

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2021

President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

Here it is February 2021, and we are just beginning to start moving along. The less craziness heard, the better. In the past, folks were told I suffer from about three hobbies: Ham radio, model railroading both big and small. There have been forays into Amateur Rocketry and radio control airplanes but have stuck to the first two. Then the tools and tooling it takes to support the first two hobbies. But today, I will just stay on-topic with Ham Radio.

Lately, there has been a start for some to learn "The CODE." Back in 1990 when studying for the Novice and Technician test, I studied the question sets with software purchased from MFJ. The software came on a 5.25" floppy with a morse code program that could run a self-test for send and receive. Back in the '70s, we had morse code records that came in various code speeds that worked on a record player. My code copy as a pre-teen was poor and just could not learn. The OM gave me a Heath Kit Novice test study guide. It had a really nice Radio Spectrum poster that ended up on the wall in my bedroom.

Now back to the 1990s: Having learned to type Sophomore year of high school (1976/77), the MFJ code program came with a method to use the PC keyboard as a typewriter. When beginning to learn the first code group (A, N, etc.), the OM told me that sometime next Spring of 1991, the FCC will eliminate the code requirement for the technician test and to concentrate on learning the Novice and Tech questions. I stayed a "Codeless" Tech for more than twenty years before passing General when "The CODE" was not needed to pass the General test.

My ham radio interests have stayed within the VHF/UHF frequencies and up. A radio purchased years back had HF capability,

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Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:30PM**, via the Zoom online video app. Current members should have received the meeting invitation link via the email announcement of the December 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 plugins 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.

This month's meeting will feature our own **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR**, who will give a presentation on Baker 2 Vegas. Since the event has been cancelled this year, her talk will be about highlights from past years. Many AVARC members have participated in years past, so this should be of great interest to all. Be sure to join us!



Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

From The Veep

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

Hamming it up in Quartzsite

Last month would have been the 25th anniversary of the winter Amateur Radio event in the Arizona desert call QuartzFest. Unfortunately, as with all ham conventions, it was canceled do to the Coronavirus. But that didn't stop many people from going anyway. The smaller get-together was unofficially called Quartz-pause. I decided to go to this social distancing get-together in Quartzsite because it would be the perfect opportunity for me to test out all the functions in my new RV. Though it did turn out to be a learning experience boondocking in the desert for 6 days with not hookups.

Most of the lectures were canceled at the event but ARRL representative Dick Norton did give a talk which could be watched if you had satellite service in your RV and there was also a simplex net held twice a day for news & check-ins. There was a 4-wheel drive trail run up into the mountains and also GLAARG VE testing with help from Adrienne & Dan. As far as setting up radios, I did bring my 73-foot end-fed antenna which I extended in a "L" configuration with the use of a kite pole. I connected my Yaesu FT-991A and

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC/K6OX General Meeting Via Zoom January 28, 2021 19:30 hrs

President George Becker, KC6UVM, called the meeting to order at 19:35 hrs followed by motion to approve minutes of December general meeting mad by David Haberman KN6FPS and seconded by Dan Sherwood W6DAS. The motion was approved by all present.

Those present were the following:
President George Becker KC6UVM
Vice President Andy Gippetti W2AJG
Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES
Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Board Member David Haberman KN6FPS
Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO
Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO
and
Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO
beloved mascots Minnie and Nugget

Others present;
Margie KG6TBR, Gloria KN6TZB, Jon N6NQ Betsy AJ6AF, Ron NY2B, Becky N2JMT, Vic KA6ECV, Dan KM6EKZ, Jed N6JED, Larry KI6BKP

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES
Checking Account: <as stated>
Cash on hand: <as stated>
Total: <as stated>
Membership total:
Paid members-31
Life members- 13
ARRL: 89.36%

Old Business:
Zoom meetings will continue until further notice so we may as well count on this venue throughout the rest of the year.

We usually get most of our new membership and renewal applications at the Christmas party but since that has not been happening due to COVID-19 we encourage our members new and current, to go to the K6OX website for the application. Download the form, fill it out with

your dues payment, and mail it to the P.O Box on top of the form. Although our finances are not what we hoped, we will not raise dues.

This is our new Officer and Board member lineup:

President: George Becker KC6UVM
Vice President: Andy Gippetti W2AJG
Treasurer: Matt Stewart K6MES also appointed Membership Chairman
Secretary: Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Master At Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC
Board Member: Dan Sherwood W6DAS also appointed Trustee of K6OC-D.
Board Member: David Haberman KN6FPS
Trustee: Keith Hoyt K6GXO (appointed position)
Newsletter Editor: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO
Ex Officio: Mike Beckers K6YQO
Historian: Bob Holland KG6DHQ (appointed position)

We will be discussion participation of minors at our club meetings and activities, and addressing this in our by laws at the next board meeting.

