

# THE SHORT CIRCUIT



<http://www.k6ox.club>

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2021

## President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

The Fall season is upon us, and it got cooler and windier outside. It's always amazing how out here in the Antelope Valley, just the other week, we had triple digit temperatures and now the winds are howling with inclement weather. So, what can you do about that? Batten down the hatches and bundle up for colder weather. And one other observation, the candy season is upon us. Chocolate everywhere I look...

When it's not cloudy outside and it's a clear night, you can see the ISS as it flies overhead, the stars and the meteor showers. Some hams are known to work the meteor showers. AMSAT has online tracking software that can be used to predict the passes for the ISS as it flies overhead. Just remember one thing, if you do go outside to look at or work the ISS, it's beginning to get cold out. Bundle up warmly.

To peer deeply into the universe you need a telescope. What kind of telescope do you need? Depending on what view you are seeking, you have a few choices: Either an optical or radio telescope. The Hubble telescope has produced wonderful photos and depending on your tastes, provided these spectacular photos. Radio telescopes produce a different image.

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## Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 28 at 7:30PM, both IN PERSON and also via the Zoom online video app.** Current members should receive the meeting invitation link via the email announcement of the October 2021, or any other recent 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.

Please note that AVARC has resumed in-person meetings. Although the normal meeting place is the Quartz Hill Public Library, we have temporarily moved the location to the BLEND Church, 1702 East Avenue J, due to internet connectivity issues at the library.

This month's meeting will feature **Dennis Kidder W6DQ**, who will give a presentation on radio astronomy. Dennis is a frequent guest of our club, and his talks are always very interesting and informative. You can read more about him in this month's Vice President column.

We will also hold the election of next year's AVARC officers, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us!



**Dennis Kidder W6DQ**

## From The Veep

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

### Dennis Kidder W6DQ

First licensed in 1969 as WN6NIA, Dennis was ultimately granted the callsign of one of his early Elmers, Chek Titcomb, W6DQ. Dennis got interested in microwaves while still in High School, built a 10 GHz radio but had no one to talk to. He later studied and worked as a lab instructor in microwaves while earning his BSEE. The interest never diminished and in 2001, joined the San Bernardino Microwave Society, a radio club specializing in the frequencies above 1000 MHz. He has served as President of SBMS as well as co-chair of the annual "Microwave Update," also known as MUD; an annual conference hosted by a number of microwave groups on a rotating basis.

Professionally, Dennis retired from the aerospace industry in 2012. Spending most of his career as a System Engineer, he worked on programs ranging from systems used to control satellites to battlefield communications. Deeply involved with communications networks, we served as the Chief Telecom Engineer during construction of the new International Airport Hong Kong, at the time, the largest construction project in the world!

In 2015, Dennis moved to a five acre 'farm' in Inyokern named 'Faraday Fields' where he and his wife Lisa, KF6QNG, raise antennas.

## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC/K6OX General Meeting

August 26, 2021

Via Zoom 19:30 hrs

First round of elections this meeting including replacements for Treasurer and Master at Arms.

#### Those officers and board members present:

President George Becker KC6UVM Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG and Nugget

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

Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO and Minnie

**Others Present:** Presenter Tim Duffy K3LR from DX Engineering Chuck W2QLH Margie KG6TBR

Mark KJ6WML Raymong KN6DPI

Diana K6DER Don KK6RHO and

Sharon Larry KI6BKP

Brian N6CVO Ken W6DIH

**Meeting called to order at** by President George Becker KC6UVM

**Motion to approve minutes** of August general meeting as recorded by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO was made by and seconded by approved by all present.

**Treasurer's Report** Matt Stewart K6MES

Checking: <As stated>

Cash on hand: <As stated>

Total: <As stated>

Members: 53

ARRL % 80%

**The Presentation:** Tim Duffy K3LR from DX Engineering is here to discuss grounding and bonding, a vital safety issue in our radio operations. Grounding and bonding is arguably the most important safety aspect of amateur radio, not

just on our towers but every piece of radio equipment in our ham shack. Mr. Duffy broke all of this down for us in a way that was easily understandable, and easy to follow.

