

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2023

President's Corner

Andy Gippetti W2AJG



June 24th was the start of the ARRL Field day weekend for 2023. In years past, the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club would participate in this event at the Rawley

Duntley Park located in Lancaster. This year we wanted to go somewhere with higher altitude to help bring the temperatures down to be more bearable. With a lot of hard work from Lorretta, we were able to get permission from the Mt. High ski resort in Wrightwood to set up in their parking lot. Being at 7,000 feet would not only help with keeping the summer heat down but, also be great for radio contacts.

The Sherwood's & others wanted to have plenty of time to plan where they were going to setup and park their RV so they arrived Friday afternoon before Field Day. I also followed them up the mountain with all my radio gear and my RV. We found a nice fairly level spot along the edge of the parking lot next to big pine trees. Dan set up his vertical HF antenna and a two-meter beam. I set up my 25-foot mast in the woods and with help from Mike Beckers, we attached an end-fed long wire from the mast to the top of an abandoned sky lift support shaft. Lorretta & Tom arrived on Saturday and set up their radios & satellite equipment close to us.

Once we were all set up, we weren't about to move again so on Saturday when everyone else arrived our RVs were the center of all the activities. At my station I strictly did HF voice on my radio and made quite a bit of contacts. Margie Hoffman showed up later and helped Dan (as well others) at his station. Dan was busy making contacts using FT8, CW as well as voice. Things were going very well up until sunset when heavy winds came to our location. Eventually we were getting hit with 45 mph wind gust so we all broke down our stations and retreated into our RVs. In the morning, luckily, the only damage was to Dan's two-meter beam that did not survive the wind. On Sunday, as we started to take down our stations, Adrienne made

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 27th, is the next meeting of the AVARC on the Zoom online video app. Current members should have received the meeting invitation link via the email announcement of the previous month's 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.

Our guest speaker for the **July** meeting will be **Ed Fong WB6IQN**. He is the inventor of the DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 antenna that was featured in the February 2003 and March 2007 QST. His most recent antenna was the TBJ-1 – a triband base antenna that was published in March 2017 QST.

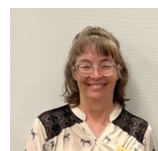
Ed will give a history on how these antennas were developed and the theory on how and why they work so well. There is no "black magic" to antennas. He will explain in a non-mathematical manner to convince you for overall performance and simplicity his approach is one of the most practical.



Ed Fong WB6IQN

From the VEEP

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO



HELP WANTED

How can we get more folks interested in participating in club activities? It seems to me less and less people are interested in being involved with club events such as Field Day or even to be Net Control Operator. They show up for the meetings and socialize at various venues but no participation efforts. We need to get out there and resume the activities we did before. Let's start by planning some Fox Hunts, or even a mock Field Day to help prepare for the next one, especially get more folks interested in helping out at the GOTA station. That station could really use a good team to run it on Field Day. Or even just a training day to get folks started on CW or digital? Our Field Day GOTA station could have operators doing all different things if we just had the operators there to help out. Young folks could see that amateur radio is more than just talking into a mic.

What is the GOTA station? This is where licensed and unlicensed folks can actually get on the radio and make contacts. This is especially great for the kids to get them interested in the hobby. I know that most kids nowadays are more interested in their cell phones but there are plenty of things hams can do with their cell phones that include the use of laptops and HTs. Projects such as Ribbit (aka Rattlegram) that use cell phone messages sent to another cell phone via HT. There are lots of fun ways to get kids, and young adults intrigued

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From the Secretary's Desk



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX

General Meeting June 22, 2023
Quartz Hill Library 19:00 hrs

First off we have corrections to the previous minutes and they are as follows;

Our July meeting is via zoom on July 27 NOT June 22. Also Margie KG6TBR was listed as one of those present and she was actually not there that night. Sorry about that folks.

Those who were present tonight were;

President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG
Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH
Master At Arms Thomas Kane KN6GLI
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO

Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO Ex Officio
George Becker KC6UVM

Guest Speaker Mike Crownover AB5EB

Others Present:

Margie KB6TBR Ken Walker Allen
KJ6ZYQ John K7XE Mike K6QO
Mark W6WML/AE

Monroe NS6W John KN6WQN Marc
KN6WYJ Bob KK6DTP Tanner
KN6OAB

George KM6HNN Larry KI6BKP
Darik KN6ZCY Betsy AJ6AF Rodney
KK6GOS

We did have some technical issues with Zoom but eventually things got going.

