

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2022

President's Corner

George Becker KC6UVM

Field Day, June 2022 highly anticipated, come and gone. Now what? Plan for next year, right? Whoa, stop, just hold on and wait a minute here! Take a deep breath and relax. Got everything home, safe and unpacked? Now, give yourself a pat on the back. You survived another Field Day. Maybe the club should sell t-shirts with the statement "I survived Field Day"?

In our younger years, we could put up large antenna arrays/towers and stay up all night. Not so anymore? A few columns ago, there was a discussion about getting younger people into our "hobby." Without the younger folks participating or all that interested, it kind of got harder to get one of those trailer mounted towers/antenna arrays up. So, we down sized, left the towers at home and made dipoles using quick assembled masts to quickly and safely get our antennas up. The hardest part was throwing a tennis ball with a string over the branch. Brings back repressed memories of refueling ships at sea while a deck hand in the US Navy.

So, you got the car (or truck) packed with all your gear and ready for Field Day? Did you remember everything that was needed for the weekend? Did you think of your personal needs? Food and medicines? What goes in must go out. Hi, hi. Without your meds, you might be of no use to anyone. Your plan is to leave early Friday morning and coming back late Sunday afternoon? That's up to about a half dozen meals. Going out of town to the mountains and away from civilization? Are you camping at a campground or are you getting away from it all? Campgrounds may have some sort of civilization such as electricity. Over twenty years of having to sleep with a CPAP machine makes it difficult to go camping off grid w/o bringing big batteries, a generator and long

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 28, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Quartz Hill Library, 5040 West Avenue M-2. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions. Eyeball QSO starts at 7 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and on the Zoom online video app. Current members should have received the meeting invitation link via the email announcement of the July 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 presentation will feature our own **Mark Johnson W6WML**, who will be talking about radio controlled airplanes. This is a very popular hobby among many hams, and should be very enjoyable for all. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for our first in person meeting in many months. See you there!



Radio controlled aircraft on display at QuartzFest

From the VEEP

Andy Gippetti W2AJG

FIELD DAY 2022

This year the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club celebrated the 2022 ARRL Field Day event at the Rawley Duntley Park in Lancaster, CA on June 25th. The club had several different stations including the GOTA (meet & education)



station, QRP (low power) station, CW station, FT-8 (digital) station, Microwave (demonstration) station, and two full 100-watt HF transceiver stations. All ran on



battery power & solar for the duration.

The members of the club started to arrive Friday, the day before, to start setting up antennas, stations & overnight RVs. On Saturday the day began with a memorial to our member, Frank N6FOD, who recently became a silent key. During the

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC/K6OX
General Meeting via zoom
June 23, 2022 19:00 hrs

Those Present:

President George Becker
 KC6UVM Treasurer David Haberman
 AK6DH
 Secretary Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO Board
 Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS
 Board Member Larry Mock KI6BKPEX
 Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO
 Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood
 WA6YQO

Presenters Jeff White with Radio Miami
 International (WRMI) and Kate
 Neiswender ESQ with Shortwaves For
 Freedom.

Others Present: Brian N6CVO
 Matt K6MES Gloria KE6TZB Jim
 W6JWC

The Presentation:

Jeff White is the General Manager of Radio Miami International which provides short wave radio broadcasting to other parts of the world. This includes programs from the Voice Of America to send news to places like Russia and Ukraine that have little to no access to news that is not controlled by the government. In fact to this day, 'Flashpoint Ukraine' is still broadcast daily. Go to Jeff's website and see the schedule there. <http://www.wrmi.net/>. Using two antennas at 44 degree azimuth, their signal goes up the East Coast of the U.S and Canada then across the Atlantic. The center of the beam goes through London and through Europe and the Middle East. They are able to reach Eastern Europe and Ukraine really well, but as they get further North into Russia it is not the best but it is better than nothing at all. Programs that are re-broadcast include musical programs, dx programs from other countries including Russia, religious

programs and so much more. Check out their website for the schedules of different programs. There is even a program called 'CQ Calling' which is directed at amateur radio operators. Neat stuff. Here is the link for a list of the programming; <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Hra1coQGQAKDzn8QGeAqPuXbvFsn7umGzESGJQUx5k/edit#gid=0>.

