

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 2023

## President's Corner

Andy Gippetti W2AJG



Well can you believe summer is almost over? And, with the change of seasons come some changes to our club. As you may know, it has

been getting harder & harder to reserve the library for our in person monthly meetings. Several members have been asking and looking around for another venue for us to meet but it has been difficult. George Becker was able to reserve our December/holiday meeting at the Lancaster Elks Lodge and was also trying to do the same for our monthly Thursday meetings. Unfortunately, on Thursdays the Lodge was already occupied by a different club. At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of maybe changing our meeting date to Wednesday if it would help reserve a location. Luckily, Wednesday was free at the Lancaster Elks Lodge and George was able to reserve that night for us for the next three months. This will prevent us from having to go back to having our general meeting via Zoom only. Thank you, George, for your hard work in getting us a new location to meet.

**So, our next meeting will be on Wednesday September 27th, at the Lancaster Elks Lodge located at 240 East Ave K in Lancaster.** I do not know what the internet situation will be like there so the Zoom part of our meeting will be dependent on what we find.

At our next meeting Loretta Smalls will be continuing her presentation on microwaves. Also, September begins the nominations of officers for 2024. Now is the time for you to get involved & possibly run for office. That's how you can make a difference & possibly change things for the better.

73,  
Andy W2AJG

## Meeting Notice

Wednesday, September 27th, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Lancaster Elks Lodge, on 240 East Avenue K. 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 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](mailto:meeting@k6ox.club), stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the meeting invitation link. **Please note that the Internet situation is unknown at this time, so the Zoom part of the meeting will be dependent on what we find.**

This month's meeting will feature our own **Loretta Smalls AJ6HO**, who will be continuing her presentation on microwaves. We will also begin the nomination of club officers for 2024, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us.



Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

## From the VEEP

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

**From the desk that is mostly occupied by at least two Cats that won't let you see the screen or type anything unless you pet them first.**

Most of you have seen at least two of my cats during our Zoom meetings, and you all know Luna, the Calico on the background of my Zoom screen.

What is it about our radios and our computers that draw our animals to be right there, right in the middle of whatever it is we are doing? It has been many, many times that a cat has jumped onto my laptop while I am trying to do a weather report for Skywarn, or Newline Report for the Club's Wednesday evening net. A couple of times they have completely kicked me out of it. It seems that once that top opens up on the laptop, or the mic for the radio gets picked up, it's game on for our pets.

Right now, as I type this newsletter, I have one cat right in front of the monitor screen, one in the window next to her, and another one on a shelf directly above the monitor and the Calico is right behind me on the back of the chair. Is there no escape? They

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# From the Secretary's Desk



**AVARC/K6OX  
General Meeting  
August 24, 2023 hybrid zoom/in person  
Quartz Hill Library 7:00 P:M**

**Meeting was called to order** by President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG at 19:30 hours.

**Those present were;**

President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG  
Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO  
Secretary Pat Okawa KJ6CJI Master At Arms Tom Kane KN6GLI  
Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH  
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS  
Board Member Brian Basura N6CVO  
Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO  
Ex Officio George Becker KC6UVM

**Others Present;**

Mike K6YQO Mark W6WML Larry  
KI6BKP Monroe NS6W Darik  
KN6ZCI  
John K7XE Betsy AJ6AF Dale  
K0BGL George KM6HNN John  
KN6WQN Don KK6RO  
**On Zoom;** Margie KG6TBR Adrienne  
WA6YEO and Miss Minnie John  
KN6VL.

**The Presentation;**

**Meeting continues;**

**Motion was made** to approve the previous minutes by Mike K6YQO with correction and seconded by Dan W6DAS the correction being the time the last meeting closed which was posted at 19:56 but was actually supposed to be 21:56. Thank you Mike for pointing this out. All present approved the minutes as corrected and the motion passes..

