom Fischer KI6CHH will be our presenter for our March club meeting. Topic will be CERT and DCS.

April: open

May will be all about field day. It is our hope to get Dianne Feinberg AI6DF back to do the presentation.

June: open

#### Announcements:

George KC6UVM won tonight's raffle.

Short Circuit articles are due by Feb. 16.

Next test session is Feb. 01, 2020 at 0900. This is a GLAARG session so \$5.00 to be at the First Christian Church on Ave. J across from the Wal Mart gas station. This will be followed by the AVARC board meeting.

Membership dues are to be submitted by the March general meeting or non members' names will be purged from the system.

General meeting was adjourned at 2041hrs.

### AVARC Board Meeting February 1, 2020

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order at 09:59 by President Mike Beckers K6YQO. Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting as printed in the Short Circuit made by George KC6UVM seconded by Gary WA6WFC and approved by all present.

**Treasurer's Report By Matt Stewart K6MES:**

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## President...

as if you are going through a local repeater. The unit that I purchased is the openSPOT 3 from SharkRF, and was shipped from the manufacturer in Estonia, and it arrived in eight days! With this device, I can connect to any reflector that I want to, without bothering anyone, because the signal from the hot spot does not go much beyond the confines of my house, and I have the radio transmitting on its "extra low" power setting, which is .05 watts. The world is at my fingertips!

The sound quality of D-STAR is definitely noticeable as something very different. There is a definite "digital" sound to what you're listening to, and doesn't really sound like your FM radio, but the sound quality is very consistent from user to user, location to location, because the signal is completely digital, from the transceiver, to the repeater to the Internet, all the way to the radios at the other end. This gives a very uniform quality to the sound, so a local user that you're hearing will have the same audio quality as someone half way across the planet, whether they're in the UK, or South Korea, or Bulgaria! They will all sound like local contacts. This is all assuming that each user is within range of their respective repeaters or hot spots.

I have found a list of nets on the dstarinfo.com site that are carried on D-STAR, and Diane and I have checked in on a few, including the Coastal Carolinas D-STAR Net on Saturday night. To keep it Carolina related, I mentioned the sign on Interstate 40 that you pass in Barstow after you transition onto I-40 East from I-15 North, and the sign says that it's 2,554 miles to Wilmington, North Carolina! The net control station said that he has a friend in Wilmington, NC, and he was going to ask him if there's a corresponding sign on his end if I-40 saying that it's 2,554 miles to Barstow!

Now I don't consider myself an expert at all on the subject of D-STAR. I am still very much a newbie on the subject, because I have only been using the radio for just over a month, but I'm having a lot of fun learning how to use it. Another thing is this article is by no means complete, and may not necessarily be fully accurate, since a lot of what is in it is my interpretation with my limited experience with D-STAR!

73,  
Mike K6YQO

## Secretary's Desk...



*(Continued from page 2)*

Checking: <as stated>

Cash: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Membership: 89

ARRL Percentage: 71.91%

### Members present today:

Mike Beckers K6YQO Dan Sherwood W6DAS Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO Matt Stewart K6MES

George Becker KC6UVM Keith Hoyt K6GXO Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO.

### Old Business:

The Ham support for the Transplants Brewing Company is on hold until November. Any future meeting with this group is TBA.

Keith K6GXO will keep us informed about installation of the new repeater.

The next club meeting will be here at the church. Quartz Hill Library will not be available.

### New Business:

The possibility of our club representing at the STEM booth for the Fox Airshow on March 21-22 was discussed. If we have volunteers available to man the table we will probably participate at this event. This event is two weeks before our Baker 2 Vegas relay race.

Park reservations need to be made for field day which will probably once again be at the Rawley Duntley Park. Field Day is June 27-28 2020.

Baker to Vegas is April 4 thru 5<sup>th</sup>. Margie Hoffman KG6TBR will do a presentation for us at this coming February club meeting.

We are also discussing the flyers for field day. Once the design is approved they will be printed out and distributed to places like the libraries, post office, share with our CERT and ARES members, as well as post on the Facebook and Twitter pages of our local legislators. This is another way to get people interested in Amateur Radio, espe-

cially our young people, and garner a little more exposure for the club.

The Scouts' Jamboree On The Air is in October so there is still plenty of time to discuss club involvement with this program. Brian Basura N6CVO is assisting us with this project.

### Presentations:

This **February** will be Margie for the Baker 2 Vegas.

**March** will be Tom Fischer KI6CHH about the status of DCS.

**April** is open

**May** will be a detailed presentation on this year's field day hopefully we can get Dianne Feinberg AI6DF to return.

**June** is open

### Possible Future Presentations:

Andy W2AJG, if he would like to give us a presentation about his participation in the Long Beach Red Cross medical drill is one suggestion.

Oliver K6OI the ARRL emergency coordinator section manager to talk about mesh net nodes, probably via Skype.

Dick Miller KJ6W a possibility to do a presentation after the new repeater is installed.

We welcome any more suggestions for future presentation ideas.

### Announcements:

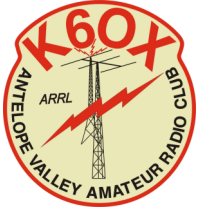
The next club meeting is at the First Christian Church of Antelope Valley on 1702 E. Ave. J Lancaster, CA. 93535 1930 hrs. Eyeball QSOs start at 1900 hrs. Our speaker will be Margie Hoffman KG6TBR for the Baker 2 Vegas event.

The next board meeting is at the church on March 2, 2020 1800 hrs to be followed by the next GLAARG test session at 1900 hrs.

Baker 2 Vegas is April 4 and 5.

Short circuit articles are due by February 16, 2020.

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO, Secretary



**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2020 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Michael Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555
<b>Vice President</b>	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894
<b>Secretary</b>	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
<b>Treasurer</b>	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
<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:**