Radio Miami International (WRMI) started out in Miami Florida with one 50 Kw transmitter and one antenna beaming into Latin America. They got the opportunity to move to a larger station with better equipment that was being run by WYFR family radio in Okeechobee Florida almost nine years ago. It is interesting to know that WRMI re-broadcasts programs primarily in English and Spanish to Cuba and Latin America but they also re-broadcast programs from Radio Prague, Slovakia, Argentina, Japan, and others. For many years they have also been re-broadcasting Radio Ukraine up until the Russian invasion. Here comes Kate Neiswender with 'Shortwaves For Freedom' and the idea took root. At the writing of these minutes Jeff is still doing that and much more, not only programs from Voice Of America but also Russian programming from Radio Svoboda. Even though the money from the fundraiser ran out in mid June Jeff is still broadcasting Shortwaves For Freedom because "It's the right thing to do." He did also state that he will continue to as long as he can afford to do so. He has gotten feedback from folks in Ukraine and even Belarus thanking him for his broadcasts.

Radio Miami International, WRMI, does not just do re-broadcasting. They also produce their own programming such as Viva Miami which does interviews and local events. They are there in their community covering

Kate Neiswender who started the fundra-

izer 'Shortwaves For Freedom' has been an Attorney for more than 35 years but she began her career in Radio with Voice Of America and maintains close ties with them to this day. She and another radio person that shall remain anonymous began the fundraiser campaign called 'Shortwaves For Freedom.' It successfully gathered enough funds to keep 'Shortwaves For Freedom' going through Jeff's radio station for a short time until the campaign reached the deadline. It should be noted that as far as Kate knows this was the first time any kind of crowdfunding was used to fund shortwave radio during a wartime conflict. These shortwave broadcasts remain non-partisan and tell the news and information as sent to them from the source. In fact Voice of America and Radio Free Europe are mandated by congress to be free and fair of any bias from the station. Too bad our own congress can't seem to operate with the same integrity.

WRMI, VOA, and Radio Free Europe remain the stewards of free and fair information without any government interference, not even from former President Trump. Radio Free Europe even has a Russian language broadcast called 'Radio Svoboda' <https://www.svoboda.org/>, which WRMI re-broadcasts. It is important to keep these modes of news and information going, not just for countries in conflict, and whose governments aggressively monitor and quash any information that is contrary to their regime's agenda. That does include here in the U.S.

Shortwave radio is the unsung hero of many conflicts over the years, and although many say that shortwave or 'swl' is on its way out nothing could be further from the truth. Shortwave radio has been, and still is, one of THE most efficient ways to broadcast news and events to areas where news is

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Secretary's Desk...

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heavily censored, or banned completely. As long as there is a radio, folks can get real time information in just about any language. No, we should not write off swl just yet, in fact we should do our part to keep it going, right along with our amateur radio.

When Vladimir Putin threw out all the foreign journalists the British immediately, like the moment they were kicked out of Russia, launched their shortwave broadcasts into Russia. The U.S not so much as swl was considered very old technology and therefore not useful. Again, nothing could be further from the truth. Shortwave helped get news and information out during the 80's to get through the Iron Curtain, and is still used in the African Continent, and has proven significantly useful today during this Ukraine conflict. The fundraiser campaign expired but WRMI is still taking donations. PayPal took quite a chunk of the funds so by directly sending to the radio station at least this way the funds will 100% go to broadcasting.

If you would like to donate send checks to: WRMI and write 'SFF' on the memo line. Send them to: WRMI

10400 NW 240th Street

Okeechobee, FL 34972 USA

Voice Of America website is here; <https://www.voanews.com/> and Radio Free Europe at; <https://www.rferl.org/>.

If you would like to view the recording of this send email to officers@k6ox.club. This was a fascinating presentation and far more information than can fit into newsletter.

Club Business:

Meeting was called to order by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:35

hrs.

A Motion was made to approve the previous General meeting minutes by Mike K6YQO and seconded by Loretta AJ6HO. Motion was approved by all present and motion carries.

Treasurer's Report**David Haberman AK6DH**

Checking account: <As stated>

June Deposits: <As stated>

June Expenses: <As stated>

Cash on hand: <As stated>

Total: <As stated>

Total Members: 54 which includes 13 life members

% ARRL members: 96%

Old Business:

Our next club meeting will be at the Quartz Hill Library at 5040 West Ave. M -2. Eyeball QSOs at 19:00 hrs meeting starts at 19:30. It will be super neat to see everyone in person once again.