Grounding and bonding our equipment has to be the most fundamental aspects of amateur radio operations. Although the best thing to do during a lightning storm is to just disconnect your equipment from the feed line and unplug all devices from the outlet, sometimes this is not entirely possible, hence; grounding and bonding the equipment. See ARRL grounding and bonding <https://www.arrl.org/shop/Grounding-and-Bonding-for-the-Radio-Amateur/>. Another great website with a slide presentation is k9yc here; <http://www.k9yc.com/GroundingAndAudio.pdf>.

One amazing thing we learned from this presentation was that the Earth is NOT the magic sink into which we can pour RF or lightning into the ground. This will not make this disappear but what does work is bonding. Bonding keeps a connection at two points on the same voltage. It is not expensive at all nor is it very difficult. Just use the right hardware such as 20 ga strap or heavy wire 14# or larger to bond all your equipment together. Here is a website I found that explains wire gauges; <http://www.learningaboutelectronics.com/Articles/Wire-gauge.php>. There are also many books on electronics and wiring, often from your local Home Depot or Lowes but also on Amazon and our trusty ARRL.

Grounding rods should go deep into the ground and connected to other grounding rods with heavy gauge wire and good ground clamps. All Earth connections should be bonded together as in these photos. Notice how the pathways are all outside the home or ham shack. You do not want to make it easy for lightning to come through your home and to your equipment.

Our grounding and bonding practices also includes our towers which are probably the tallest object of all and all ground wires should be bonded together.

We cannot discuss grounding and bonding without including bonding our equipment inside our radio rooms or ham shacks. Grounding straps are best and clamped to a copper bus such as a 1/2 inch copper pipe. This pipe is bonded to the ground rod outside which is also bonded to other ground rods and ground wires outside the house or shack. Grounding and bonding helps manage RF because don't forget' EVERYTHING becomes an antenna. Bonding equalizes voltage to minimize current, eliminates hot spots and reduces RFI from common mode current among other things. Keep cable short and use a bonding bus. Another great website on grounding and bonding is [https://www.w8ji.com/ground\\_systems.htm](https://www.w8ji.com/ground_systems.htm). Excellent presentation by DX Engineering representative Tim Duffy K3LR who presented a lot of valuable information. Much more on this subject from many sources, not just the ones listed here, but well worth extensive research. Thank you Tim for an awesome, and very valuable presentation.

#### Old Business:

The Quartz Hill Library is recently available for our in person meetings but certain protocols are in place such as social distancing, masks, and limited participation. However due to some internet issues at the library we will conduct our hybrid sessions at the First Christian Church of Antelope Valley

Our CW net is still on hold until we can choose a time and day that will work for most folks. I do encourage our members to please look into this very fascinating aspect of amateur radio. CW or Morse Code has quite the long and colorful history and has proven to be a valuable skill during our earlier wars. I am reading a book called 'Sigint' and I am learning so much about how code has helped our allies during WWI

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## President...

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Our October 2021 speaker will be Dennis W6DQ from Ridgecrest, CA speaking on Radio Astronomy via Zoom. Due to internet connectivity issues at the QH Public Library, the AVARC club meetings will be at the AV 1st Christian Church chapel through the end of the year. Following this month's presentation, we will be holding our annual elections for officers and board members.

The change of venue will be announced with emails and announcements during the club Wednesday evening nets. Meeting times aren't changing: Eyeball QSO begins at 7:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM. The fourth Thursday pre-meeting get together has not changed. Anyone wishing to have dinner at El Toreo the address is 830 W Ave L, Suite 139, Lancaster, CA 93534. We meet approximately at 5:00 PM.

See you then.

73,  
George KC6UVM



## Secretary's Desk...

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and WWII. An interesting website to explore; <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>.

