

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

April / May 2020

## President's Corner

**Mike Beckers K6YQO**

Welcome to May. COVID-19 is still in full swing disrupting our lives, and making it extremely difficult to find necessities due to too many people hoarding those items. Many of us are unemployed, while many of us are still working, and many of us are working from home.

I'm one of the folks that are working from home. As I'm working from home, I'm getting to know my HF radio a little better during the times that there's a lull in the work. I'm getting to know its features, and exploring the frequencies that are active during the day while I'm normally at work.

While I'm working from home, I'm also hearing about events that are being canceled everywhere you look, such as Baker To Vegas, and the air show at Fox Field. The DX convention in Visalia, as well as the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio have also been canceled. Pacificon hasn't been canceled yet, but their web site says "The Mt. Diablo Radio Club and the Pacificon Committee is continuing to closely monitor the COVID-19 virus pandemic." There's even an event in November that Diane and I bought tickets for that I just learned today was cancelled.

The ARRL hasn't canceled Field Day, but they are saying "Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year." They are offering a few suggestions:

"Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency

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## Meeting Notice

The May 2020 meeting of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club will NOT be held in person due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. **The meeting will instead be held on the air during the Wednesday night club net, on May 27, 2020 at 8:00PM.** Frequency: Hauser Repeater, 146.730 - offset, pl. 100.

**This months topic: Field Day 2020.** Will Field Day look like what we know? With the extended LA County restrictions, will we get access to the park? At the time of this writing this is not known. Hopefully by meeting time some of these questions can be answered, and some response can be formulated. We might be operating from our own shacks, perhaps in our individual backyards, or perhaps not at all. We invite everyone to check in and have this discussion.



## From The Veep

**George Becker KC6UVM**

AVARC Vice President Column for May 2020

I'm just speechless: Part Deux.

I hope everybody is doing well.

It's been like Disney's Mr. Toad ride or to the younger generation like a roller coaster ride.

Just can't believe it's half way through May. Then, coming up in June 2020, last full weekend of the month is Field Day. And we're half way through the year....

During the last board meeting, we discussed the topic for the May 2020 meeting and how it's going to be done. The board has been meeting using Zoom. Anyone that's interested can join us for board meetings. All you need to do is shoot off an email to: [officers@k6ox.club](mailto:officers@k6ox.club)

Back on topic: The Quartz Hill library is still closed to the public due to COVID-19 and we don't have a place for an eyeball QSO. The board decided that we would have an on air club meeting 5/27/2020 at 8:00 PM (2000 hours for you military folks) during the Club Wednesday Night Net in lieu of the regular Thursday night meeting.

If the COVID-19 situation keeps going on into July, the board discussed having the club meetings online using Zoom. Some of our speakers have access to Zoom and we'd have our presentation online.

The matter of discussion this month will be Field Day. All I know right now is we have the requested club field day call: K6A. *Continued p 3*

## *From the Secretary's Desk*

Antelope Valley Amateur Radio  
Club Board Meeting April 13 2020  
Monday via Zoom On Line Confer-  
ence Call 1900 hrs

Opening: President Mike Beckers  
K6YQO

Meeting was called to order at 19:18  
hrs via Zoom video conference.

There were some who had technical  
difficulties but we eventually  
worked it out and there were enough  
for a quorum.

Minutes from the last board  
meeting: Motion to approve made  
by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and  
seconded by Matt Steward K6MES.  
All present at the video conference  
approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report:  
Checking Account: <as stated>  
Cash on hand: <as stated>  
Total:<as stated>

Membership Report: 63  
ARRL members: unavailable at this  
time.

Members present today:  
Mike Beckers K6YQO, KC6UVM  
George Becker, Dan Sherwood  
W6DAS (host of the Zoom confer-  
ence), Adrienne Sherwood  
WA6YEO, Matt Stewart K6MES,  
Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Andy Gipetti  
W2AJG, Loretta A. Smalls AJ6HO.

Old Business:  
Field day is in question at this point,  
however we still have Rawley  
Duntley Park reserved for this event  
should we actually be able to  
participate. If parks are still closed  
by the time this year's field day  
comes up the ARRL website has  
some great advice on how to  
proceed; <http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt> one  
of the ideas is to operate from our  
back yard on emergency power only  
and by keeping in contact through

our club repeater. Please see the ARRL  
guidelines on their website. We will keep  
you all updated as this event draws near.

### New Business:

Another vital aspect of amateur radio that  
has been impacted is VE testing. Most have  
been canceled however GLAARG is  
experimenting with on-line testing. This by  
nature is labor intensive, requires difficult  
vetting of the candidate, and is susceptible  
to many technical difficulties. It is  
recommended that each candidate check  
with their local VE team for updates. One  
of the other concessions for on line testing  
is that the candidate can only do one test at  
a time. So if they pass the technician class  
they will not be able to move on to General  
at that time. They will have to re-register  
again due to the complicated nature of on  
line testing. [https://glaarg.org/ve\\_sessions/](https://glaarg.org/ve_sessions/)  
So one test at a time, register in advance,  
and not all VE teams are doing this.

