

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



Youth on the Air

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

May 2022

## President's Corner

**George Becker KC6UVM**

First, let's begin by giving our respects on the event of Frank O'Dell N6FOD becoming a Silent Key this month. Frank was heavily involved with disaster communication groups such as DCS and ARES. Frank was a regular VEC at most of the test sessions. Frank was always willing to learn something new and was a regular at pre-meeting dinners/AVARC club meetings. His presence will be sorely missed. Keep him in your hearts and memories.

It's been a while since we met face to face, but when was the last time you looked around the (virtual) room? The demographics are working against us. Like who's that ham in the mirror with the gray(er) hair? It's just difficult to recognize myself in pictures from a few decades ago. This brings up the multitude of ideas floating around the ARRL web site on attracting young people into our hobby.

In an article "We must reach them to teach them" published by Joshua Long KD8BVB on ARRL.org, a teen is described as a youth in the 12- to 19-year-old age bracket. Teens have a wide range of interests and a huge span of developments and activities. The 16 to 18 y/o age group is probably looking to get their Drivers Licenses, a car, getting ready for college (or a military career), the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 26, 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](mailto: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 **Ruth Willet KM4LAO**, who will give a presentation on getting young people on the air, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us on the 28th!



**Ruth Willet KM4LAO**

## From the VEEP

**Andy Gippetti W2AJG**

Baker To Vegas – My first time experience

On April 9<sup>th</sup> the 36th running of the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race took place between Baker, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. This race usually is participated by law enforcement officers from all over the world (though this year the teams were mainly from the USA due to Covid travel restrictions). The race starts in Baker and consists of a 120 miles route that has 20 stages and ends at the Rio Casino in Las Vegas. During the race, there could normally be over 8,000 people along the route consisting of runners, support staff, medical personnel, fire department personnel, ambulance personnel, communications personnel, guests and family members. Typical desert weather, the runners experience temperature changes from into the 80's during the day and at night the temperature can drop down into the 40's.

Since the race is run mainly on back roads through the Mojave Desert, communication can be difficult due to poor or no cell service in those areas. This is where ham radio comes into play. Amateur radio is the only reliable source of communication in this

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC General Meeting Thursday April 28, 2022 via Zoom

**Those present today were:**

President George Becker  
 KC6UVM Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG  
 Secretary Loretta A Smalls  
 AJ6HO Board Member Dan Sherwood WDAS  
 Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO and Minnie Board Member  
 Larry Mock KI6BKP  
 Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO  
 Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO  
 Our speaker for today Brian Basura N6CVO

**Others present:**

Margie KG6TBR Damon KJ7E  
 Jack KN6TMA John KN6VL  
 Mark W6WML Raymond  
 KN6DPI Betsy AJ6AF

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

**The Presentation-PICO Balloons**

Our presentation for tonight is courtesy of Brian Basura N6CVO and his launch of PICO Balloons from Quartzfest. He launched a few of them along with Jed N6JED and as of May 1 one of them is still circumnavigating the globe. The balloon has been up in the air for more than 95 days and has circumnavigated the globe more than 9 times which is abso-

lutely amazing. So much more to this presentation than can fit into the minutes here but it was so well put together and very fascinating. Thank you Brian N6CVO and Jed N6JED for sharing this project with us and bringing us into another realm of amateur radio.

**Club business;**

Motion was made by Keith Hoyt K6GXO to approve the minutes from previous general meeting as printed in The Short Circuit. Motion was seconded by Larry Mock KI6BKP and approved by all present. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report**

David Haberman AK6DH

David is not present today so the report is given by our President;

Checking	<As stated>
Deposits	<As stated>
Expenses	<As stated>
Cash On Hand	<As stated>
Total	<As stated>

Membership	53
which includes our life members.	
ARRL percentage	96%

**Old Business:**

Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO will contact Daria Bounds about the wifi at the Quartz Hill Library. If that issue is resolved we would like to resume in person and hybrid

meetings back at the library. If not Dan W6DAS will talk with the Church Board about having meetings there as long as we follow mask protocols.

