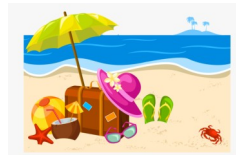


The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 2020

President's Corner

Mike Beckers K6YQO

It's thunderstorm season! It's time to keep an eye on the weather for the next month or so, and be ready to disconnect those outside antennas if a storm comes rumbling close by. Otherwise, millions of volts can suddenly leap out of the sky, striking your home, antenna, or other conductive surfaces. Before you know it, billions of watts are racing down your transmission lines, destroying your transmitter, receiver, amplifier, or other parts of your radio system. You have just learned, the hard way, that in the contest between lightning and your equipment, the lightning usually wins.

Lightning strikes pose special risks for the Amateur Radio operator. To increase signal coverage, operators often place their antennas as high as possible — for example, on towers or rooftops — increasing the risk of being at the receiving end of a strike. When an enthusiastic amateur upgrades their station, he or she inadvertently becomes more vulnerable. That's because, as radio equipment improves, electronic circuits become miniaturized and, thereby, more susceptible to damage from energy surges. Unfortunately, several myths about lightning protection come into play:

Myth 1: I don't need a lightning protection system because lightning strikes are rare.

Here, in the Antelope Valley, we are more prone to thunderstorms than in other areas "down below." We may not get as many thunderstorms up here as, say, Florida or Texas, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't have lightning protection integrated into our antenna systems.

Myth 2: I don't need a lightning protection system because my antenna is not the tallest structure around.

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:30PM**, via the Zoom online video app. Current members should have received the meeting invitation link via the email announcement of the July newsletter. If you are not a Zoom user, installation instructions can be found at: <https://zoom.us/signup>. Sign up for the free account, and it will then lead you to download and install the necessary plug-ins to join our meeting. If you are a guest or former member, please send an email to meeting@k6ox.club, stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the meeting invitation link.

Our program this month will feature our own **Brian Basura N6CVO**, who will give a presentation on Pico Balloons, what they are, various payload packages, and digital modes of communication used for telemetry. "I'll also touch on various balloon types, lifting gases, and power sources. Finally I'll review the previous launches we've done, our first global circumnavigation, and the current flight (if it's still up)." This promises to be a very interesting presentation, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



Brian Basura N6CVO

From The Veep

George Becker KC6UVM

I came to the realization I was forgetting something. While sitting by the radio waiting for the Saturday morning ARES net, I looked at my calendar. And, then it occurred to me... My monthly column was due. So between a Saturday morning ARES net and an upcoming Zoom meeting starting shortly, I'd get my column written. Or was that wrote? Or writ?

Ham radio must have hundreds of splinter groups and interests. Some hams stick to the tried and true for their radios. You can heat the shack with the tube amplifiers in the winter. Others volunteer their time with CERT, ARES, RACES (such as Los Angeles County DCS) which are all about emergency preparedness and disaster communications. Some hams are using digital modes: Winlink, NBEMS, FT8, FT4. A large portions of the ham community is out there every night chasing DX.

This is leading into the topic of our next speaker for our August 2020 Zoom meeting, Brian Basura N6CVO has been experimenting with Pico Balloons. It's my understanding that the electronics are less than the weight of a Quarter and is powered by a small solar panel without a battery. So the electronics are only working while in sun light. Brian will be giving us an update on his Pico Balloon projects during the Zoom meeting.

And lastly, the Meeting. We're all in some sort of a lock-down or another. There still is NO physical venue at this time. The Zoom meeting will start after 7:30 PM with a virtual eyeball QSO beginning after 7:00 PM. That will give everybody time to adjust their cameras and mikes to work in Zoom.

Anybody that does not have the link to the Zoom meeting and wish to attend, please send a request to officers@k6ox.club to get on the list.