### Find an Amateur Radio License Exam in Your Area

The American Radio Relay League  
(ARRL) is the national association for  
amateur radio, connecting hams around  
the...

### Presentations:

There was no club meeting in March at the  
Quartz Hill Library, nor will there be one  
in April. May is also in question at this  
time. Kawika was our presenter for April  
but as you all may already know, he has  
been understandably very busy with his  
duties at the Antelope Valley Hospital. For  
April we may try to get Dianne Feinberg  
AI6DF or K6OLI to discuss more on mesh  
nets at the club meeting for April which  
will be and extended club net on Hauser.  
Until we are free of this pandemic all  
gatherings are postponed. This does give us  
a unique opportunity to amp up our radio  
skills, learn new skills, and be better  
prepared for the next event. As Andy  
W2AJG pointed out during our Zoom  
conference, humans have learned from past  
pandemics, and this one is certainly one of  
those learning events.

### Club Meeting:

We will be having our club meeting on  
April 22 instead of the 23rd. In order to  
maintain our social distancing, and disease  
prevention protocols we thought it would  
be easier, and more logical to just have the  
meeting on the night we have our regular  
radio net on Hauser. We will simply just  
make it an extended net, at the regular time  
20:00 hrs.

### Next Board Meeting:

Our next board meeting will be on May 4th,  
Monday, 1900 hrs again on Zoom.

So fellow Hams, here we are, isolated but  
not alone. We still have our radios, and that  
is the best source of communication during  
an event like this. Our radios cannot give us  
a virus (our computers can get one), we can  
plug our radios up to a battery and solar  
panels and talk forever (cell phones will  
die), and we can reach out to hams in other  
cities, states, and even other countries and  
still maintain social distancing, and not  
even have to wear a mask (Skype, Zoom,  
Google Suite may not work if internet is  
down).

Next time we see each other it will be all  
the more special. Share all we have learned  
from this. Appreciate each other even more  
so than before. Check in often with family  
and friends who may live far away, know  
what resources to go to in case a welfare  
check is necessary. Stay well everyone and  
73s.

Your Secretary

Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

K6OX Antelope Valley Amateur Radio  
Club  
General Meeting COVID-19 Version  
April 22, 2020 20:00 hrs  
on Hauser Repeater 146.730 -PL 100.0

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Vice President...

With all the uncertainties, no yet knows how field day will work out.

I'm getting daily emails from the City of Lancaster.

Go to <https://www.cityoflanasterca.org/>

or straight to:

<https://www.cityoflanasterca.org/residents/special-notice-warnings/coronavirus-information>

to read up on the latest Corona Virus updates.

Stay safe out there.

73 de kc6uvm

George

## President...

power (Class E)."

"Use the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event."

"Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna."

The Los Angeles County Library has closed all of their facilities "until further notice". All meeting room bookings (such as our monthly meeting) have been canceled through the end of April. We are in the process of developing a plan for possibly holding future meetings online through services, such as Zoom, as it has been suggested on our weekly Wednesday evening nets on the Hauser Repeater.

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## Secretary's Desk...

*(Continued from page 2)*

George Becker, Vice President KC6UVM is Net control

This is an extended club net to include the general meeting which was to be held at the Quartz Hill Library on April 23 but was canceled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. So we combined the regular club radio net with the general meeting.

Those who were present for this extended net/general meeting were:

President Mike Beckers K6YQO

Vice President George Becker, KC6UVM who is also net control.

Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES

Master At Arms Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Board Member Larry Mock KI6BKP

Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Newsletter editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO

Also present were;

Jon N6NQ who is also our 'Winlink' presenter Dianna K6DER Gloria KE6TZB Raymond KN6DPI Frank N6FOD Andy W2AJG Lance AB6CFX

Betsy AJ6AF Ron NY2B Adobin

KN6BQK Rodney KK6GOS

Bob KD6HHA Merle W6MJB Chuck

W2QLH Allan KJ6ZYQ

Mark AD6TG Earl KE6VAI who also has our Newsline Oscar N6VGO

Meeting was called to order by our President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 20:25 hrs after the general check in portion of the regular club net.

Motion to approve minutes from the club meeting as posted in the Newsletter made by Frank N6FOD and seconded by Keith K6GXO. Majority approved by a 'no nays' on the radio.

Treasurer's Report:

Provided by Matt Stewart K6MES

Checking Account: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total:<as stated>

Club Members: 62

ARRL Percent:

77.42%

Old Business:

We are still planning on having our annual Field Day event although this is in question at this time. The Rawley Duntley Park has been reserved for this event.

The Baker to Vegas event has been canceled for this year. It is scheduled for March 27 2021.

New Business:

Future board meetings will be via Zoom, those invited will be sent emails. Be sure to annotate the Id and password, click on the link, and it should take you right to the meeting. The next club meeting scheduled for May 28 at the Quartz Hill Library is in question at this time. We will plan on having the club meeting the previous Wednesday, May 27 on Hauser as we did on April 22.

