

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 2020

## President's Corner

Mike Beckers K6YQO

I have been interested in D-STAR for some time, and last December, I decided to buy the Kenwood TH-D74 HT. I actually bought two, one for me and for Diane, K6DER.

The Kenwood TH-D74 is a tri-band radio, with 144/220/430 MHz bands (2m, 1.25m, 70cm). As of the time that this article was written, the price of the radio on both Amazon and HRO, the radio was \$549.95. (The D-STAR function does add quite a bit to the price.)

Here is some information on D-STAR and history about it:

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data protocol for amateur radio that was developed in the late 1990s by the Japan Amateur Radio League, and uses minimum-shift keying in its packet-based standard. D-STAR was the first that was designed specifically for amateur radio.

D-STAR compatible radios are available for HF, VHF, UHF, and microwave amateur radio bands. In addition to the over-the-air protocol, D-STAR also provides specifications for network connectivity, enabling D-STAR radios to be connected to the Internet or other networks, allowing streams of voice or packet data to be routed via amateur radio.

D-STAR compatible radios are manufactured by Icom, Kenwood, and FlexRadio Systems.

Now for my experience with D-STAR and how to register for it online. Once I got the radios, I had to register for a D-STAR account by going to <http://www.dstargateway.org>. Once you are registered you will then be able to configure your radio with your call sign

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## Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:30PM**, via the Zoom online video app. **Note that this month's meeting is a week earlier than usual, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.** 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](mailto:meeting@k6ox.club), stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the meeting invitation link.

This month's program will feature **Clint Bradford K6LCS**, who will present a program on working amateur FM voice satellites. If you have a Technician license and an HT, this is an activity you can do, so this presentation will be of interest to everyone. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us.



**Clint Bradford K6LCS**

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## From The Veep

George Becker KC6UVM

As we move onto a new year, the last month has been like Mr. Toad's Wild Ride. The ups, the downs and everything in-between has the uncertainty of the days soon coming to a close. And it has been said: "For this too shall pass."

This month, thanks to the Thanksgiving weekend, our schedule meeting will be a week earlier on 11/19/2020. The virtual eyeball QSO begins about 7:00 PM with the meeting starting at 7:30 PM.

The featured speaker for this Zoom Meeting will be Clint Bradford speaking on ham radio satellites. He will be discussing how to work the Amateur FM Voice Satellites. Clint maintains his own web page at <https://www.worksat.com/> There, you'll find a four page tutorial covering the basics of working ham sats with a hand held radio. The web page looks like a good place to learn about ham sats when you have the opportunity.

Clint has provided AVARC with a zoom link that can accommodate about 100 visitors.

Below is the Zoom Meeting information:

Topic: K6LCS - Antelope Valley Radio Club

Time: Nov 19, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<ED: Current members will receive link with the November newsletter. Guests please email [meeting@k6ox.club](mailto:meeting@k6ox.club) with your name, callsign, and location and an invitation will be sent to you.>

## From the Secretary's Desk



### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club General Meeting via Zoom October 22, 2020 1930hrs

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 beloved club mascot Minnie K9DOG.

Other members present;

David KN6FPS Mark KM6IVX Ron NY2B and Becky N2JMT Jed N6JED Dianne K6DER Trish KJ6ZYR John KN6VL

Meeting called to order by President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 19:33 hrs followed by the minutes of the August 2020 club meeting as taken by Loretta AJ6HO. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Secretary Loretta and seconded by Keith K6GXO. The motion was approved by all members present.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart K6MES;

Checking account; <as stated>

Cash on hand; <as stated>

Total; <as stated>

Total Members; 68

%ARRL members; 72.06%

Presentation:

Mark Hagan KM6IVX is our presenter today. He is has been active with Antelope Valley CERT for about Ten years and is the area commander and program manager. <program follows>

Old Business:

We will continue our Board and General meetings via Zoom until further notice.

We continue our beginners CW net every Thursday of each month at 1900hrs on 3.530.00 with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday as that is our club meeting . We are working on a formalized script and we encourage new hams who are interested in learning Morse Code, or if you are a bit rusty, get your bug or straight key and start tapping away my friends. We welcome all to this roundtable net.

There is no 'Anchors Away' and there will unlikely be a Christmas Party this year.

New Business:

We completed another 'Great Shake Out' on October 15 and again on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We learned a lot in this exercise and one of the things we need to do, is find alternative simplex frequencies and well as alternative repeater stations. We are striving to get more folks proficient in Fldigi and Winlink, specifically packet winlink and VARA HF, as these digital modes do not require internet and most likely will be the main modes of getting logistical data to hospitals and other first responders. It is our goal to eventually include CW as a vital role in emergency communications. It is the oldest form of digital mode, and by far still the most reliable.

Officer and Board Member Nominations:

The following nominees are now officially elected;

George Becker KC6UVM is now our club President as Mike Beckers K6YQO has fulfilled his term limit.

Ron Seixas NY2B was elected as our new Vice President.

Matt Stewart K6MES remains our Treasurer.

Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO remains the Secretary.

Gary Mork WA6WFC remains the Master at Arms.

Dan Sherwood W6DAS remains our Board Member.

David Haberman KN6FPS was elected as new Board Member.

Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO remains our Short Circuit editor & Minnie remains our beloved club mascot.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO remains our Trustee.

Bob Holland KG6GHQ remains our Club Historian.

Congratulations everyone.

Announcements:

Short circuit articles are needed by November 9.

The next board meeting is November 2 1900 hrs via Zoom.