Also, I'd like to remind everybody about the September 2020 meeting: There is a

(Continued on page 4)

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting Via Zoom

Thursday July 23, 2020 1930 hrs
Hosted by AVARC Secretary
Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Board members present:

President Mike Beckers K6YQO
Vice President George Becker
KC6UVM

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES
Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Board Member Dan Sherwood
W6DAS Board Member Larry
Mock KI6BKP

Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO Short
Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood
WA6YEO and Minnie

Members and guests Present:

Diana Feinberg AI6DF(ARRL)
Margie KG6TBR Gloria KE6TZB
John KN6VL

David KN6FPS(GLAARG) Ron
NY2B & Becky N2JMT Brian
N6CVO Andy W2AJG

Betsy AJ6AF Nolan KB5ZYC
Brian ? Not sure of last name or call
David (no call sign)

Ken KE6TZ

Meeting called to order at 1933 by
President Mike Beckers K6YQO
which was then followed by meeting
minutes of the June General meeting
as recorded by Secretary Loretta A
Smalls AJ6HO. Motion to approve
minutes made by Matt Stewart
K6MES and seconded by Dan
Sherwood W6DAS. The minutes
were then approved by all members
present.

Treasurer's report by Matt Stewart
K6MES

Checking acct: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Expenditures: - <as stated>

Membership: total members 68 ARRL
72.0%

Old Business:

The club meetings will be held on the
regular Thursday's until further notice
via the ZOOM platform. Our first club
meeting via ZOOM went well so we will
use this from now on.

Adrienne WA6YEO is better and is
steadily resuming the Short Circuit
editing and GLAARG duties. Way to go
Adrienne and Dan.

We have our club historian Bob
KG6DHQ back. Welcome back Bob.

New Business:

Ken Butterick KE6TZ has spoken to
Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer
KM5AIT about erecting a tower, and
found city ordinance regarding antenna
towers restrictive. He recommends that
we begin sending the Palmdale Mayor
emails about changing the rules for
antenna towers. Palmdale city ordinance
regarding antennae are here: <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Palmdale/html/Palmdale17/Palmdale1795.html>
section 17.26.110 Amateur Radio

Presentation by Diana Feinberg AI6DF:

Diana's presentation was excellent and
she always has a knack for making her
presentations not only informative but
fun. One of the things she addressed was
ARRL's "Lifelong Learning" initiative.
With more people becoming involved
with amateur radio, thanks to COVID-19
the hobby is flourishing. ARRL is
looking for experienced speakers, elmers,
and presenters to help create a library of
learning by way of webinars. The
objective is to help new hams learn about
this craft, and help them to not become
overwhelmed by some of the technical
stuff. Go to: <http://www.arrl.org/lifelong-learning> for more info and also: <http://www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network-Speakers-Form> to fill out your informa-

tion to be a speaker or recommend a
speaker.

Diana also spoke about other virtual
means of communicating as more and
more clubs are using ZOOM as we did
this evening. Our first club meeting using
ZOOM went really well, so we will
continue this method. HAM conventions
are also going virtual, but they are not
using ZOOM or WEBEX. QSO Today
will be using proprietary website
technology to host vendors and attendees
up to 50,000. Go to <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/> to learn
more. Their next event is Aug. 8-9 on
your laptop, phone, or tablet. Vendors
have to pay to attend but it is free to
attendees, and no software is needed to
attend. NO SWAP MEET howeber (lol.)

Diana mentioned ARES (Amateur Radio
Emergency Service) <http://www.arrl.org/ares>. ARES is always looking for more
folks to get involved and are still
searching for an Emergency Services
Leader. So far our own High Desert
District ARES is the only one currently
on any kind of standby status. Our High
Desert ARES group has been established
at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds where
we have a radio trailer set up in the
parking lot by the Hunter Pavillion. We
run a COVID-19 radio exercise every
Saturday at 0900 which normally follows
an NBEMS exercise on ARES 533,
usually around 0830.

When you go to the ARRL website be
sure to check out their newest magazine
called "On The Air" which was designed
especially for new hams as it was written
in language most of us can understand.
For more information about "On The
Air" go here: <http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>.