New Business:

Field Day is in two days and we hope to see a bunch of folks there. We could use help setting up on Friday June 24 at the Rawley Duntley Park around noon. Larry KI6BKP is getting chicken and fixings, and Adrienne WA6YEO is making her famous sourdough pancakes Sunday morning. Dan W6DAS, Adrienne WA6YEO, and George KC6UVM will be at the park Friday and Saturday. We will be clearing out Sunday morning. Tom K6HLH is bringing a canopy with memory sticks full of pictures for Frank's memorial.

George KC6UVM is supplying plates and napkins, Larry KI6BKP is getting Chicken, and whatever side dishes anyone wants to bring. Adrienne is making her famous sourdough pancakes.

Future Presentations: Vice President Andrew Gippetti

See Board meeting minutes below.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due by July 17.

The next general meeting is July 28 at the Quartz Hill Library starting at 19:00 hrs for eyeball QSOs and 19:30 is when the meeting begins.

The next board meeting is July 11 via Zoom at 19:00 hrs.

A motion was made to close the meeting by Loretta AJ6HO and seconded by Adrienne WA6YEO. Motion was approved by all and motion carries, and the meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.

AVARC/K6OX**Board Meeting via zoom
July 11, 2022 19:00 hrs****Those Present:**

President George Becker KC6UVM Trustee
Keith Hoyt K6GXO

Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH Secretary
Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Ex Officio Mike Beckers K6YQO Mark
W6WML

Meeting called to order by President George Becker KC6UVM at 19:02.

Motion to approve minutes from the previous board meeting was made by Loretta AJ6HO and seconded by Mike K6YQO and approved by all. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report**David Haberman AK6DH**

No changes from previous club meeting minutes.

Old Business:

The discussion of Field Day was brought up but since many of our other board members were not present we tabled this discussion for now. Some of our members are experiencing

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Secretary's Desk...

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some health issues which might make any future overnight events not possible. So how shall we conduct Field Day from this point on will be discussed at a later time when all of our members can have input.

This coming club meeting will be at the Quartz Hill Library Thursday July 28. Eyeball QSOs at 19:00 hrs and meeting starts at 19:30 hrs. This will be a hybrid in person/zoom as yours truly recovers from knee surgery. Originally we were going to discuss schematics of the 10GHz project but that will be postponed until the knee heals well enough to carry around the equipment. So instead we are fortunate enough to have Mark W6WML to share with us his RC airplanes. This is going to be really good.

The memorial we had at the Rawley Duntley Park on Saturday's Field Day went really well. Thank you everyone who submitted photos of Frank N6FOD, and to Tom Fischer KI6CHH for bringing the set up. There were several members of the Antelope Valley College where Frank worked and they shared their stories about Frank, mostly pretty hilarious. Frank was quite a unique character, he is still very missed. A very special thank you to Dan N6SLC for officiating and also to Betsy AJ6AF for being there to continue managing the memorial.

New Business:

David AK6DH has ordered new badges and they will arrive shortly. We also briefly discussed DMR and perhaps finding a presenter to help guide us into this area of amateur radio. We will keep you posted.

Brian Basura N6CVO did very well in Acton with their GOTA station. They had a very successful interaction with the public, especially the kids who went and got their parents to come back to discuss more

about amateur radio. One of the tools that worked was a banner they used from the ARRL which includes "Public Welcome". Loretta AJ6HO will look into acquiring just such a banner to help with our GOTA station. Thank you Brian, that is very awesome.

Future Presentations: Vice President Andrew Gippetti

July 28 We will be at the Quartz Hill for a hybrid in person/zoom meeting.

August 25 The continuation of our AVARC/K6OX 10GHz project 'making contacts' is also postponed due to AJ6HO still recovering from knee surgery.

September 29 First round of elections speaker we hope to resume the presentation on the AVARC 10GHz project 'reading schematics'.

October 27 Elections speaker TBD Anchors Away swap meet and Boat Anchor night, and part two of the 10GHz project 'making contacts'.

November Thanksgiving 17 a week early and we finally may have a representative from Radio Jove for this meeting. We have Chuck Higgins with the Radio Jove Project and this will be another good one for the youth.

