

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2023

## President's Corner

Andy Gippetti W2AJG



So far this year we have had record rain fall and snow in the Antelope Valley. Hoping that all this precipitation will help with the drought situation in Southern California. Once the weather starts getting warmer we should see the poppies at full bloom this year. This may be a great time to do some field deployments for radio setups as mentioned at our last meeting.

Speaking of our last meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had a great turn out even though we had rain, snow and high wind. The main topic of the meeting was Ham Brag sessions. This is where many of us Ham radio operators tell fun stories about our past, interesting radio setups and great DX contacts. There was so many stories told that night that we actually ran long and the meeting ended well after the time we usually adjourn the meeting. It was lots of fun and hope we do it again sometime.

Our next meeting will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Quartz Hill Library. This meeting will be a hybrid face to face and Zoom meeting starting with greetings at 7:00 pm and the actual meeting starting at 7:30 pm. The agenda for this meeting will be from our very own Loretta Smalls who will be talking all about her adventures learning CW and also hopefully she will give us an update on the January Ridge Rally.

Also on this day (March 23<sup>rd</sup>), we will have early access to the Quartz Hill Library for an in person face to face test session for anyone looking to upgrade their license or looking to get their first Ham Radio ticket. The testing starts at 5:30pm at the Library. See you all on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

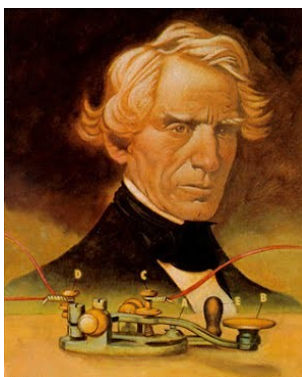
73,  
Andy W2AJG

## Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 plugins 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 our own **Loretta Smalls AJ6HO**, who will be sharing her experiences with learning Morse code. Many hams have been expressing a desire to learn this traditional method of radio communication, and it is a lot of fun to operate!

This month will also mark the first in-person testing session since 2020. The library will be open at 5:30 for testing, so if you are a GLAARG-accredited VE, or you wish to test for your first license, or upgrade, plan on joining us.



Samuel F. B. Morse

## From the VEEP

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

### Let's Learn CW

In March we will be discussing learning Morse code (CW) and how much fun it really is. I personally own three different types of keyers but my favorite, and the one I primarily use is the MFJ Iambic dual paddle keyer. I started out with a straight key, and I will always have a sentimental fondness for it since it is what I began learning on. But once I got my mitts on the Iambic that was all she wrote.

The very first method for me starting out with CW was a CD from WB6NOA Gordon West. I got my basics down with that one and on radio it was the WIAW code schedules. The schedules are posted on the ARRL website <https://www.arrl.org/wlaw-operating-schedule>. There is a 5 WPM, 7 1/2, all the way to 40 WPM. You can listen to these files either on line or on the radio. It is recommended to listen to them on the radio to get used to how it sounds, QSB, and other issues that often go along with HF. There is another highly recommended on line learning source called Morse Code Ninja <https://morsecode.ninja/>. I learned about this one from other students on the CW Academy. CW Player is another great tool <https://www.dxzone.com/dx4008/cw-player.html> I have a lot of fun with this one as well. I do highly recommend CW Academy because it puts you in a Zoom class with other learners and there is the peer pressure aspect that kind of pushes you to really learn but

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## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC K6OX

**Board Meeting March 13, 2023**

**via Zoom 19:00 hrs.**

**Those present;** President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH  
Master At Arm Thomas F Kane KN6GLI  
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS  
Ex Officio George Becker KC6UVM  
Mike K6YQO Mark W6WML

**Meeting called to order** at 19:10 P:M by President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG.

#### **Treasurer's Report;**

**David Haberman AK6DH**

Checking: <As stated>  
Expenditures: <As stated>  
Deposits: <As stated>  
Cash On Hand: <As stated>  
Membership: 55 total which includes 13 life members.  
ARRL % 82%

#### **Old Business;**

George KC6UVM has submitted the order for a dozen Polo shirts and they should be ready before the next meeting. If you want your name and call sign engraved bring your shirt back to AV Sports and Graphics <https://avsportsandgraphics.com/>, the cost depends on how many letters. It could be up to approximately \$20.

We have the library for our in person testing for March and April so we will be opening the doors at 17:30 hrs to set up for testing.

#### **New Business;**

I am still working on getting the permit for our Field Day activity at the Mountain High Resort Parking lot. In the mean time, as soon as it is allowed I will reserve the Rawley Duntley Park just in case Wrightwood does not work out for us.

A motion to reimburse George KC6UVM for his payment for many of the shirts will be tabled until the club meeting. Thank you George for the work you did on these shirts.

#### **Presentations;**

This month it will be all about learning CW. We are blessed to have some new testing candidates with us and hopefully new hams that will be intrigued enough with Morse code and encourage amateur radio interest.

In our April 27 meeting we will have Whitmer Reeve from the University of Alaska Fairbanks about the HAARP High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program <https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/>.

Our May 25 program will be with Michelle Thompson W5NYV who is not only with the San Bernardino Microwave Society, but is also part of the Open Research Institute, and chairs on the International Microwave Symposium. I would sure like to see more women get into ham radio, especially our younger women to get involved with more STEM activities. <https://www.openresearch.institute/> <https://ims-ieee.org/> <https://w6ife.com/>.

June 22 Will be all about this year's Field Day which we hope will be up in Wrightwood. The International Microwave Symposium will be June 11-16 at the San Diego Convention Center. I will be there June 12 at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel Promenade area with my dish. <https://ims-ieee.org/>

July 27 TBD and also post Field Day discussions.