Meeting was called to order by President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG at 19:35 hrs. and Zoom was on track shortly after that.

The Presentation:

Mike Crownover, AB5EB on Page 5.

Motion was made to approve the previous minutes as amended by Mike Beckers

K6YQO and Seconded by Mark Johnston W6WML. All approved and motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

David Haberman AK6DH

Checking account <as stated>

Deposits: <as stated>

Expenditures: <as stated>

Cash on hand: <as stated>

Total: <as stated>

Life Members: 13

Total Paid Members: 47

Total Membership: 60

ARRL Membership 82%

Old Business:

Field Day is this weekend and we will be up in Wrightwood at the Mountain High North Resort parking lot. A couple of us will be there Friday to get set up ahead of time before official Field Day start time on Saturday, June 24, at 11:00 A.M.

We have our K6A call sign for the GOTA station and we will be using N3FJP logging software.

Our December 15 holiday meeting will be at the Lancaster Elks Lodge thank you George KC6UVM for setting this up for us.

New Business:

Due to not being able to get the room at the library for our July meeting it will be strictly via Zoom but we do have it for August.

Presentations:

See board meeting minutes.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due by July 14.

The next board meeting is via zoom 19:00 hrs on July 10.

the next club meeting is also via zoom only, 19:00 hrs eyeball QSOs and Ed Fong at 19:30.

50/50 Drawing was won by President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike K6YQO and seconded by Mark W6WML and approved by all. Motion carries and meeting was adjourned at 21:20 hrs.

Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX

Board Meeting via Zoom
July 10, 2023 19:00 hrs

Those Present:

President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG Vice
President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO
Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH Master
at Arms Thomas Kane KN6GLI
Board Member Brian Basura N6CVOEx
Officio George Becker KC6UVM

Meeting called to order at 19:00 hrs by President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG.

Old Business:

We went straight to our Field Day comments starting with whether or not we will go to Mountain High North Resort in Wrightwood next year, and although not set in stone, it sounds like we will stick with Rawley Duntley Park. The reason for this is the mountain drive was not achievable for some of our members so many of them went to the park in Acton for their field day.

The GOTA station was once again a flop but we discussed how we can do a better job starting with getting more folks to help out. The GOTA station is not a one person task, there is too much going on so more help is needed.

Dan W6DAS has the preliminary scores for Field Day but we will table that for a day

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From the VEEP...



(Continued from page 1)

with amateur radio but we need people to man the GOTA station to introduce the different ways this hobby can be not only fun but a vital tool in any disaster preparedness. The GOTA station is also a PR starting point at Field Day and there needs to be folks to help with that as well. Simply put, the GOTA station requires a team of members, not just one or two.

One thing I learned from my several dismal failures as a GOTA operator is I bring too much stuff. I try to be prepared for anything; V/UHF and an HF station, educational materials along with the canopy, chairs and tables, radios and antennas, and much more. It is a lot of work to set all this stuff up and difficult to talk to folks while trying to establish comms. I think the next time I will follow the KISS protocol and 'Keep It Simple Stupid', and just operate out of the truck with mag mounts. This worked pretty good for me during an ARES exercise where I was able to operate V/UHF and HF on 20 meters on voice and digital. If there are enough members to make up a team then yes, we can bring more stuff if there is sufficient support.

Okay, I know that not everyone is really into getting involved in radio activities but where it bites us all in the butt is when an earthquake, blackout, or some other major event happens and we are scrambling to know what to do, how to send messages, or how to even help folks get messages out of the area. In any catastrophic event communications has been key and that also means for awful events such as the Boston Marathon bombings. Hams were critical in that and other similar events. We will be vital communications liasons and we need to not only be prepared but show others that we can be professional as well as how important this is. How are we to get younger folks interested in this hobby if we ourselves are showing no motivation?

Many of our members are aging out, have different health issues, but they are still doing their best to keep this club alive. They can't do it alone, we need folks to step up and show support, help out, come up with ideas and volunteer to follow through with those ideas. What is going to happen to our club once our devoted members are gone? Is there no one to take up the banner to help keep it going? One good sign that we know we can keep this club going is more folks to do net control on Wednesday evenings, and also be able to do the Newline Report. We need to add to the club a Field Day Committee which we will discuss on the next General meeting which will give us an idea who all is interested in being active. Some folks still have jobs but most of us are retired and we do our best to schedule things around days the working people are free but it is impossible to schedule activities that benefit everyone.