**Treasurer's Report**

**David Haberman AK6DH**

Checking; <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:**

It would be nice to have a few more folks volunteer as Net Control Operators as well as more folks who can do Newline Report. The script can be downloaded from the K6OX website;

[http://www.k6ox.club/\\_pdf/NCScript2023.pdf](http://www.k6ox.club/_pdf/NCScript2023.pdf)

Newline Report can be downloaded here;  
<https://www.arnewline.org/>

Scroll down to the current Newline Report # and click on 'download' and this can be transmitted using raspberry pi, Audacity, or some other software to use with Signalink or some other soundcard.

David AK6DH will be handling any orders for Ed Fong's antennas and the radio he talked about last meeting. Once David gets the invoice he will submit the orders.

Loretta AJ6HO had a tree planted in memory of Albert Almeida N6IZ on behalf of the club. There was not enough space to put the entire club name so it was done on behalf of K6OX/AVARC.

**New Business:**

We do not have the library for September or October. We are on the hunt for a more reliable venue, hopefully one that will be a little easier to book for our future meetings .

Margie KG6TBR brought up our need to include LAACARC reports in our meetings. This is the Los Angeles Area Council on Amateur Radio Clubs of which we are a member. Margie will be submitting reports for their newsletters on our behalf. <https://laacarc.org/>.

It has become increasingly difficult to get

this library room for our meetings so we are looking for another venue. Most if not all libraries will only let you put in a couple of months at a time and then it is first come first served. George KC6UVM is trying to find out about the Lancaster Elk's Lodge, and other suggestions included City of Palmdale Parks and Recreation, Schools, or some other venue. This will not be easy and it may take some time so in the meantime we will be on Zoom if we continue to have difficulties getting the Quartz Hill Library

Dan W6DAS is working on issues with our ISP and is looking for another one. Dan will keep us updated on this and any difficulties we may have accessing the information on our page.

**Future Presentations:**

See board meeting minutes.

**Announcements:**

Short Circuit Articles are due by September 14;

The next board meeting is Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) 10:00 A:M at Foxy's unless we are not able to get in then it will be via Zoom at 19:00 hrs.

The next club meeting is Thursday, September 28 via Zoom with eyeball QSOs and 19:00 hrs and the meeting starts at 19:30.

Keith K6GXO has equipment for anyone interested.

Mike K6YQO alerted us to phishing emails disguised as emails from actual members. If in doubt send that member a separate email to confirm that was actually them sending the email and also DO NOT click on any links in that phishing email.

**Motion was made** to adjourn the meeting by Mike K6YQO and seconded by Larry KI6BKP. All present approved and motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 21:38 hours

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## Secretary's Desk...



(Continued from page 2)

### K6OX/AVARC

#### Board Meeting September 4, 2023

#### Fox's Restaurant at Fox Field 10:00 AM

#### Those Present:

President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG Vice  
President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

Board Member Brian Basura N6CVO and  
Claudia Basura KJ6CPU

Treasurer David Haberman AK6DH  
Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Ex Officio George Becker KC6UVM  
Mike K6YQO Larry KI6BKP

W6WML and Kathy Dan N6SLH and  
Happy Birthday Dan, many more to come.

**Meeting called to order** by President An-  
drew Gippetti W2AJG at 11:06

#### Treasurer's Report;

##### David Haberman AK6DH

Checking;	<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:

The Elks Lodge on Ave K is not available for our Thursday meetings so we are considering changing the club meetings to every fourth Wednesday. This means there will be no voice net on Hauser on those Wednesdays. We are also exploring other possible venues including Marie Kerr Park, the Soccer Field, the Elks Lodge in Quartz Hill, or possible High Schools including the Palmdale Aerospace Academy on Palmdale Blvd. Our main focus is on the Lancaster Elks Lodge even if we have to change the meetings to Wednesday.

We have not done in person test sessions due to lack of venue but we are working

on that as best as we can. In the mean-  
time it is still available on line.

#### New Business:

Board Member Dan Sherwood W6DAS handled our California Secretary of State filing for our Not for Profit organization. He was able to avoid a penalty with a letter of apology due to Covid putting a complete halt to all activities for at least two years. Thank you Dan for handling that for us and thank you David Haberman AK6DH for also getting us up to speed on our state filings.

