

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

June 2021

President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

June 2021 has come, and memories of field days past are coming to the surface. Thirty years ago, we were setting up mobile towers with large beams, up all night working contacts and falling asleep at the station during the contest. There just must have not been enough caffeinated beverages (hot or cold) that could keep us awake. Back then, the OM (Tully, WB6CYP SK) had me take my AT clone (80286) to field day and we ran packet on 2 meters simplex. We got our power from the NASA radio truck.

Moving forward about a decade: Living and working on the Central Coast in North San Luis Obispo County as a member of a ham radio club out in Paso Robles, CA. Working satellites was always an interest. At a ham fest in Santa Barbara, CA, a ZL2AMD Uni-Trac antenna controller was demonstrated with a Yaesu dual antenna rotor that day. The Uni-Trac was imported from New Zealand by Spectrum International.

The components of the next system to go to a Field Day consisted of a Yaesu FT-847, dual azimuth rotator, ZL2AMD Uni-Trac, and a laptop running Nova for Windows. If I were a rich man, M Squared (M2) helical satellite antennas would have been used but an Arrow dual band Yagi was adapted to fit

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Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 24, 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.

At this month's meeting we will be making plans for Field Day, which will be held on June 26-27. This will be the club's first in person activity since the start of the pandemic. Be sure to join us and help organize this event.



From The Veep

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

Field day is fast approaching!

Field Day has always brought found memories of fun times to me. In 2018 I had just upgraded my Technician license to General a week before the Field Day event. I knew nothing about transmitting on HF frequencies or how to make a contact during a contest. During the last Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting that I attended, back in 2018, everyone was talking about this big Field Day Event being held outside in a park. I made it a point to attend the event not knowing what I was doing.

The first thing I encountered when I entered the park was a table set up right in the front. This was the ARRL GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Manning the GOTA station that day was Michael Beckers K6YQO. Mike sat me down at the station and explained how to use the HF radio, what to say when answering a CQ contesting station and how to log the contact I would make.

To my surprise I quickly was able to make my very first contact to N9RV, Patrick from MT on 20m. Mike quickly filled out a GOTA card with the contact information and I excitedly ran around the

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC /K6OX
General Meeting via Zoom
May, 27th, 2021 19:30 hrs

Meeting called to order at 19:31 hrs by President George Becker KC6UVM.

Those Present were:

President George Becker KC6UVM
 Vice President Andy Gippetti W2AJG
 Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES
 Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
 Board Member David Haberman AK6DH
 Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO
 Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO
 Speaker Chris Mattia W6AH.

Others Present:

Mathew N6AVI Larry KI6BKP Rodney KK6GOS Craig KI6WYH Jed N6JED Betsy AJ6AF
 John KN6VL Yoshio KE6ACH Bud N1ROE and Heather (I did not get your call sign Heather I apologize).

The Presentation:

The presentation tonight was all about portable power solutions given by Chris Mattia W6AH (pronounced Matteeah). He gave some excellent tips and examples of just about everything you will need for our go kits. Chris is with the Ventura ARES/ ACS group and also with ARES LAX NW and NE division. Tonight's focus will be on solar and emergency power for EMCOMM. Chris spoke of his involvement with the Baker to Vegas 2019 event and their activities at stage 7 as well as several others, working with the MRN or Medical Radio Network. The MRKs or Medical Radio Kits were deployed at all the stages and were designed to be able to plug directly into the cigarette lighters of the Emergency Vehicles. This gave the medics the ability to communicate with all the other medical units, med base, and central dispatch which was all the way in Las

Vegas. That is over 150 miles of desert that had to be covered using amateur radio on emergency power.

Problems can occur however, and it is always good to have a contingency plan as was the case at stage 7. With any disaster or event, real or drill, you may need to think fast on your feet which is why we have these sorts of events. To help Identify any problems; Prioritize the problems; Resolve them as quickly and efficiently as possible. The ultimate solution at stage 7 was, of course, battery power. Not just your regular car battery, but a Lithium Iron Phosphate battery (LiPfo4) , which, depending on which one you get, is about the size of a motorcycle battery, and weighs about 3-5 pounds. You could hardly believe it is a battery at all.