We do have the Rawley Duntley Park for our Field Day this year and we will be including our GOTA station. Those of us who are bringing campers, tents, or other camping gear for overnight stays will have access starting on Friday June 24 after 12 noon.

**New Business:**

Andy Gippetti W2AJG is our Field Day Chairman this year and we will do all we can to help make this a better year. Margie KG6TBR has offered to put up the Amateur Radio Expo Booth which will include educational materials, flyers, QSL cards. We need to get those flyers put together soon so that they can be passed out to various folks, schools, Boys/Girl Scouts etc...

We also discussed having T-shirts made for Field Day which will be discussed further at the Board meeting on Monday May 2 via Zoom (same link as this one) at 19:00 hrs. What we do know is that these shirts MUST have at least one pocket hi.

**Announcements:**

Short Circuit articles are due by

**Secretary's Desk...**

*(Continued from page 2)*

May 9.

The FCC is still struggling with their data base after initiating the new \$35 fee. We hope they get it worked out soon, there are still new licensees who have yet to get their call signs.

The next club meeting is via Zoom on May 26. Ruth Willet KM6LAO with Youth On The Air.

Our board meeting is May 2 via Zoom same link.

**Future Presentations:**

See full line up in the board meeting minutes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Mock KI6BKP and seconded by Dan Sherwood W6DAS and approved by all. Motion carries and meeting was adjourned at 21:41 hrs.

**AVARC Board Meeting  
via Zoom  
May 2, 2022 19:00 hrs**

**Those present:**

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS and Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO with Miss Minnie

President George Becker KC6UVM Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO Mark W6WML

**Meeting called to order** by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:09 hrs.

**Motion was made** by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO to approve the previous board meeting minutes as printed in The Short Circuit. Motion was seconded by Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO and approved by all present. Motion carries and minutes are approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH

No changes from club meeting minutes

**Old Business:** Discussion about resuming in person meetings at the Quartz Hill Library starting in July. We will do our best to proceed with hybrid meetings, but after much discussion of venue changes it seemed best to stay with Quartz Hill Library. This will be discussed further at the next club meeting to get member input.

One or more of our members will pay a visit to the Quartz Hill Library conference room when it is available and test out the viability of their ethernet connection and will have a report for the next club meeting this month. Regardless of the outcome of this reconnoiter

we will be resuming in person club meetings. We miss seeing our members and sharing stories during actual eyeball QSOs. So see you folks in July hopefully.

**New Business:**

At our club meeting April 28 we touched on having shirts made for our club Field Day. Our President George Becker KC6UVM has been in contact with AV Sports and Graphics and will have a quote soon. It will be on Polo shirts with at least one pocket and the Jackalope figure with AVARC K6OX on the logo. We

*(Continued on page 4)*

**President...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

opposite sex and the like then to show an interest in Amateur Radio. Inconsequently, there are two other groups of youth.

That leaves us with a 12 to 15 y/o age group and youth 19 y/o and up in college. The 12- to 15-year-olds may be involved in one form of Scouting or another and middle school career-oriented clubs in educational settings. Getting the parent(s) involved is also helpful. The parents are the ones to schlep the kids around town. The college age youth may be prone to "distractions" but reaching out to those in STEM career fields of study may be a good idea. Some college engineering departments have ham radio clubs that we can reach out

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 3)

will keep you posted.

We have been neglecting sending thank you certificates to our presenters which we used to do at the library so we will resume this practice in the form of possibly QSL cards or some other media.

FCC still down as of this writing on May 3. No new licenses have been issued for about 3 weeks.

**Future Presentations:** Vice President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG

May 26 will be dedicated to Youth On The Air and our speaker is Ruth Willet KM4LAO who is with Youth On The Air. She will share her experiences as a young ham and the YOTA program.

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. Mr. Jeff White General Manager of WMRI in Radio Miami International to talk to us about shortwave radio and Shortwaves For Freedom which is about using shortwave radio to get Voice Of America news and information to the Russian and Ukrainian people. This will include Kate Neiswender, Esq. who is running the fundraiser to pay for the air time.