Elections are coming up and it would be great to get some new faces on the roster. It would be great to hear some new voices on net control, and some new energy powering up this club. When the question arises "anyone want to volunteer as such and such" don't be afraid to raise your hand and give it a go. Share with us your ideas and skills, we all have something to bring to the table. After all, we all gave amateur radio a go, delved into a hobby that can be challenging but also fun and interesting. Why not volunteer for stuff too?

73,

Loretta AJ6HO



Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 2)

that Dan can discuss this in detail. Thank you Dan for all your work, and the N3FJP software works exceptionally well.

Treasurer's Report:

David Haberman AK6DH

Checking account <as stated>
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 Expenditures: <as stated>
 Cash on hand: <as stated>
 Total: <as stated>
 Life Members: 13
 Total Paid Members: 47
 Total Membership: 60
 ARRL Membership 82%

New Business:

V.P Loretta A Smalls proposes that for the June General Meeting before Field Day we forgo any guest speakers and just focus on Field Day activities. This gives folks a chance to ask questions, get clarification on what is expected of participants, and make sure teams are confirmed.

President Andrew Gippetti suggested that we form a Field Day Committee comprised of dedicated folks who will not only be there to help set up and tear down, but remain there for the day, especially at the GOTA station which cannot be run by just one person. We will table this for the club meeting this month. It is never too early to discuss and plan for Field Day, especially since there is a great deal of work that goes into preparing for this event.

We do have the Quartz Hill Library for August so we will set up for testing at 17:30 hrs.

Presentations:

July 27 since we do not have the library we will be just on Zoom. We moved Ed Fong with Ed's Antennas to this meeting.

August 24 we will have Brian Basura
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President...

(Continued from page 1)

her customary sourdough pancakes which everyone to enjoyed. Our final totals were 116 Phone contacts, 22 CW contacts and 36 Digital contacts. Overall, except for the wind, it turned out to be a fun Field Day and an interesting experience setting up at a different location.

Our next general meeting will be on July 27th and will be a Zoom only meeting since we could not get the library this month. The meeting start time will be at 7:30pm. We are expecting a presentation from antenna specialist Ed Fong at the meeting.

73,

Andy W2AJG



Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 3)

N6CVO to share his Ridge Rally and Nevada Sliver State Race.

September 28 Nominations begin, presentation will be on microwave activities if we don't find another speaker.

October 26 Paula Gebault N6OQQ with this year's Ridge Rally which will be Dec. 2. Our club elections also this evening.

November 16 a week early for Thanksgiving. Presentation TBD.

December 15 a week early for Christmas and it will be at the Lancaster Elks Lodge. We should make this another member brag night.

January 25 2024 will be the state of the club

address.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles due on July 14.

The next General meeting is Thursday July 27 via zoom only. No library.

The next Board Meeting is August 7 via zoom at 19:00 hrs.

There were six of us tonight.

Motion was made to adjourn by V.P Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH and approved by all. Motion carries meeting adjourned at 19:56 hrs.



Swap Shop

FREE TOWER AND ANTENNAS

Free tower and two antennas.
 Must be taken down in Lake LA and hauled off.
 Other equipment for sale.
 Call Matt Stewart, K6MES at (661) 406-7574
 Licensed amateur radio operators only.

Swap Shop ads will be run at no cost to AVARC members. For more information, contact Short Circuit editor Adrienne WA6YEO at 661-480-5227 or wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net

Presentation to AVARC by Mike Crownover AB5EB

by Loretta A. Smalls AJ6HO

What an incredible adventure for our guest speaker Mike Crownover AB5EB on Bouvet Island which is part of the Antarctic. He vividly described not just the raw beauty of this rarely seen Island but also the absolutely dangerous terrain and weather they faced. Where is Bouvet Island and who owns it? Let's begin with the fact that Bouvet Island is the most remote place on Earth. It is part of the Southernmost Atlantic and Antarctica and owned by Norway who has designated Bouvet as a Nature Preserve. You will need special permission to visit the Island from the Norwegian Government which is rarely given. The Island is treacherous, almost all of it is glacial ice, which can pose a threat to approaching craft when they calve, as well as large volcanic rocks and soil. Mariners must also watch out for icebergs when approaching the Island. Mike told us that upon approaching the first sign of icebergs they went on a 24 hour watch for these things. There is no vegetation other than Lichen.