Dan W6DAS has also been dealing with our club website's ISP and all the headaches that came with it to make sure our website is secured.

Our club insurance is up to date and a copy will be given to the Elks Lodge

#### Future Presentations;

September will be nominations for the next officer and board members and AJ6HO will talk about microwave activities.

October is Paula Gebault N6OQQ to discuss this year's Ridge Rally and this is also election night. We encourage members to try their hand at being a club officer or Board Member.

November 16 a week early for Thanksgiving Carol Ciliberti, a representative from NOAA to do a presentation about the Skywarn Spotter program.

December 15 a week early for Christmas and it will be at the Lancaster Elks Lodge. We should make this member brag night and also any new hams that have questions or need elmer help. We will also discuss the various types of connectors that are used in our radios and coax.

January 25 2024 will be the state of the club address.

February 22, 2024 how about QSL card

show and tell? Bring yours as well as QSL cards you received. Let's see how far we were able to reach out to other hams around the globe.

March TBD

April TBD but we will try to get a presentation together about Fox hunting.

May is dedicated to youth so we will try to get a program together for our youth.

June is all about Field Day so that will be the focus instead of a guest speaker.

#### Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due by 9/14.

The next club meeting is 9/28 and we are working on a location for in person as well as Zoom.

The next board meeting is TBD.

Test sessions can be done on line at <http://hamstudy.org/sessions>

**Motion was made** to adjourn the meeting by V.P Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO and seconded by Board Member Brian Basura N6CVO. All present approved and motion carries. Meeting adjourned at Noon.

### 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](mailto:wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net)*



## From the VEEP...



(Continued from page 1)

are staring at me too. Anyway on to my article.

Before I got into amateur radio I was very active in animal rights. I learned to document everything I did, times, dates, and incidents. Although none of this has anything to do with ham radio I use what I learned during my years doing this kind of stuff in my ham radio activities be it EMCOMM or just logging contacts. I also learned a lot about radio etiquette from my years fueling airplanes at the Airport. I am still relatively new to ham radio but everything I learned in life has allowed me to kind of slide right on in there. Funny how things just kind of fall into place like a puzzle when you go through life not really knowing your niche and then suddenly BOOM there it is. Amateur radio became my newly discovered niche in life although I still advocate for animals when I can including the rescue of the animals I have now. Could it be that when our animals hover over us while we are on the air are their way of saying “Hey glad you have this hobby but don’t forget you have to constantly acknowledge us”? Even out in my ham shack, radio is in stiff competition with the honking Goose, cackling Ravens and the screaming Peacocks. My previous life has simply blended with the one I have now and I’m fine with

that in spite of all the third party traffic.

I guess the point I am trying to make is that what we all bring to the ham radio community is everything we have learned, experienced, felt and did during our journey here. I know I have applied all those documenting skills in our EMCOMM drills which I love doing. I knew the phonetic alphabet long before I got into ham radio and try my best to behave on the radio. I did slip up bad one night at the Burbank Airport when I had to bring up a car for a private jet. It was a Lamborghini and I hated it. I figured out how to get in and start it and brought it on the ramp for the airplane but then I could not figure out how to open the door to get out. The plane was coming. It’s taxing toward the parking spot where the Marshall was waiting. I got on the radio and called for assistance and David, one of our Line Technicians came back “What’s wrong Loretta?” To which after many frustrating seconds of not being able to get out of this Lamborghini I cried out “I can’t figure out how to open this {bleep}ing door!!!” David came over and rescued me, he was way into these kinds of cars and he knew just what to do but he could not stop laughing. Yes, I was heard by ops and by the tower but fortunately, I did not get into any trouble. I was lucky there but I

heard later that EVERYONE that heard from the Ops guy that anyone that heard that exchange was laughing. I was embarrassed but still really glad I didn’t get into any trouble.

