
The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2021

President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

This is March 2021, and it has been about a year since the COVID-19 started. It has also been about a year since I have been able to get to a barber. Hi, Hi. Things look hopeful, with conditions improving and the color changes are the Status of Things. You never know what things will look up to at the end of the year. Maybe in 2022, there will be REAL eyeball QSOs before the club meetings? Keep your fingers crossed. For now, without a venue for an AVARC meeting to go to, we will be sticking to virtual eyeball QSO before the Zoom meetings.

As this column is written (or was that wrote?), this was the weekend for the Virtual QSO Ham Expo (online). There were problems using Google Chrome and it was necessary to switch to Microsoft Edge for full functionality. It seems you must have had a functional camera and mike to get into the chat rooms. Makes me wonder. Will there be actual face to face conventions in 2022? Some of the hams in the chat rooms were not incredibly happy with the Virtual QSO Ham Expo. At the end of the day on the Saturday portion of the convention, folks must have been drinking alone. Next month, online: Comm Academy 2021.

Status update on the Spikenzielabs Telegraph Key and circuit board. The circuit board consisted of about

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Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7:30 PM**, 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 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.

This month's program will feature **Daniel Wood KM6EKZ**, who will offer a presentation on Skywarn. This is a very interesting subject, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us for an enjoyable evening!



Daniel Wood KM6EKZ

From The Veep

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

ARC TEP Winlink Drill

On Saturday, February 27th, I was privileged to participate in a drill with the American Red Cross Long Beach Ham Radio group. The main focus of the drill was to be able to communicate between TEP's (Temporary Evacuation Points) during a disaster. The ARC Long Beach group's goal was to send packet messages via Winlink using local RMS gateways. Each ham radio operator participating in the drill was given a roll to play of a different TEP position such as sheltering, feeding, registration & security. During the drill each member would send & receive Winlink messages on a ARC 213 form indicating a particular issue and the ham radio operator would need to respond using the roll they were given. Issues would come up like: lost child, contaminated drinking water and even persons having a heart attack at a TEP location.

To make the drill more complicated, we needed to also participate in a Net on the DARN repeater system for other instructions and also be part of a Zoom meeting which was happening at the same time with the non-ham personal from the American Red

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From the Secretary's Desk



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

Board members present; President George Becker KC6UVM, Vice President Andy Gippetti W2AJG Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES, Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO, Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Board Members Dan Sherwood W6DAS and David Haberman KN6FPS

Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO and beloved mascots Minnie and Nugget. Also present; Margie Hoffman KG6TBR and tonight's presenter, Larry KI6BKP

Jed N6JED, Bill KN6YKL and Pamela KN6PME, Betsy AJ6AF, Ron NY2B and Becky N2JMT, John KN6VL

Meeting was called to order at 19:34 hrs by President George Becker KC6UVM followed by a motion to approve previous club meeting minutes as posted in the Short Circuit. Motion was made by Mike Beckers K6YQO and seconded by Larry KI6BKP. Approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart K6MES:

Checking; <as stated>
Cash on hand; <as stated>
Total; <as stated>
Total Members; 77
ARRL %; 72%

Old Business:

The on line zoom meetings will continue, but we will keep you posted on any updates from the Quartz Hill Library.

Members who have not yet paid their dues are encouraged to do so. Download the form from our website, fill it out, and submit it via snail mail to the address on top along with check or money order. http://www.k6ox.club/___pdf/MemberApp.pdf

We will keep our insurance updated in case we do get to access Rawley Duntley Park for the June Field Day event. Paperwork will be submitted to Lancaster Parks and Recreation to hold our spot JUST IN CASE.

New Business:

We must be wary of emails asking for donations on behalf of the AVARC. These are not legitimate requests from AVARC. Thank you Andy W2AJG for mentioning this and we will be bringing this up on our Wednesday evening nets.

We will make great efforts to welcome back our membership who have drifted away. We will improve our snail mail and email outreach, and encourage participation in our zoom meetings and Wednesday night nets which is every Wednesday at 8:00 P:M on the Hauser repeater 146.730 minus PL tone of 100.0. The net is usually followed by this week's edition of Amateur Radio Newline Report. We are also working on various field day activities which may possibly in-

clude a trip to Inyo County depending on the current status of the pandemic. It is our hope to attract our current members to stay with us, and to reel in new members by inviting interesting speakers and planning various outings. We are not ruling out planning outings in conjunction with other groups such as Sam's Radio Hams.