### New Business:

**First round of elections starts tonight with the following nominations;**

**President:** George Becker KC6UVM to remain President.

**Vice President:** Andy Gippetti W2AJG to remain Vice President.

**Treasurer:** Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO to become the next Treasurer.\*\*

**Secretary:** Dan Sherwood W6DAS will become the next Secretary.\*\*

**Master At Arms:** Hopefully someone will volunteer to step into this role.

**Board Member:** David Haberman AK6DH will remain Board Member.\*\*

**Board Member:** Larry Mock KI6BKP will become a Board Member.

**Trustee:** Keith Hoyt K6GXO will remain our Trustee.

**Ex Officio:** Mike Beckers K6YQO will remain our Ex Officio.

**\*\*update\*\***

David Haberman has stepped up to volunteer to be next Treasurer, and Loretta Smalls will remain Secretary. We still need a Master At Arms but in October we will finalize nominations and conclude elections, hopefully with a new Master at Arms.

We do now have the library back (for now) but we will be conducting our first in person meetings at the church due to internet issues at the library. So this October 23 1900 hrs, as well as the November club meeting on the 18th, and our annual Christmas party which is on December 17th at 1900 hrs WILL BE AT THE CHURCH. The members of the church have graciously permitted our meetings free of



charge when there is no food or drink involved however donations will be greatly appreciated.

The church address is 1702 E. Ave. J, Lancaster, CA. 93535

The Quartz Hill Library address is 5040 W Ave M-2, Quartz Hill, CA. 93536 but in January 2022 we will be reassessing the use of the library. Hopefully some time soon we will not need to conduct hybrid meetings, and if we do perhaps the internet issues at the library will be worked out by then.

### Future Presentations:

Our October General meeting will be at the church on Ave J and 17 St. East. Eyeball QSOs 1900 hrs meeting at 1930. We will attempt a hybrid system where we also will include our zoom from the church. Our presenter will be Dennis Kidder W6DQ about radio astronomy, who will be doing it remotely from Inyokern.

November 18 our presentation will be about antenna analyzers by Steve Molo KI4KWR from Gigaparts via Zoom. This meeting will also be at the church in a hybrid session.

December 17 will be our Christmas party at the church. We are hoping Diana Feinberg AI6DF will deliver our Christmas presentation. It is usually quite a hoot to have her at our party.

January 27, 2022 George Becker KC6UVM will deliver the state of the club address.

February 24, 2022 Margie Hoffman KG6TBR will talk to us about Baker 2 Vegas.

March 24, 2022 open to suggestions probably preparations for Baker to Vegas.

April 25, 2022 open to suggestions will probably be mostly about Baker to Vegas.

May 26, 2022 might be a good month to dedicate to Youth On The Air. If we can get some young hams to share with us their experiences with amateur radio we can hopefully inspire more young folks to join in this hobby. I know I have been encour-

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## Secretary's Desk...

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aging my kids and grandkids to get interested in this hobby, and the value it has for emergency preparations.

### Other Items:

Members that checked in tonight

22

No 50/50 drawing.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George KC6UVM and seconded by Larry KI6BKP and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:10.

73 all

Secretary AVARC/K6OX Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

October 3, 2021 1800 hrs

First Christian Church Of Antelope Valley

1701 E. Ave J

Lancaster, CA. 93535

### Those Present:

President George Becker KC6UVM Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG

Treasurer Matt Stewart K6MES Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS Board Member David Haberman AK6DH

Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Raymond Hart KN6DPI

Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO

**Meeting called to order** by President George Becker KC6UVM at 18:08

**Motion was made to approve minutes** as taken by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO by Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and sec-

onded by Dan Sherwood W6DAS and approved by all. Motion carries.

### Treasurer's Report Matt Stewart K6MES

Checking: <As stated>

Cash on hand: <As stated>

Total: <As stated>

Club Membership: 54

ARRL %: 80.2%

### Old Business:

Quartz Hill Library is open again and our first in person meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2021 starting with eyeball QSOs at 19:00 hrs. Some of our members will be going there on the 6th to check on the internet and other capabilities for our hybrid in person/zoom activities. Our reservation for the library is good through January 2022 after which we will need to fill out the paperwork for the room for the next 120 days.

