
The Short Circuit



<http://www.k6ox.club>

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2022

President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

Welcome to March 2022. There are a multitude of thoughts to be cobbled together into something that is on topic, readable and understandable by those who follow this column. The deadline approached faster than expected due to other obligations and this month's creative writing assignment is expected to be completed on time, submitted and forwarded to the editor who graciously compiles the Short Circuit for us. The initial thoughts that come to mind are the weather, ham radio operators affected by the war in Ukraine, and antennas/antenna analyzers. To say the least, wither it is a blessing or a curse, we are living in interesting times.

Besides the weather (it's kind of cool and windy as this column is compiled), the first thing that comes to mind is the time change. While this may be a mute topic by the time this column is published, we "Sprung" forward and set the clocks an hour forward as this column was wrote. Also, this is a good time to check the smoke detectors in our rooms and change the batteries. Waking up at three AM in the morning to the sound of a smoke detector going off because the battery is dying is a good way of ruining a good night's sleep.

The war in Ukraine rages on: We as ham radio operators prepare to offer our radio communication skills/services to the populations during times of disasters either with CERT, ARES or DCS/RACES. During wars, we are ordered to observe radio silence and the antennas may come down for our safety. The last time ham radio fell silent in the United States of America was during World War II. Currently, Hams in the Ukraine, for their safety and security are observing radio silence. Please do not attempt to communicate with them via radio. The topic of discussion this month are Antenna Analyzers. What are they, what do they do, how do these tools work and so

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Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 24, 2022 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 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 meeting will feature **Steve Molo KI4KWR**, who will give a presentation on antenna analyzers. He will be showing Rig Expert, MFJ, NanoVNA, and possibly another if R&D is complete by next week. You can read more about Steve in this month's Vice President column. It should be a very interesting and informative talk, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us on the 24th!



Steve Molo KI4KWR

From the VEEP

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

The Yuma HamFest 2022

Well the second major ham festival has completed in Yuma Arizona at the Yuma HamFest & ARRL Southwestern Division Convention held at the Yuma Fairgrounds.

This year people who attend with their RV, motor home, camper van or tent, had the ability to arrive early and camp out in the Yuma Fairgrounds parking lot on Wednesday, March 16. Even though the ham fest didn't start until Friday March 18th, many of the campers wanted to get there early to guarantee a good camping spot once the gates to the Fairgrounds open on Thursday. This included electric hook ups, trash pick ups & close proximity to the bathrooms.

One of the first things that starts as soon as the gates open is the ongoing swap meet. People start selling their goods early in the mornings to well into the nights. Also the variety of items change during the different days of the festival.

During the two days there are several speakers that change every hour giving lectures on many different Ham topics. From RF

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC/K6OX General Meeting
February 24, 2022 via Zoom 19:00 hrs
PST

Meeting called to order by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:30 hrs.

Those present: President George Becker KC6UVM; Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG;

Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH; Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO;

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS; Board Member Larry Mock KI6BKP;

Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO; Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO & Minnie;

Presenter Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

STAGES 12 AND 20 DESPARENEEDLY NEED PEOPLE

Others Present: *B2V stage managers and volunteers*; Mark K6OPJ; Ed K6EDR; Bob KK6FIA & Ana; Carina KF6ZYY; Chris KD6OUB; Dave KD6AOF; Bob N7RAH; Alf KA6ALF; Oliver K6OLI; Scott KI6KWI; Kara KA6RAJ; Tom KN6BKT; Ken KG6TOC; Marty N6VI; Von K6VON; Tim AG6RS; Steve KM6YOJ; John KN6VL; Gary AA6GJ and spouse; Greg K6GHL and Candy; Steve KM6AIT; John AC6VV; Mark KG4MUA; Steve WA6FGW; Mark W6WML; Keith K7KSG; Marta KG4MUA; Doug WODHG; Special guest Catherine Smalls

We want to extend a special THANK YOU to all who participated on this Zoom call. It looks like we had a complete total at the peak of 41 who attended and that includes couples. Awesome.

The Presentation: Baker 2 Vegas April 9 and 10 2022 by Margie Hoffman KG6TBR.

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR does an extraordinary amount of work on the Baker To Vegas event every year. She keeps us all in line, and plays a crucial role in organizing the Amateur Radio aspect of this event. There are no words to express how we appreciate everything she does except simply Thank You Margie.

The Baker To Vegas rally will be April 9 and 10 of this year. It was cancelled the last couple of years due to the pandemic, but this year it seems we are full steam ahead. Depending on which stage you are on the arrival of the first runner can vary between early A:M to really early A:M the following morning. It starts in Baker California and ends in Las Vegas Nevada. For more information on this event go to; <https://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/> which is the main place to go for us hams, or <https://bakervegas.net/> for general information.

Test out your radio equipment well ahead of the race, and also check your tires, fuel, coolant, etc...Become familiar with where your stage is at, how to get there, and when to leave with plenty of time to get set up and to avoid the congestion once the race begins. If you are bringing pets make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

There is still a desperate need for volunteers on stages 12 and 20. Please let Margie know at 818-429-1764 or admin2@radiobaker2vegas.org. There are a lot of details to this presentation, more than can fit on a newsletter but by all means explore the websites mentioned above.