August 24 TBD The 10 GHz and up contest in Aug 19-20.

September 28 TBD The 10 GHz and up contest continues Sept 16-17.

October 26 TBD

November 16 TBD a week early due to

Thanksgiving Holiday

December 15 Friday for our Christmas Party if we have a venue. If not then it will be December 14 Thursday either at the Library or via Zoom.

#### **Other Announcements;**

We will have an in person test session just before our club meeting at the Quartz Hill Library. We will open the doors at 17:30 hrs for our test takers.

The club will have a new Zoom account and the current Zoom will be a back up in case of problems.

Short Circuit articles are due March 15.

The next board meeting is April 3 19:00hrs via Zoom.

The next club meeting is April 27 at the library and another in person test session at 5:30 P:M.

A motion was made to adjourn by Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 20:01 hours.

### **General Meeting and February 23, 2023 19:30 hrs Quartz Hill Library**

Opening: Andy Gippetti W2AJG - President

7:31pm – Call to order followed by Flag salute and introductions.

Tonight's program:

Many members told about their amateur radio and other hobbies as we all did extended introductions and discussed their backgrounds and entry into the amateur hobby, and other hobbies they pursued.

Keith Hoyt discussed the recent 3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet Island.

Discussion lasted an hour and 30 minutes! Minutes from last meeting: as published in the Short Circuit.

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## From the VEEP...

*(Continued from page 1)*

yet it is so much fun. Check it out here at <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>. I made it all the way to Advanced class before Tom's accident forced me to withdraw but not to worry, if need be I can go back to Intermediate and pick up from there. I don't have a problem with that because it was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed being in a class with the other learners.

Before all of this I got a practice oscillator operated by a 9 V battery and learned the letters and numbers. I printed out the Morse code character map and then posted it next to my FT DX 1200. Tuned it to any code I could hear and then I just listened. It took a couple of months before I got the courage to respond to a CQ and my first contact was in Fredricksburg, Texas. I felt I did poorly but I kept practicing, and most things worthwhile do take practice and some effort and I am working to get to at least 20 WPM.

I really enjoy the digital modes, and SSB, but there is something special about Morse code on the radio. I am not sure what it is but when I make a contact with CW it feels much more like an accomplishment than digital or voice. I am hoping that for this year's Field Day we can have more CW contacts, and especially on the microwave bands. As of this date I have yet to make a CW contact on 10 GHz but I am certain I will soon if not sooner than Field Day. I have learned that if you do not keep up with CW skills your speed does drop significantly which mine has since Tom's accident in December. No worries though, if your skills have slipped a little bit just hit one of the CW learning websites like the ones mentioned above and rebuild your skill and confidence and get back on that radio.

I have been wanting to start up a club CW net but I have been pretty busy with other things, but that is still a project I

very much want to start up with our club members. Morse code is one of those modes that really make me feel like a real radio operator, and there are many radio operators out there that ONLY do CW. I like the other modes too, and I am one that feels it will not hurt at all to be familiar with as many modes as possible. The more the better is my motto regarding radio. So do learn CW, it is not necessary to be able

to copy at 20, 30, or more WPM, most folks are comfortable at 10 to 15. Most CW operators are more than happy to slow down for us trying to make contacts, they were once learners too. Have fun with it and we shall see you on Field Day and other contests.

**Respectfully yours,**

**AJ6HO Loretta A Smalls your V.P**

## Secretary's Desk...

*(Continued from page 2)*

Any corrections: No

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit

Made by: Mike K6YQO Seconded by George KC6UVM: Approved?

Unanimous.

Checking: <As stated>

Expenditures: <As stated>

Deposits: <As stated>

Cash On Hand: <As stated>

Membership Report: - Members: # 52  
ARRL members = 82% Members present tonight: 13

Old Business:

George KC6UVM - Polo shirts. \$30 for standard shirt. Need to collect on unpaid orders.

Color - light blue likely. Motion to give Daria, (librarian), and Diana Feinberg AA6DF shirts.

Motion made by George KC6UVM, Second - Mike K6YQO Motion approved unanimously.

Adrienne wanted to know if call signs could be on them. TBD per George.

In 2020, George KC6UVM became Lancaster CERT Comms director. Net 1830, Mondays, Grass Mtn Repeater. Checkins encouraged.

Andy - Field Day site, Mountain High Resort was favorable. Need to contact Forest Service for a permit.

Loretta said Library Exams March 23 and April 27. VE's encouraged to show up

New Business:

Larry: Proposal for the Club to purchase its own Zoom account for Club and associated radio groups. Zoom pro version is \$150, including plenty of breakout rooms, attendees, etc. George Second. No Discussion: Approved unanimously. David will handle.

Upcoming programs:

March: Loretta (CW)

April: HAARP Withham Reeve

May: Michelle Thompson - Microwave

June: Field day

Board Meeting - March 13

Newsletter articles - March 15

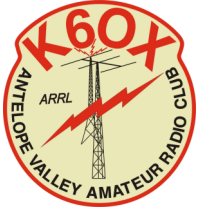
Next Meeting March 23.

50/50 Raffle drawing - not done - no tickets.

MOTION TO AJOURN: ADRIENNE,  
KEITH SECOND APPROVED  
Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Sherwood W6DAS  
(acting secretary)





**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2023 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
<b>Vice President</b>	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
<b>Secretary</b>	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Tom Kane	KN6GLI	350-7039
<b>Board Member</b>	Brian Basura	N6CVO	943-6736
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	George Becker	KC6UVM	488-6894



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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