December Christmas 16 Once again a week early and on Friday. Our speaker will once again be the brilliant Diane Feinberg AI6DF.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles due by July 17

Next AVARC board meeting Monday August 1.

Next AVARC Club meeting August 25 once again a hybrid in person/zoom.

Motion was made to adjourn by Loretta

A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by David Haberman AK6DH. Motion was approved by all and motion carries, meeting was adjourned at 19:29 hrs.

President...

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extension cord. The first try running a CPAP on a battery/inverter was at LDRS 2008 (Large Dangerous Rocket Ship) launching amateur sized rockets at Jean Dry Lake, NV. Didn't work out well for the sleep apnea. I did bring a HT and launched an eight-pound bowling ball. Fast forward to the last Field Day. A bigger battery (60 A) only lasted half of Friday night and I just wasn't very useful for Saturday evening. Conclusion: Either get a CPAP machine with a lower current draw or bring a bigger battery. Lesson learned.

For those that use 6 meters, there is a plethora of modes in the six-meter band plan. Back in the 1970s, radio control aircraft became popular. Non ham radio, radio control aircraft operated in the 72 MHz frequency range. But, for those with a Technician ham radio license, a portion of the 6-meter ham band had room in the band plan for telemetry (TM). The hams with RC aircraft had more access time to their planes. Which brings us to the topic of our next meeting featuring Mark Johnson W6WML who will be talking about the Radio Control hobby and how it fits in with amateur radio. The meeting will be held at the Quartz Hill Public Library on Thursday July 28, 2022. Eyeball QSO starts 1900 and the meeting will begin at 1930. We will be having a hybrid Zoom meeting for those that are not ready to join us in person at the meeting. The pre-meeting dinner is going to be at the El Tereo Far West, 4061 W Ave L, Quartz Hill near the Vons Market in the Quartz Hill Towne Centre off of 40th St and Avenue L after 1700.

73,

George KC6UVM

From the VEEP...

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day the temperatures surprisingly stayed on the mild side reaching only 94 with a light wind compared to the last two years where it reached over 100 in the park.



Radio conditions on Saturday were on the poor side but improved once the sun when down. In the evening all the hungry participants relished in a potluck dinner provided by the members of the club. On Sunday morning we enjoyed Adrienne Sherwood's famous sourdough pancakes before starting to tear down the stations.



All in all, Field Day this year was a low-keyed event compared to other years due to covid but, everyone who attended had a fun time. Hopefully we will see everyone again at next year's Field Day on June 24th 2023.



Swap Shop

VINTAGE HAM EQUIPMENT

I have several pieces of Collins and Hallicrafter vintage radio equipment for sale including a complete Collins KWM2A station with 30L1 Amplifier plus a 312B-5 station control. The Hallicrafter equipment includes a HT-37 (Transmitter), HT-41 (Linear amplifier 1000 + watts) and a SX 111 (receiver). I also have several pieces of vintage test equipment including an army tube tester.

If interested in this type of vintage radio equipment please contact me at 661 816 4954, My QTH is Pearblossom, Ca.
Dalton (Dick) Postma KO6DL

Swap Shop ads will be run at no expense for AVARC members. Please include contact information. Email Adrienne WA6YEO at wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net or call her at 661-480-5227.



Memorial for Frank N6FOD

By Ron Benedetti

The final memorial for Frank O'Dell N6FOD will be done on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at the Tehachapi Loop at 10:00 a.m..

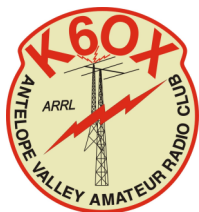
To get to the location, take the 14 north to the 58 west, get off at Keene. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp, turn right at the next stop sign and go about 3 miles the road to the marker. I hope to see you there, the parking area is limited so I would suggest car pooling.

I will be shutting down the go fund me site soon after the service, so if anyone else wants to donate please do so before.

Betsy Haslett AJ6AF did some reselrch and found the following pictures of Frank.

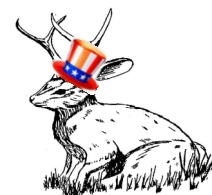


Frank O'Dell



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
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
 Post Office Box 1011
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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To ARS:



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