Chris very skillfully broke down the different types of batteries commonly used, as well as the pros and cons. There was a lot of information about batteries but basically, although the average car battery will work, it is not as efficient as a deep cycle or the gel battery. Even the gel battery, although efficient, weighs a ton and are more suited to the home solar system rather than for a go kit. So if you are going to go hiking up a trail to do SOTA, or just need a quick set up to deploy during an event, size does matter. Chris shared some very reliable sources to look up batteries, solar charging systems, and connections. Don't forget those charge controllers, a must for solar power. Depending on your set up you can choose PMW (pulse width modulation) for small applications or an MPPT (maximum power point tracking) for larger operations.

<http://powerwerx.com/power-supplies> in fact I did order from here and got my

stuff within 3 days. I was surprised to get it that quickly, and I can't wait to hook it up.

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>
<https://www.bioennopower.com/> Just to name a few. There is always DX Engineering, Ham Radio Outlet, and Giga-parts, who I have ordered parts from all three and never been disappointed.

Excellent and informative presentation, more than can fit here. Thank you so much Chris. Chris' website is: <https://chrismattia.com/ham/>

AVARC Club Business:

The minutes of the April club meeting were taken by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO.

A motion to approve the minutes as printed in The Short Circuit was made by Mike K6YQO and seconded by Larry KI6BKP and approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Stewart K6MES

Checking:	<as stated>
Cash on hand:	<as stated>
Total	<as stated>
Membership	
Total Members:	50
ARRL %	89.36%

Old Business:

No library yet but as things open up more it looks more and more positive. Hopefully we will hear from Daria soon about resuming our in person meetings, perhaps by the next board meeting.

Our reservation for Field Day at Rawley Duntley Park is still green. I informed the park that we will be out of there by 15:00 hrs on Sunday, June 27 so that they can turn the sprinklers back on.

Anyone that is willing to be net control for our Wednesday evening net is en-

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President...

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on a horizontal pole in the rotator instead.

In retrospect, getting it all to work as expected was a big disappointment. During the first test during a Field Day in Paso Robles, it all worked but the rotator placed the antenna in the opposite direction. After reviewing all the software settings, part of the issue was the ZL2AMD controller came from New Zealand. The antenna position was set for the Southern Hemisphere! HI! Hi!

This setup was tried about three more times including once at a AVARC field day around 2006. If hindsight was 20-20, then the KISS principle should have come into account: A dual band handy talkie, the Arrow antenna with a duplexer and the laptop running the NOVA software should have been enough. Now fast forward to the present.

The portable station has been compacted into a small QRP rig. The intent is to fit most everything into one bag. The station consists of a QRP radio, tuner, small amplifier and assorted cables, connectors with hand tools. The wire antennas go in another bag. Then the other stuff for “creature comfort” consists of the comforts of a day/night trip away from home: Table, chairs, cot, walk in tent plus what ever else will fit into the buggy.

As this column is written, the AVARC permit for our Field Day use of Rawley Dently Park is a GO! Further discussion will be on the AVARC club’s Wednesday night net and during the Thursday night Zoom meeting June

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Secretary’s Desk...

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couraged to step up, and if you are able to also do Newline Report that is even better. We could always use additional operators to do one or both.

New Business:

No other new business other than I am still hopeful that we can participate in the Owens Valley Radio Observatory tour in late September. I expect to hear something soon.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are needed by June 13.

Next exam via GLAARG. There is talk about resuming in person testing so stay tuned. We are all looking forward to that.

The next AVARC board meeting is June 7 Monday via zoom.

The next AVARC club meeting is June 24 19:00 hrs for eyeball QSOs and 19:30 for the meeting itself. It will be a detailed discussion for field day.

Future Presentations:

July 22 2021 our speaker is Dennis Kidder W6DQ about microwave radio operations. He is also the co-author of “Arduino Projects for Amateur Radio.”

August 26 2021 will be Dennis Swink KJ6NQG with DCS.

September 23 is first round of elections. A speaker is TBD.

October 28 election night speaker TBD, and if we do have a venue for in person we will resume Anchors Away.

November 18 and December 16 are the Holiday dates. If we resume in person we can talk about the Christmas Party.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO still has items for sale including ceiling fan, BBQ, and radio equipment.

Other Items:

We had 17 members check in to-

night. No 50/50 drawing.
Meeting adjourned at 21:44 hrs.