Diana also pointed out how some HAMS
can go a little overboard to the point
where antennas and towers become an

(Continued on page 3)

President...

Lightning is going to go wherever it wants to. Lightning protection standards treat lightning as if it were a 300-foot-diameter sphere rolled across the surface of a building. Any place the sphere contacts the building is a location where lightning can attach. The point of contact might be your antenna, but could just as readily be another point on the house. Moreover, lightning need not directly strike a structure to cause damage. The energy of a lightning strike can "side flash" from one object to another. Also, lightning can travel to your structure through metal objects (such as wire fences, plumbing, and cables) and even through the ground.

Myth 3: I don't need a lightning protection system because I connected my antenna to a metal ground rod.

A lightning protection system is more than just a wire to a ground rod. Lightning protection systems work by creating an adequately sized, low resistance path for lightning to flow around a structure into the Earth. It is a good idea to ground your antenna mast, but you should also be grounding your coax line as well. There are coax protectors, which are inline barrel connectors that have a tap that you can connect to a grounding rod.

While this may not be the ultimate in protection, it is some protection. Perhaps a better method for protecting for your radio system is to unplug the coaxial cable from the radio and stick the end out a window or pointing towards a good ground away from any electronics. This is generally good practice during a thunderstorm or when you leave home for an extended period of time and stormy weather might arise.

Stay safe!

73,
Mike K6YQO

Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

eyesore. We want to maintain a good image of amateur radio, and prove to our neighbors how important this form of communication is and that we can be an asset. The old adage "Less Is More" might just apply here where it concerns towers and antennas. Check with your city ordinance and HOA if that applies about erecting towers and antennas. You may have to get a little creative with this if there are a lot of restrictions.

ARRL Field Day this year presented some challenges but it was not the first time. The very first ARRL Field Day was in 1933, during very difficult times for the U.S. Amateur radio can survive any adversity, and that includes COVID-19. This has been a difficult year for most of us but we are able to adapt, including our field day event. Those of us on emergency power trying to get through the 'pile ups' may not have fared as well as those on the grid but other than that, a very successful event. Our Antelope Valley ARC results can be found here: <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriesrcvd.php>, hopefully next year more folks can participate and we can get more entries but the five that did submit their QSOs a very heartfelt thank you. And a very special thank you to Dianna Feinberg AI6DF for an awesome presentation.

We would also like to thank Brian N6CVO for sharing information about his Pico Balloons one of which was last detected over Bulgaria. Go to <https://aprs.fi/#!call=a/N6CVO-13&timerange=3600&tail=3600> to see where it's at. Another balloon to look for is N6JED which is over the North Atlantic at <https://aprs.fi/#!call=a/N6JED-13&timerange=3600&tail=3600>. Just another fascinating element to amateur radio folks.

We also would like to thank Margie Hoffman KG6TBR for information about Baker 2 Vegas for March 27 & 28 for next year. Hopefully all goes well with

this in spite of the 'Defund Police' movement.

Announcements:

Short circuit articles are due by August 15.

Next exam: Go to the GLAARG website for on line testing.

Next board meeting: August 3 1900hrs via ZOOM.

Next club net via radio is August 26 2000hrs on Hauser.

Next club meeting is August 27 1930 hrs via ZOOM. Presentation TBD

All are welcome to any of our ZOOM meetings just send a request for the link to officers@k6ox.club.

We had a total of 22 folks check in at the peak of our ZOOM meeting tonight. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:17.

Sincerely

Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
AVARC secretary

AVARC Board Meeting

August 4 2020 via ZOOM 1900hrs

Board Members Present:

President Mike Beckers K6YQO Vice

President George Becker KC6UVM

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES

Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Board Members Larry Mock K16BKP

& Dan Sherwood W6DAS Trustee

Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Short Circuit Editor Adrienne

Sherwood WA6YEO. Diane K6DER

Meeting called to order by President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 19:12hrs.