On our most recent Zoom club meeting we had dynamic speaker, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR about Baker to Vegas past, present, and hopeful future. Margie Hoffman KG6TBR thank you for an awesome presentation and hopefully we have not seen the end of our Baker to Vegas.

For more stats and information on this event please visit her website at <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/>.

Special mention of Chuck Foote who founded this event and who ran his last race in 2018 but remains an important part of this event.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles needed by March 14.

Next exam is on line via GLAARG <https://glaarg.org/>.

Next AVARC board meeting is March 1 2021 at 19:00 hrs via zoom. All are welcome to the board meeting just send request to officers@k6ox.club

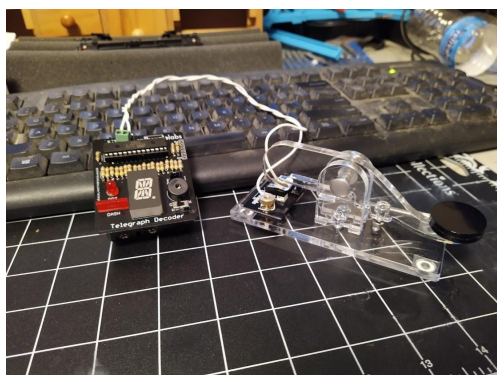
Our next club zoom is March 25, 2021 19:30 hrs eyeball QSOs at 19:00 hrs. Our guest speaker is Dan

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President...

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18 resistors, four LEDs, a buzzer (sorry, no potentiometer to lower the volume), a sixteen-segment display and a preprogrammed Arduino. This might be a good first-time board for a ham that has never learned how to solder. There was little trouble soldering the components to the board. The telegraph key, on the other hand had issues with sticking and will need work getting the bugs out. One thing to note about the circuit board, there is provision for a six-pin header connector (not included with the kit), to be able to reprogram the Arduino with modifications to the firmware. The completed circuit board can tell the difference between a dit and a dah displayed in the LEDs. Then the letter or number is displayed. I think the decoder is limited to about 5 WPM. If anyone is interested in this kit, the link is: <https://www.spikenzielabs.com/Catalog/spikenzielabs/the-telegraph-decoder-kit>
The kit is about \$45 from the Spikenzielabs web site. A photo is attached of the complete kit.



Now, on to the Weather. Or actually, a presentation from Daniel Wood, KM6EKZ about SKYWARN. Google says SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spot-

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Secretary's Desk...



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Wood KM6EKZ to discuss Skywarn.

Future Presentations:

April 22 Mark Chun KK6SMD Red Cross

May 27 Preparations for this year's Field Day including antenna tips and tricks.

June 24 Final Field Day preparations and call sign acknowledgment, collaborations.

July 22 Dennis Kidder W6DQ Arduino projects co author on his Microwave Society and OVRO.

August 26 May be Dennis Swink KI6NQG to discuss DCS.

We are open to other suggestions.

Other Events:

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo begins March 12 and runs for 48 hrs. <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

Comm Academy 2021 April 10 and 11 <https://www.commacademy.org/>

Members that checked in tonight; 18
Meeting adjourned at 21:15 P:M

AVARC/K6OX
March 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, Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO, Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Meeting called to order by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:07.

Minutes from previous board meeting as printed in the Short Circuit: Motion to approve made by Mike Beckers K6YQO and seconded by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart K6MES;

Checking: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Membership Report: 78 including life members.

ARRL % 87.17%

Old Business:

Zoom meetings will continue, and although we have our club reservation for the Quartz Hill Library in the hopes it will open up, we will not count on it.

The previous club meeting on February 27 we had Margie Hoffman KG6TBR about Baker to Vegas. What a great presentation as always and it is our hope that we have not seen the last of this event. One of the major concerns are the medics that participate in the event who are all suffering from burn out because of the pandemic. Without the medics, and dedicated leadership, there can be no Baker to Vegas.

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Secretary's Desk...

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This is the cut off month for membership renewals. Those that are receiving our Short Circuit Newsletter and have not renewed will not be receiving the newsletter. It is our hope that you do not give up on us as we are coming up with ideas to generate more interest in our beloved AVARC including Field Day in June and a possible field trip to Owens Valley in September. We cannot do this without you. Please stay with us and join our Wednesday evening net on the Hauser Repeater at 20:00 hrs. We are also getting together a really neat speaker line-up so stay tuned.