AVARC/K6OX Board meeting June 7, 2021 via Zoom

Meeting called to order by President Georg Becker KC6UVM

Those present:

President George Becker KC6UVM
Vice President Andy Gippetti W2AJG
Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES
Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Board member David Haberman AK6DH
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO
Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO

Motion to approve minutes from the previous board meeting was made by Loretta AJ6HO and seconded by Keith K6GXO, and was approved by all present.

Treasurer’s Report- Matt Stewart K6MES

The figures are the same as posted in the general meeting minutes from May 27.

Old Business:

I did hear from Daria Bounds and the library is still not available. We discussed finding another venue for our in person meetings for the club, as well as for in person testing. If anyone has any ideas let us know. Dan W6DAS will let us know about the use of the church but at this time it does not look promising.

New Business:

Field Day is right around the corner and many of us are already testing gear, upgrading software, and trying

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Secretary's Desk...

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to learn new stuff. This coming general meeting on June 24 will be all about Field Day. To get you started visit the ARRL website here: <http://arrl.org/field-day>. A pot luck/BBQ is being planned as well for our day at the park.

Keith Hoyt K6GXO has the GOTA station gear for our club and we need technician class people to help operate the station. We will be setting up on Friday June 25th at the Rawley Duntley Park around 11:00 A.M. On Saturday morning at 0900 we will be joined by the ARES LAX High Desert District for their F2F followed by the onset of field day shortly after that.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles needed by June 13. All other announcements are the same as above in the general meeting minutes.

Our CW net that was on Thursdays at 19:00 hrs on 3.530.0 is being changed to a different day. Thursday is a day of Zoom meetings and other radio nets so the new day is TBD.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt K6MES and seconded by Dan W6DAS,
Meeting was adjourned at 19:46 hrs.

73 all
Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
AVARC Secretary



President...

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24th, 2021, at 19:30. The set up will start at 11:00 AM (depending on the heat) on Friday 6/25/2021. The contest starts Saturday morning at 11:00 AM local.

We are planning a Saturday dinner (potluck?). Dinner to be determined. This will be the first activity that AVARC has planned since COVID-19 started. I hope to see as many as possible that weekend.

73,
George KC6LVM

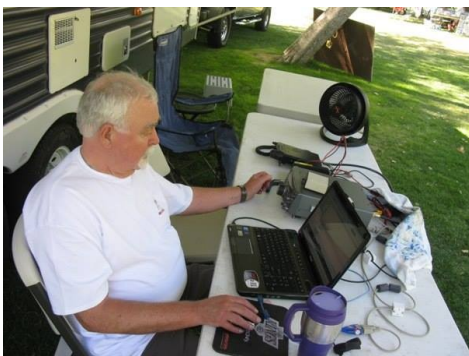
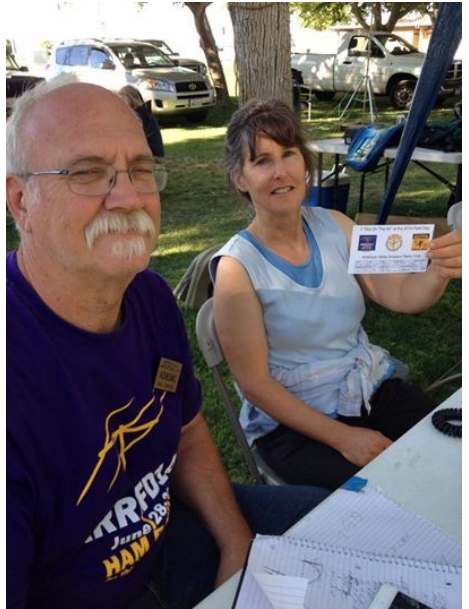
From the Veep...

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park showing everyone my very first contact. I still keep that card today so I can remember my first HF contact.

The very next week I put up a HF Radio antenna at my house and I was on the air! Field Day was meant to educate, train and show the world what Amateur Radio was all about. It also is a time to have good memories with fellow ham radio operators & friends.

73,
Andy W2AJG



What is ARRL Field Day?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

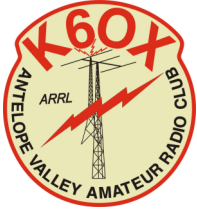
What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

Updated 3/2021



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	406-5516
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	David Haberman	AK6DH	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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