Ham test sessions are currently being held online. More details are on the club website.

The newsletter is delayed due to illness but will be up soon so please do continue to send articles.

Jon Clark N6NQ gave an excellent 'on air' presentation about the Winlink system. This is a radio email client that not only uses the internet to send messages but also packet radio and VARA HF. Please go to the 'Winlink Express' website at <https://www.winlink.org/WinlinkExpress> for more info. Many of us are already using it, and learning more about it. There are exercises and drills being conducted on a regular basis and they are actually a lot of fun. Typically all you need is a radio, laptop, and TNC or sound card, usually a Signalink. With Fldigi a soundcard is not necessary but it is a must for packet radio. The VARA HF protocol is about \$70 but well worth it. Credit goes to Brian N6CVO for getting us involved with the Winlink system.

Future Presentations:

Having our club meetings is a bit of a challenge on the radio, especially when it comes to presentations, but we were encouraged by the excellent job Jon did

with the Winlink presentation so we are going to try to get Dianne Feinberg AI6DF to give us a presentation either next month or the month after.

#### Announcements:

Next board meeting is May 4th via ZOOM at 19:00hrs.

Next club meeting is May 27 2000 hrs on Hauser if the Quartz Hill Library is again closed.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:39 hrs, and was followed by Newsline Report. Loretta A. Smalls

#### AVARC K6OX

Board Meeting Covid-19 version  
05/04/2020  
1900 hrs. via Google Suite

The board meeting was held via Google Suite hosted by Loretta Smalls AJ6HO. Those present were:

Mike Beckers K6YQO, Matt Stewart K6MES, George Becker KC6UVM, Andrew Gippetti W2AJG, Dan W6DAS, Loretta AJ6HO. Courtesy to Keith K6GXO who tried to get in but had issues due to wrong log in information. Call to order by our President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 19:09 PM.

No motion to approve previous board minutes as printed in the AVARC Newsletter 'The Short Circuit' as there is a temporary hold on the newsletter due to illness. Our thoughts are with Dan (W6DAS) and Adrienne (WA6YEO) Sherwood. During our radio net on Wednesday nights we will continue to check Adrienne in along with Minnie.

Treasurer's report-Matt Stewart K6MES:  
Checking:<as stated>  
Cash on hand:<as stated>  
Total: <as stated>

#### Membership report:

Club members: 66  
ARRL % 78.78

#### Old Business:

The Rawley Duntley park is reserved for our club's field day activities, which is scheduled for June 26th through June 28th. Dan W6DAS got our club call sign which is K6A. At this time however field day is in question. We will keep everyone posted as information comes to

us.

On line VE testing is apparently a great success. For those who are looking for testing visit the GLAARG website <https://glaarg.org/> for detailed information on acquiring your ham license via the internet.

#### New Business:

We received an email from Daria Bonds who confirmed that the Quartz Hill Library is still not available at this time. We will once again hold our club meeting on Hauser, May 27th 20:00hrs as an extended Wednesday net. We will discuss field day if there is one, but any speaker is TBD.

The next board meeting is June 8th 19:00hrs via Zoom. Emails will be sent out that day so keep checking your mail box for the invite probably around 18:50. As this secretary has learned, it does no good to send out emails the day before or even a few hours before as you are issued different log in information each time you click on 'go to meeting'. A motion was made by Dan W6DAS to use club funds to pay for ZOOM until the quarantine ends and seconded by George KC6UVM. The ZOOM membership will terminate once this emergency comes to an end and we can once again resume eyeball QSOs.

#### Future Presentations:

On hold until further notice as are all of our in person meetings.

#### Other Announcements:

Many of our members are also ARES LAX High Desert District members. We have been operating from the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. We have been working the Saturday morning nets as real time and not drills as we are operating from an actual location of possible deployment. It has been a great opportunity to work digital modes as well as voice from this trailer location. Many thanks to Larry Mock KI6BKP and Brian Basura N6CVO for their efforts on these ECOMM activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:46 hrs.

Loretta A. Smalls  
AJ6HO

## President...

Until the COVID-19 situation subsides, try to take the necessary precautions, stay home, or practice "social distancing" if you need to go out, wash your

hands frequently, and enjoy the extra time with your family and your radios, and most importantly, stay healthy.

73,  
Mike K6YQO

#### A Note About this Month's Issue:

Due to health issues, I am assisting Adrienne WA6YEO in the publication of the Short Circuit. I am a rank beginner at this, so expect imperfection.

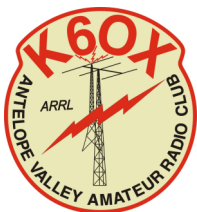
Hoping to get her back on her feet soon.

73,

Dan  
W6DAS

## Field Day 20 Years Ago..... (June 2000)





### 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 Newsline, 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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