New Business:

We have our reservation confirmed for Rawley Duntley Park for our Field Day on June 25 through 27. This is tentative as they may cancel it like they did last year, in which case it will be from our home QTH or some other location. We also have our club call sign for this event K6A. Our May and June club speakers will be all about Field Day, antenna and radio set ups, how to log in the ARRL using the exact club sign. More on this later.

We are still in the discussion phase of our September field trip to the Owens Valley. We will try to combine this event with other clubs such as Sam's Radio Hams who have a camping event there every year. This is all about a visit to the Owens Valley Radio Observatory for tours, which right now are not going on but they have not ruled out resuming tours this Fall. We are hoping to include the lectures given by the Cal-

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From the Veep...



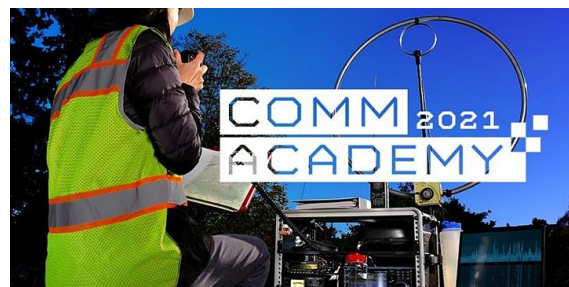
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Cross. To accomplish this, I would need to operate two radios & two computers at the same time. My first radio was tuned to a local RMS gateway located in my area and it was connected to a computer running Winlink. The second radio would be tuned to the DARN repeater system so I could join the Net and listen for further instructions during the drill. And, my second computer, was dedicated to run Zoom so I could participate in the ARC virtual TEP drill with the Red Cross personal.

The drill definitely tested your multitasking abilities. But, it was also a good learning experience sending out instructions and request by using forms with Winlink and running multiple computers & multiple radios at the same time.



73,
Andy W2AJG



Sat, Apr 10, 2021 9:00 AM - Sun, Apr 11, 2021 5:00 PM PDT

President...

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ters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. And quoting Wikipedia: Skywarn is a program of the National Weather Service. Its mission is to collect reports of localized severe weather in the United States.

The meeting will start with a Virtual Eyeball QSO about 7:00 PM and the meeting beginning 7:30 PM on 3/25/2021 with Zoom. Hope to see you all there.

73,

George KC6UVM

Swap Shop

Electronic equipment racks

Two 19" enclosed relay racks, one 6" and one 7". If you know of anyone in the club that wants one, or both, all they have to do is pick them up.

One rack has one or two old repeaters in the rack.

Bob, WA6MMI, 661-305-8855

Swap Shop ads will be run at no cost to AVARC members. Contact Adrienne WA6YEO, Short Circuit editor at 661-264-1863 or email wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

Secretary's Desk...



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Tech scientists at the Coso Cerro College in Bishop. Due to the pandemic, these activities have been on hold so let's keep our fingers crossed that this field trip will happen. Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO is working to organize this event and will keep everyone updated.

Gary Mork WA6WFC (not present) had mentioned to Matt K6MES that our board meetings in the past were once conducted on Thursday's and are now on Monday's. The Board meetings were changed to coincide with ham exams but this needs to be reflected in our by-laws. Thank you Gary.

We are still looking for anyone that wants to take a turn being net control for our Wednesday evening nets. Betsy AJ6AF is the 1st Wednesday, Jon N6NQ is the 2nd Wednesday, Loretta AJ6HO is the 3rd Wednesday. We need a 4th and a 5th on months there is a 5th Wednesday. We have

our News Line Report covered, we just need more Net Control Stations.

Future Presentations:

All of the presentations we have lined up are listed in the club meeting minutes above.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles needed by March 14, 2021

Next club meeting is 3/25/2021 19:30 hrs via zoom. Our speaker is KM6EKX Dan Wood with Skywarn. Eyeball QSOs at 19:00 hrs.

Ham exams are on line but please visit GLAARG for more details.

Next Board meeting is April 5th 2021 at 19:00 hrs via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 20:02.

73 all,
Secretary

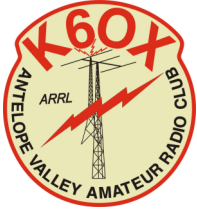
Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

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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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