Club Business:

Motion was made to approve the previous general meeting minutes as printed in The Short Circuit made by Mike K6YQO and seconded by Margie KG6TBR. Minutes were approved by all present and motion carries.

Treasurer's Report:

David Haberman AK6DH

Checking:	<As Stated>
Cash On Hand:	<As Stated>
Total:	<As Stated>
Membership:	51 total members including life members.
ARRL percentage:	98%

Old Business:

We will continue Zoom platform until such a time as we can absolutely be able to depend on internet capabilities at the Quartz Hill Library.

Thank you to those who have paid their dues and we encourage those who have yet to do so please fill out the membership form and mail in your dues to the P.O Box at the head of the form.

New Business:

Our Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH is working with our bank to develop an electronic method of paying dues. For now the old standard is still main mode but we anticipate these new changes to happen very soon. Thank you David for all the work you are doing, which also includes working on a fillable PDF for the membership application itself which can be directly emailed.

We are also looking into renewing the lifetime membership option for our members as a few have asked about it. We will keep everyone posted on this as it develops.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due by March 13.

All ham exams are still being done on line through GLAARG <https://glaarg.org/>

Our next board meeting is March 7 via Zoom at 7:00 P:M.

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Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

Our next club meeting is March 24 via Zoom eyeball QSOs 7:00 P:M meeting at 7:30 P:M. We hope that we will finally get Steve Molo KI4KWR from Gigaparts whom we lost last time.

Checking	<As Stated>
Cash On Hand	<As Stated>
Total	<As Stated>
Membership totals	53
	including life members
ARRL percentage	98%

KC6UVM, Dan W6DAS, and David AK6DH. Motion carries and we will be doing more on the new dues structure.

Future Presentations: Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG

Detailed information on presentations is in the board meeting minutes.

We are open to suggestions always.

Other Announcements:

Adrienne WA6YEO is looking for interesting articles for the Short Circuit. If you have a story submit it to her via shortcircuit@k6ox.club

Meeting was adjourned at 21:09

**Antelope Valley
Amateur Radio Club
Board Meeting Via Zoom
March 7, 2022 19:00 hrs**

The meeting was called to order by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:03 hrs. Those present were; President George Becker KC6UVM; Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG; Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH; Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO; Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS and Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO; Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO; Margie KG6TBR; Chuck W2QLH; Mark W6WML.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous board meeting in February by Mike Beckers K6YQO and seconded by David Haberman AK6DH and approved by all present. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report
David Haberman AK6DH**

We are ahead in our finances compared to last year but we also did purchase a new repeater system for Hauser in 2019. Right now our costs are just the P.O. Box, our Domain Name, Website, Insurance, and rental of the Church for our holiday gatherings. We also have the club expenses incurred for these gatherings which include door prizes, disposable plates and utensils, pot luck items such as coffee and soft drinks, and other items.

Old Business:

We continue to evaluate our Zoom/in person meetings but it will be Zoom for now as long as we need reliable internet.

We encourage members who have not yet renewed their membership to go ahead and do so. Our Treasurer has been working hard to update the way membership applications and dues are sent including via Zelle. Thank you David for all that work, it is very much appreciated.

New Business:

Speaking of a new way to send in the membership application and the dues we are also discussing ways to update the due structure itself. The lifetime membership did not seem like a feasible option however a better way might be discounted dues for paying multiple years at one time. Senior rates, 3 yr or 5 yr discounts, and youth rate were all discussed. A motion was made by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO to form a Membership Dues Committe and the motion was seconded by Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH. All approved the motion and the committee will be run by George

Adobe Acrobat has been added to our new way of submitting membership applications.

Here is how it works; Go to our website and open up the membership application> http://k6ox.club/_pdf/MemberApp.pdf >save as adobe acrobat and open your file> click on the icon that has a T in the box that tells you 'add text'.> When you click on 'Name' a box will appear that says 'start typing here'. > You can choose the icon that looks like a tip of a pencil that says 'draw' which you can use to make a circle around the call sign T G A E and also make a circle around ARRL membership YES NO LIFE. You can always switch back and forth from the T to the 'pencil' as needed. When you are done 'Save as AVARC membership completed' or however you want to name it. Email it to; treasurer@k6ox.club as an attachment. David is working on an updated form that allows you to just press 'Submit' and it will automatically send the form to him. That will be in the website soon but in the meantime this does work.

To send dues using Zelle this is how I accomplished this; Log into your online bank account>if your bank supports Zelle this will be under 'transfer funds' or something like that> then 'send money using Zelle'>It may ask you to 'add recipient'. Each bank is different but at Wells Fargo they ask for first and last name but if it is a business entity they want the entire business name in the 'First Name' field. The entire Amateur Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc. will not fit in the first name field but a representative told me to enter what will fit. So I typed in just Antelope Valley Amateur Radio; That is all that would fit but it was enough. In the nickname field I just typed in K6OX. Then they ask you to 'send using'>email, bankaccount choose email and that email is treasurer@k6ox.club. On the bottom click save

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Secretary's Desk...