**\*\*update\*\*** The library internet is not reliable enough for hybrid zoom meetings, so we will work with the church on 17th St. East and Ave. J for our general meetings until a hybrid session no longer becomes necessary. We will reassess the library in January 2022.

### New Business:

We are working on the door prizes for the Christmas party in December which is on December 17, Friday at the First Christian

Church of Antelope Valley on Ave. J and 17th St. East in Lancaster across from the Walmart.

Our speaker for this month is Dennis Kidder who originally offered to do his presentation on radio astronomy via zoom. Since we recently acquired the use of the library we are offering Dennis an option to continue with the zoom or he is more than welcome to come in person. As it is a long drive from Inyokern a motion was made to reimburse Dennis' gas and perhaps dinner if he would like. The motion was made by David Haberman AK6DH and seconded by George Becker KC6UVM. All approved and motion carries. **\*Update\*\*** *Dennis Kidder will be doing the Zoom presentation so we will be conducting this hybrid session at the church.*

Board member David Haberman generously offered to drive to Gary Mork's house to pick up items for the next Master at Arms, after which a follow up to the Ham Radio Outlet to pick up items for the Christmas party.

The club provides the refreshments, coffee, paper plates and plastic utensils, disposable cups, and napkins. The rest is pot luck so bring your favorite dish.

### Future Presentations:

Same as above with an emphasis

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## Secretary's Desk...

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on getting more youth involved in amateur radio.

### Announcements:

Elections will conclude on October 28. We are still looking for a Master At Arms. The duties include but not limited to bringing the coffee, cookies, etc., to our General meetings, handling the raffle tickets, and counting the election ballots. While we were at the library making the assessment on use of the internet, David Haberman graciously volunteered to step up as Treasurer and Loretta A Smalls opted to remain Secretary. We still need a Master At Arms and at this coming October club meeting we will solidify nominations and conduct the final vote.

Short Circuit articles are due by October 17.

Next club meeting is November 18 a week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday the following week, and it will be at the church.

Next board meeting is November 6th at the AV First Christian Church on Ave. J and 17th St. E across from Walmart. It will be after the test session at 0900.

**Motion was made to close the board meeting** by Board Member David Haberman AK6DH and seconded by President George Becker KC6UVM approved by all. Motion carries.

**Meeting adjourned at 19:01.**

# ELECTIONS ARE COMING

## AVARC WANTS YOU TO RUN FOR OFFICE

## Swap Shop

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

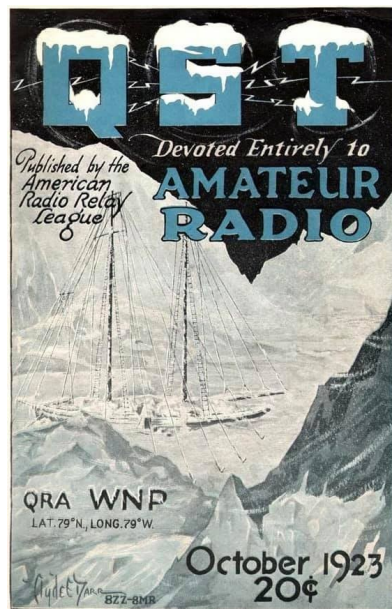
Various antenna parts and other equipment available for sale. Contact Keith K6GXO for more information.

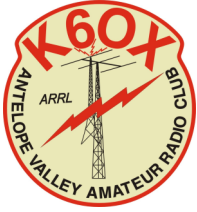
661-533-4025

SOLAR PANEL FOR SALE

Harbor Freight solar panel kit with controller and panel support brackets. Never used \$50 OBO Margie KG6TBR 661-297-6567

Swap Shop ads will be run at no cost to members of AVARC. Your ad should include your name and call, price, and contact info. Submit your ad to Adrienne WA6YEO, Short Circuit editor at [wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net)





**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2021 Officers**

<b>President</b>	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894
<b>Vice President</b>	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
<b>Secretary</b>	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
<b>Treasurer</b>	Matt Stewart	K6MES	406-5516
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
<b>Board Member</b>	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	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  
 Post Office Box 1011  
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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**To ARS:**



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