Minutes from last board meeting:

Motion to approve made by Vice

President George Becker KC6UVM

and seconded by Treasurer Matt

Stewart K6MES. All in attendance

approved minutes.

Our Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO has pretty much

Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 3)

resumed full duties as editor and GLAARG VEC. Good to see you Adrienne, and to hear you, and hope things continue on the current trajectory.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart K6MES:

Checking: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Membership Report: 68

ARRL members: 72.6 %

Old Business:

The library and the church continue to be closed to large gatherings until further notice.

We will continue to have our board meetings and our general club meetings via ZOOM. We had our first club meeting via ZOOM on July 23 and it went very well. As we get more proficient at using this venue, we can become more creative. It was agreed however, that we do miss very much our eyeball QSOs, and hope they resume very soon.

Reimbursement to Dan W6DAS for domain renewal.

Ken Butterick KE6TZ had brought up tower regulations for amateur radio operators in the city of Palmdale and he has since decided to remain within the realms of city ordinance.

New Business:

QSO today's virtual Ham conference begins August 8 and 9. It is free to attendees. Thank you Dianna Feinberg AI6DF for sharing this information at the ZOOM General meeting. <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

Officer and board member nominations are coming up in September and October.

Unless the library and other public venues open up soon the Anchor's Away event may not happen, and unfortunately this may also include our Christmas party in

December. There may be a way to have these via ZOOM but that is TBD.

Presentations:

Our club meeting via ZOOM on August 27 will feature Brian Basura N6CVO. He will share his success with the Balloons he launched recently, and which can be tracked by going to <https://aprs.fi/#!call=a/N6CVO-13&timerange=3600&tail=3600> which appears to be over the Pacific Ocean as of 8/7/2020 18:30 hrs.

For our club meeting on September 24 we will have Oliver K6OLI whose is instrumental in getting folks on board with Winlink. There are often exercises using Winlink to practice sending data in the even of an emergency.

Other possible speakers:

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR to discuss the Baker 2 Vegas run which was canceled this year due to COVID-19, and may be in jeopardy once again because of the political climate which sadly also includes the 'Defund Police' movement.

Brian Basura's wife to share information about the Tortoise Rescues.

We are open for suggestions about possible presenters, even from other Amateur Radio Clubs. We will try to reach out to someone from the JPL ARC to discuss ISS events such as the occasional SSTV events. As a new ham last year I received my first images from the ISS using MMSSTV and it inspired me to pursue amateur radio even further, and I think it can inspire other new hams as well.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles needed by August 15.

Next board meeting is September 7, via ZOOM at 1900 hrs., which is also Labor Day.

Next Club meeting is September 24, 1930 hrs via ZOOM.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO has equipment for sale as he announced on the net Wednesday evening. We will try to post a short list in the next newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:44hrs.

Loretta A. Smalls AJ6HO
AVARC/K6OX Secretary

Swap Shop

I have found it necessary to dismantle my station that has brought me many valuable certificates and a lot of satisfaction. I will list only a few of the items. Please call 661-533-4025 for further information. I have not set any prices. I am in Palmdale....visitors welcome but call first please.

K3S complete...still in the box, Alpha 99 10 thru 160 lo-band amp, 6M KW amp and supply (Klitzing)

Yaesu FT-1000, MK-V xcvr, with additions, STEPP IR 4 element with control, 2 M & 440 yagis

Rotators, lots of LMR4 and 1/2 inch hardline, insulators, lots of misc items, 2 crank-up towers, masts.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Veep...

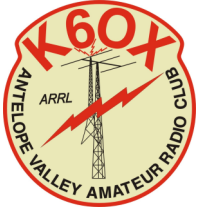
(Continued from page 1)

presenter lined up and it's nominations for officers and board members. So start thinking about who you want to nominate for office in 2021.

And lastly, we're getting into the Dog Days of Summer. Temperatures in the Antelope Valley are getting into triple digit heat. With that said, stay safe and keep cool.

73,

George K6GUV



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2020 Officers

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