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and send funds.>There will be a box on how much just type in the amount of your membership dues.>click send and you should get a code to enter via text. Wells Fargo gives you no other option but text so be sure they have your current mobile number or this will not work. Once you enter the code that is texted to your mobile, enter that code and the transfer should go through. There is still, and always will be the chance for renewals or new memberships in person at our annual Christmas party.

Future Presentations;

March 24 We do have Steve Molo KI4KWR from Gigaparts about Antenna Analyzers.

April 28 we have Brian Basura N6CVO to share his success with the launch of Pico Balloons from Quartzfest.

May 26 will be dedicated to Youth On The Air and our speaker is Ruth Willet KM4LAO who is with Youth On The Air.

June 23 Field Day discussions since the event will be that following Friday when we will be setting up at Rawley Duntley Park around noon.

July 28 We will probably do our presentation on the AVARC Microwave Project Part One; reading schematics. When it comes to the homebrew projects such as microwaves, often the schematics involved are quite different than the schematics we learned from in our Ham Study books. It is our hope that the speakers we line up for this presentation as well as actual hands on project will help shed some light on specific home brew projects and encourage more folks to explore DIY projects.

Aug 25 Hoping to get another Youth On The Air speaker we will stay on this.

September 22 If all goes well in July we will continue with the AVARC Microwave Project Part Two; Making contacts on 10GHz. The 10GHz and up contest is August 20 and 21 so if we are actually able to set up and make contacts we will take video and stills and share them on this meeting. There will be another contest Sep 17 and 18 so there will be a second chance for those who want to try their hand at microwave.

October 27 Open to suggestions perhaps Halloween themed?

November 17 We will be week early due to Thanksgiving holiday location and presenter TBD.

December 15 Once again a week early due to Christmas holiday location and presenter TBD.

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles are due by March 13.

Next AVARC Board meeting is April 4.

Next test session is still on line. We are confident in person testing will resume soon.

Next club meeting March 24 with speaker Steve Molo with Gigaparts.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13 0200. States like AZ remain on Standard time so until November we will be on the same time as AZ.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:00 hrs.

**From the VEEP...**

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noise, microwave, radio repair, digital radios, ARRL info, local Ham clubs, contesting and Ham Radio testing.

One day the Yuma Ham Radio Club launched a large radio transmitter balloon into the air. It was so big the nearby airport had to suspended flights until the balloon had traveled well into the atmosphere.

One of the most famous events that happens every year at the Yuma HamFest is the many prizes that are giving away. Raffle tickets are sold during days of the event and every hour someone wins a prize. But the main giveaways are Saturday night. At 5pm on Saturday night there is a big barbecue dinner that is served in the main hall. After everyone is filled with food they start raffling off the big major prizes. Every radio manufacturer supplies their top radios for the raffle. Thousands of dollars of radio equipment is raffled off during the night to some lucky attendees.

Though the actual HamFest is on Friday & Saturday, arriving early makes the festival a fun 4 day event. If you ever have a chance to be in Yuma that time of year it is definitely worth stopping by for this festival. It is one of the best HamFests for us west coast Ham Radio operators.



President...

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forth? Why do we need antenna analyzers? To plagiarize Wikipedia, the short answer is the antenna analyzer is a device for measuring antenna impedance. Optimal radio transmission is to have a one-to-one impedance match. 50 ohms to 50 ohms. In the real world, that does not always happen and we will have to settle for the best solution possible.

The simplest antenna analyzer is a SWR meter. The SWR meter is inserted between the antenna and your radio. All the analog SWR meter does is display forward, reflected power while transmitting and maybe displaying output power. If you have one of the electronic SWR meters with a digital display, the digital display will show the match between the radio and the antenna.

The type of antenna analyzer requires that you disconnect the radio from the antenna and check the antenna where it is installed directly is a more versatile piece of equipment to have in your tool bag. These analyzers are a good tool to have but are a bit on the pricy side.

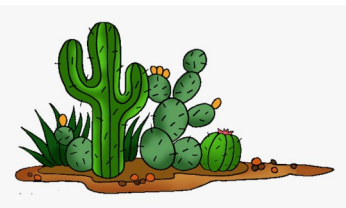
All this leads into the next meeting via Zoom on March 24th, 2022. Our featured speaker is Steve Molo from GigaParts and his presentation on antenna analyzers. The virtual eyeball QSO begins at 1900 and the meeting/presentation is to begin at approximately 1930 hours.

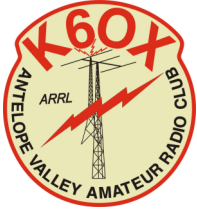
Stay safe and be well,

73,

George KC6UVM

Pictures from the Yuma HamFest by Andy Gippetti W2AJG





Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2022 Officers

President	George Becker	KC6UVM	478-0818
Vice President	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
Secretary	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
Treasurer	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
Master-At-Arms			
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
Board Member	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
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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 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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