So who lives there? No humans do that's for sure and probably a good thing since the natural inhabitants, who are Sea Lions, Fur Seals, Walrus, Penguins and various sea birds, might get a little territorial on you. Most if not all of these native inhabitants have never seen a human before and were mostly curious but if a seal bites you, as Mike put it, the expedition is over. There are no ports for any ship to dock so your ship has to anchor offshore and the team has to come in via Zodiac. The Norwegians have only one meteorological station there which has not been manned for several years so it was funny when Mike's team asked for permission, the Norwegian Government didn't really want them to go but they said " If you go will you check on our station out there and also bring back some rock samples?" OK. That was pretty funny they way Mike told it. The Norwegian weather station was clear on the other side of the Island from where their camp was set up but it was good to know it was still there.

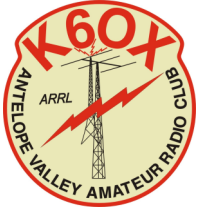
The ship they sailed to Bouvet Island was an Ocean Ketch 101 feet long, made of aluminum, and quite the impressive sailing ship. Her name is the Marama and she was loaded with about 60 large water canisters, radio gear, food supplies, medical equipment, diesel generators which were about 220 pounds each so you can imagine the tons of weight this ship had to ferry to the site. A very impressive craft to say the least, which, by the way, does have desalination capabilities. The Captain of this ship, Olivier Lehec as well as the team must be super proud of her. There is a website about this ship here; <https://maramaexpeditions.com/en/crew-marama/>. This Captain also chose to go where few others would to Bouvet Island ,which, by the way, is the most sought after DX locations and Mike and his team did it. Most wanted DXpeditions; <http://www.dxpeditons.org/most-wanted-dxcc-in-2021/> .

The camp for the radio operation was at Cape Fie (Cape Fee ay) and the tent they set up had to be battened down pretty heavily due to heavy gale force winds, often up to 100 MPH. The radios used were 2 K3 radios and what antennas they could bring which included 20 and 30 meter dipoles. They were unable to bring all the gear due to conditions but they were still able to make over 19,000 contacts using SSB, CW and FT8 in spite of those harsh conditions and of course QRM. The weather and supply issues brought and end to the DXpedition after being there for about two weeks. There were those who wanted to stay, including Mike but the majority voted to cut the trip short.

Mike Crownover was chosen for this expedition for his skills as a physician along with another Physician, as well as a skilled amateur radio operator which gives this team two such operators. Each operator though, was chosen for their specific skillset not just as a radio operator. For more on this DXpedition go here; <https://www.3y0j.no/> Of course the photos on this website pale in comparison to the photos Mike shared with us, absolutely stunning photography and of course the photos of the icebergs, glaciers, volcanic rocks and soil, and, of course, the wildlife.

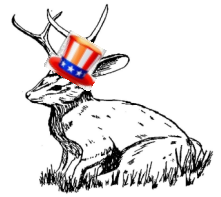
The 3YOJ team took over two months including a stop at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands for supplies. funded by those like DX Engineering, ICOM, and others for a total of \$715,000 which 50K was actually refunded back to donors. DX Engineering provided much of the antennas and other spare parts. It takes about two weeks to get from Port Stanley in teh Falkland Islands to Bouvet and from Bouvet Island to Cape Town South Africa another two weeks, weather permitting of course. This DXpedition is definitely not for the faint of heart and certainly the Norwegian Government would not allow just anyone to go there. I found a website with detailed updates from when this all started including Youtube videos; <https://dxnews.com/3y0j/>.

Mike Crownover, AB5EB and his Dad, Mike Crownover Sr. AD5A will be going to Italy this year in August for the World Radiosport Team Championship which is held every four years. <https://wrtc.info/> We certainly do wish them the best of luck in what must be a highly competitive contest.



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2023 Officers

President	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
Vice President	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	350-7039
Secretary	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
Treasurer	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
Master-At-Arms	Tom Kane	KN6GLI	350-7039
Board Member	Brian Basura	N6CVO	268-6061
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	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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