New Business:
Field Day for 2021 will likely be the same protocol as last year where most of us operated from our home QTH. We will, however, keep the insurance updated, and apply for the park permit as well as our FCC special event call sign.

The motion to keep the insurance updated made by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Larry KI6BKP. Approved by all present and passed by President George Becker KC6UVM.

Motion was also made to aquire our special event call sign for field day was made by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Board Member David Haberman KN6FPS. Approved by all present and passed by President George Becker KC6UVM. Even if we do field day the same we we did last year we still used the special event call sign when logging in our

QSOs on the ARRL website.

Presentation:

State of the Club address by President George Becker KC6UVM.

First of all a huge thank you to all current and previous officers and board members for their service to the club, including former President Mike Beckers K6YQO now our Ex Officio.

Last year we had 94 total members. The year before that we had 104. We are beginning this year with a deficit with only 31 paid members and 13 life members. With in person meetings at a halt right now we have not had the 50/50 drawings. So far this year we have brought in only \$465 in dues as compared to last year's \$1,395.00. In 2019 we purchased a brand new repeater with the help of the Acton/Agua Dulce ARC and is working well. Since then our only expenses are all of our maintenance costs such as Web hosting at \$177 for a two year subscription. domain name is \$35 per year. Stamps and other office supplies varies. Our P.O. Box rent is at \$118 per year, state taxes around \$20, LAACARC also at \$20. Without HamCon, one of our major sources of income, we will be relying heavily on membership. We will not raise dues but if you have not renewed please consider renewing soon. Our total estimated costs each year is around \$640.00, and this includes our insurance binder for events such as field day, deposits for park rental, and other related equipment. Our projected income is around \$755.00. Again we will be relying heavily on our membership dues, so if you haven't renewed, or signed up, please do so soon. Thank you to those who have already done so.

George also shared photos of our past Field Day events and how much things have changed. Last year we just kept Field Day mostly at our home QTH, and other changes such as our ZOOM meetings over in person. It looks as though that will continue on to this year as well, but it does open opportunities for expanding how we conduct amateur radio operations. Zoom and other virtual meeting sites have become the new 'Amateur Radio Tool'. We sure

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President...

(Continued from page 1)

but the radio was meant to be used for satellite communications. Push the right button and the radio lights up like a Christmas tree. There has been wire or vertical HF antennas put out in the past. When the QRN was heard on phone in some of the HF bands, the choice was to QSY back up to the VHF/UHF frequencies. Phone in the lower HF bands has not really been for me.

So, back to the present. While surfing on Amazon for straight keys, this popped up: The Telegraph Decoder Kit from Spikenzie Labs dot com. Or the link:

<https://www.spikenzielabs.com/Catalog/spikenzielabs/the-telegraph-decoder-kit>
This was interesting, so it went into my cart. I waited, and waited and waited till I could not wait any longer... To be continued.

The February 2021 presentation will be Margie Hoffman KG6TBR regarding Baker to Vegas with past highlights. The bad news is that Baker to Vegas is not going to happen.

Till the meeting,

F3,

George KC6UVM



Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

have come a long way since CB radio, phone patch capabilities, to the new digital age of FT8, NBEMS, VARA, and Winlink.

George also brought up a good point about redefining our mission as an Amateur Radio Club, It is not enough to help folks get their license, we are also here to teach them what to do with it. We are a club of Elmers, and that alone will help to attract and maintain our current membership, as well as new ones.

Great presentation George, thank you. So much more information to list but our club will continue to evolve and hopefully expand.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles due by February 14.

Next exam: Via on line visit the GLAARG website.

Next Board Meeting is February 1 1900hrs via Zoom.

Next club meeting is February 25 1900 hrs virtual eyeball QSOs meeting 1930 via Zoom.

Future Presentations:

February 25, 2021 will be Margie Hoffman KB6TBR about Baker 2 Vegas.

March 25, 2021 is Dan Wood KM6EKZ with Skywarn.

April 22, 2021 Mark Chun KK6SMD with the Red Cross.

May 27, 2021 preparation for Field Day including antenna tips and tricks.

June 24, 2021 Final Field Day preparations and collaborations.

July 22, 2021 will hopefully be Dennis Kidder W6DQ on his Microwave society and activities at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory.

We had a total of 20 check ins and meeting was adjourned at 2046.