July 28 We will start the AVARC Microwave Project Part One; reading schematics with the assistance of Larry Johnston K6HLH who is also with the San Bernadino Microwave Society.

Aug 25 AVARC microwave project part II making contacts.

September 22 If all goes well in July we will have Damon Stewart KJ7E to discuss what he went through to get his tower up near the San Andreas fault line. It is also nominations for officers and board members.

October 27 Open to suggestions perhaps Halloween themed? It is also election of officers and board members as well as Anchors Away Swap Meet? Boat Anchor night.

November 17 We will be a week early due to Thanksgiving holiday location and presenter TBD, but was suggested that we dedicate this holiday to members who want to share their projects, successes, or ideas to the club as the presentation.

December 15 Once again a week early due to Christmas holiday location and presenter TBD, but we hope to once again have Diane Feinberg AI6DF.

### Announcements:

Next board meeting is June 6 via

Zoom 19:00 hrs. The link is the same as the club meeting.

No in person testing as of yet and if you want to upgrade and/or change call signs, you might want to hold off until the FCC gets their act together. They may be in a backlog right now so we will have to see how this plays out.

**Motion was made** by Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO. Motion was approved by all and motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 20:31 hours.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and co-workers of Frank O'Dell N6FOD who became a silent key May 2, 2022. Frank was a sweetheart of a guy, a fellow ham, and our friend and brother.*



**Frank O'Dell N6FOD-SK**

## President...

*(Continued from page 3)*

towards. Amateur Radio may be part of the college curriculum.

Slightly off topic but it should go out to the membership regarding the \$35 test fee the FCC has implemented. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program> to read how the ARRL intends to ease the pain of 18-year-old and younger youth looking to get licensed.

Lastly, we are up to the topic of discussion at this month's meeting. Our guest speaker will be Ruth Willet KM4LAO speaking on getting Youth on the Air. Go to QRZ dot com and look up her bio. It's interesting reading. This month's AVARC meeting will be held via Zoom on May 26, 2022, with a virtual eyeball QSO starting about 1900 and the meeting beginning at 1930. See you all there.

In closing, paraphrasing N6FOD (SK) one last time: "good night and going to bed."

## From the VEEP...

*(Continued from page 1)*

area. It takes over 650 volunteer Ham Radio operators stretched out throughout the route providing crucial communication and support for the massive amount of people participating in the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race.

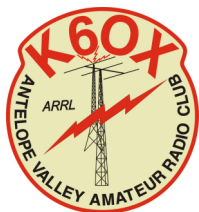
Several members of our club annually participate in Baker To Vegas, and Margie Hoffman is the lead in charge of organizing all those Ham Radio volunteers. This would be my first time participating in the race so I had no idea what to expect. I was staged at check point 15 in Pahrump, which is towards the end of the race, so most of Saturday I had nothing to do. The first runner didn't show up until late in the afternoon but, once the runners arrived, it was nonstop work. My main job was to record the exact time the runners arrived at our check point. Some other members were positioned one mile out so each team would have an early warning when their runner was approaching. Adrienne & Dan Sherwood had a PA

speaker system set up to notify the support staff and to announce any updates or news so the teams could get their runner ready for the handoff at the check point.

At one point in the race, I stood up to stretch my legs and I could not believe there were hundreds of people standing behind me at the check point. At about 4am Sunday morning, the last runner of more than 250 teams, arrived at our check point. At that point I was physically exhausted and just wanted to sleep but, of course, we needed to start to break down the camp and check point.

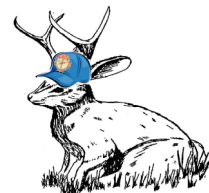
All in all, it was definitely an interesting & knowledgeable experience. I think I learned quite a bit about the race and if I would do it again, I know what I would personally change to make things a bit easier for myself. I would recommend any Ham Radio operator who has the time & energy to volunteer in Baker To Vegas to do so. It is definitely a rewarding experience.





### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2022 Officers

<b>President</b>	George Becker	KC6UVM	478-0818
<b>Vice President</b>	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
<b>Secretary</b>	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>			
<b>Board Member</b>	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
<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  
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