The next club meeting is November 19 1930 hrs 'eyeball' QSOs at 1900 hrs. Our presenter is Clint Bradford, K6LCS who is

with AMSAT and he will be talking to us about satellite and amateur radio.

Please go to officers@k6ox.club for a link to all of our Zoom meetings.

Future Presentations:

Our December club meeting will probably be Dianna Feinberg AI6DF ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager.

In January 2021 our presenter will be George Becker, newly elected President on the status of the club.

The February 2021 presenter will probably be Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR on the current status of the Baker2Vegas relay race.

One possible presenter may be Ron Seixas NY2B for an overview of morse code and the importance of keeping this art form alive and well in amateur radio.

Of course we are always open for suggestions for presenters.

Other items:

Total number of members tonight at it's peak was 15.

No 50/50 drawing.

Meeting adjourned at 2116 P:M.

### AVARC Board Meeting

November, 2 2020

Via Zoom 1900 hrs

Call to order by President Mike Beckers K6YQO at 19:14 hrs.

Motion to approve the minutes from the last board meeting made by Matt Stewart K6MES and seconded by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO. Membership approval YES.

Members present today:

President Mike Beckers K6YQO Vice President George Becker KC6UVM

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO

Ron Seixas NY2B and Becky Seixas

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart

Checking: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Membership report: 68

ARRL % 72.06%

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## President...

and use the D-STAR network. You can search for D-STAR repeaters in your area [www.dstarinfo.com](http://www.dstarinfo.com). We have one local D-STAR repeater, and it's located on Blue Ridge, which is above the ski resorts near Wrightwood, and it's under the management of the PAPA System. If there are no D-STAR repeaters in your area, or if you would rather not tie up a repeater, you can use a digital hotspot, such as a Pi-Star, or a SharkRF OpenSPOT. I use the OpenSPOT3. The openSPOT3 is a battery powered, portable, standalone digital radio internet gateway (hotspot) designed mainly for amateur radio, and uses a wi-fi connection to the Internet in order to connect to the D-STAR system. You can talk with others on various digital radio networks with your D-STAR radio, such as DMR and Yaesu's System Fusion, by using an openSPOT3. If you have a DMR radio or a System Fusion radio, the OpenSPOT3 can work for you as well to communicate with any of the three supported modes.

More information about the OpenSpot 3 can be found by pointing your browser to <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot3>.

Our experiences with D-STAR have been varied, from general rag chewing around the world, to checking into nets, to checking into special event stations. One special event in particular was the Last Man Standing show, KA6LMS. I did make contact with them and received a QSL card.

With D-STAR, and the other digital modes, you can speak with people all the world with nothing more than an HT.

73,

Mike K6YQO



## Secretary's Desk...



*(Continued from page 2)*

### Old Business:

All board and club meetings will continue via zoom.

Mark Hagan, KM6IX gave us an outstanding presentation at our club meeting last month regarding the current status of CERT, which many of us are members. Thank you Mark.

The Great Shake Out\_2020 October 15 and 17 was successful. It showed us some of our weaknesses but also that we have made great improvements. Let's keep up the great work in expanding our radio skills, and in our participations in these drills.

### New Business:

There is not likely to be a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner this year. We will continue to meet via Zoom until this COVID-19 pandemic passes.

Membership dues need to be sent via snail mail to the P.O Box on the top of the application form: [http://www.k6ox.club/\\_\\_pdf/MemberApp.pdf](http://www.k6ox.club/__pdf/MemberApp.pdf) make sure email and contact information are current.

We are still looking for a Vice President.

The rest of the nominees are now official:

President: George Becker KC6UVM

Vice President: ?? send your nomination to [treasurer@k6ox.club](mailto:treasurer@k6ox.club)

Treasurer: Matt Stewart K6MES

Secretary: Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Master at Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board Member: Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Board Member: David Haberman KN6FPS

Trustee: Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Historian: Bob Holland KG6DHQ

Clint Bradford K6LCS of AMSAT will give a presentation on Satellite Communications this coming general meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Again this is via Zoom and it will actually be on Clint's Zoom account that this meeting will be held. Check our officers@k6ox.club for the link.

### Future Presentations:

December will undoubtedly be Diana Feinberg AI6DF

January 2021 will be George Becker KC6UVM on the state of our club.

February 2021 will undoubtedly be Margie Hoffman KG6TBR on the status of Baker to Vegas.

March 2021 we are hoping to get Kate Hutton "the earthquake lady" with USGS and her knowledge of CW.

We are open to suggestions for future presenters.

### Announcements:

Short circuit articles needed by November 9 Monday.

Next Club meeting is November 19, 1930 hrs via Zoom. Eyeball QSOs at 1900.

Next Board meeting is December 7, 1900 hrs via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 20:06

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta A. Smalls  
AVARC Secretary

## From the Veep...

*(Continued from page 1)*

One last thing, we are still looking for a vice president for the 2021 year. If you know anyone or would like to volunteer for the position, please be present at this meeting. The job qualifications for the vice president position are to find speakers for the Thursday evening club meetings and fill in for the President if needed. Writing for the Short Circuit may be optional.

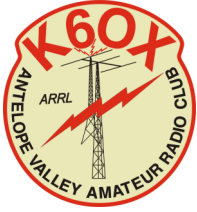
If we don't see you at the meeting, have a Happy Turkey day and 73 DE KC6UVM.

73,

George KC6UVM

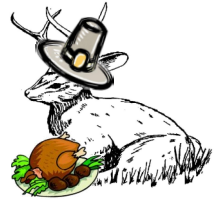






**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2020 Officers**

<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  
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 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

Place  
 Postage  
 Here

**To ARS:**