AVARC/K6OX

**February 1, 2021 Board Meeting
1900 hrs via ZOOM**

Those Present:

President George Becker KC6UVM
Vice President Andy Gippetti W2AJG

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES
Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Board Member David Haberman KN6FPS
Keith Hoyt K6GXO Trustee
Ron Seixas NY2B Club Member
Mike Beckers K6YQO Ex Officio

President George Becker KC6UVM called the meeting to order at 1905.

Motion to approve minutes from the last board meeting as printed in the AVARC/K6OX newsletter made by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Matt Stewart K6MES. All present approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report – Matt Stewart K6MES

Checking <as stated>

Cash on hand <as stated>

Total <as stated>

Membership Report

31 paid members

14 life members

ARRL % 89.36%

Old Business:

There will continue to be no meetings at the Quartz Hill library until further notice. We will continue Zoom which works pretty good.

George Becker KC6UVM gave an excellent presentation last month at the club meeting. Thank you George.

We discussed a little more on minors attending meetings. In those discussions we contemplated what dues to collect if any for minors, or just sign the parent up as a regular membership with the minor child as family member. We will look further into this and any COPPA requirements. As of now we will just keep it simple; minors must be accompanied by parent or guardian. The By-Laws will have to be amended to reflect our policies on minors.

New Business:

Our membership participation is down, as are the membership dues. We decided it is not a good idea to raise dues, but rather come up with ideas to encourage more membership participation, and new

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Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

memberships. One idea was a Friday evening roundtable QSO on Hauser at 19:00 hrs. So far we have done two of them so we hope it gets more participation, and perhaps get more folks interested in the club.

We will keep the insurance current, and also go ahead and get the Rawley Duntley Park permit. They are not accepting reservations at this time but we can at least express an interest in the park just in case it does become available. We will also submit to the ARRL our special even call sign for Field Day.

Presentations:

We have our current presentations listed under the general meeting notes. However we were unable to get Kate Hutton K6HTN to be a presenter for any of our Zoom meetings.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due by February 14, 2021.

Next Club meeting is 2/25/21 1900 hrs via zoom.

Next board meeting is 3/1/21 19:00 hrs via zoom.

Next Ham Exam is via on-line GLAARG.

QSO today virtual ham expo begins March 12, 2021 and goes for 48 hrs. It is \$10 to register but there are some very interesting speakers on the roster. It is our hope to 'farm' this event for speakers to our zoom meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:49 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta A. Smalls AJ6HO
AVARC Secretary

From the Veep...

made many contacts on 20 meters which had very little noise being in the desert.

All in all, it was lots of fun learning new things about camping in the desert with an RV and I look forward to next year's QuartzFest which hopefully will be back to normal.



73,
Andy W2AJG

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ DATE _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL COPY _____ HARD COPY MAILED _____ (Email copy is preferred)

EMAIL _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _____

CALL _____ CLASS: T G A E ARRL: YES NO LIFE

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____ Cell _____

EMAIL _____

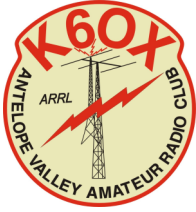
PRO RATED DUES SCHEDULE IS FOR NEW AVARC MEMBERS ONLY. NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	REGULAR	SENIOR (60 YR)	#	CHECK #
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	\$20.00	\$15.00		
DEC - JAN - FEB - MAR	\$20.00	\$15.00		CHECK
APR - MAY - JUN (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$15.00	\$11.00		AMOUNT
JUL - AUG - SEP (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$10.00	\$8.00		\$
OCT - NOV (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	\$5.00	\$4.00		CASH
FAMILY MEMBER	\$5.00	\$5.00		\$
AVARC MEMBER BADGE	\$9.00/\$11	\$9.00/\$11		

NOTE: NEW MEMBERS ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO THE AVARC.

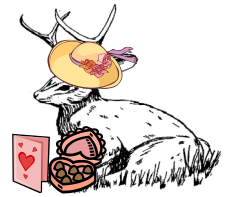
NOTE: NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN DECEMBER WILL BE CHARGED A FULL MEMBERSHIP FEE. THIS WILL COVER DUES NEXT YEAR.

NOTE: A ONE TIME SURCHARGE OF \$9.00 WILL BE ASSESSED ON ALL NEW MEMBERS FOR AVARC MEMBER BADGE. ADD \$2.00 FOR MAGNETIC PIN.



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2021 Officers

President	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894
Vice President	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
Secretary	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
Treasurer	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	David Haberman	KN6FPS	917-4594
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Michael Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555



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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