Life has been interesting and it gets more and more interesting as I get older, especially after getting into this hobby. When I passed my Extra exam I was actually quite surprised that I did but I vowed to justify this license by trying to understand what was in the material. This is a constant learning curve and I hope it stays that way. Not everything has worked out but this is, after all, about the learning. Everything I experienced has brought me here to amateur radio and I promise not to curse on the radio if I cannot open a car door. I CANNOT promise that one of my cats will not jump on the laptop and mess up my weather report or Newline Report. I cannot promise any of my animals will not be rude and be third party traffic as I am trying to talk on the radio. My rescue animals are every part of me that radio is. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding as I continue to explore radio, and I encourage all hams to also continue exploring and learning, it makes me feel pretty youthful. 73 de AJ6HO.



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## Presentation to AVARC by Brian Basura N6CVO

by Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

Our very own Brian Basura N6CVO gave an informative and very fun presentation on working public service events and also last year's Ridge Rally which was so much fun to do. Many of us are members of EMCOMM groups such as ARES, CERT, DCS, Skywarn and others, and participate in many public service events and drills throughout the year. Some public service events include the MS Walk, the Walk To End Alzheimer's, Baker to Vegas, the Acton 4th Of July Parade, L.A Marathon and so many others. Duties include but not limited to relaying information at the start of an event, a relay in the middle, and Tail End Charlie which lets everyone know when the last participant has exited the route which is very important before the public can be let on the route. We are also passing WinLink traffic during a drill, setting up remote stations, organizing volunteers be they deployed or stay at home and so much more.

We as hams perform many functions at these events, and safety is the number one goal in all of them. We, however, are NEVER law enforcement. If there is an issue we will radio in for those who are in charge of security usually Sheriffs or some other law enforcement agency. If someone collapses at our station we render any aid we can but first we must radio in for medics. Same if there is a course incursion. We do NOT try to stop them ourselves, instead we radio in for security to confront those who put race participants in jeopardy. This did actually occur at last year's Ridge Rally when a couple of off road vehicles, once out of site of one of the hams, strayed off the designated public access and entered the race field. The race officials were notified and the people were stopped and diverted.

All events, including local club events need good liaisons to plan and organize venues, volunteers, permits and everything else in between to make the event not only safe but a lot of fun. It takes dedication and it is a lot of work and it cannot be done without folks willing to volunteer to help set up, tear down and also to participate. Often a Technician license is all that is needed and experience is not required. Even friends and family members who are not licensed can still be of great help as scribes, helping keep things organized, passing out water and so much more. A lot of hams have nice go kits but if all you have is an HT that is okay for most events and mobile radios in your car also work well enough. You don't need to spend a bunch of money to volunteer for events or drills.

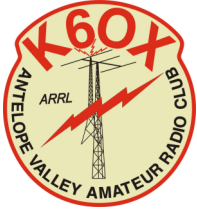
Events can be all day or even overnight so it is important to bring your own supplies. Event organizers often bring lots of water and even snacks and first aid supplies but they can only do so much. Each individual must be responsible for bringing enough water, food, batteries, and any medications you need as well as pet supplies if you bring an animal. Event organizers also have you fill out an emergency contact form and any medical issues you may have as they did for the Ridge Rally and also Baker to Vegas. You should also tell another ham that is also volunteering and knows you so that if there is an emergency, first responders do not have to look far for this information. It would be good to have a medical alert bracelet or some other form of communication such as a letter on your person that first responders can easily find. These crucial seconds and minutes can be the difference between life and death so keep these things in mind when participating in any event, short or long.

Brian also put together a very professional short video of the Ridge Rally event last year. We began with a meeting in front of the Jawbone Visitors Center where we got our T shirts and handouts. He detailed the duties of his stage which changed names with each directional change of the race course. You could hear the comms in the background as the operator at the Start line announced which car just left, the 999 sweep car, and the finish line. Most radio operators did not announce a car number unless it was out of sequence or missing. This reduced unnecessary chatter and freed the frequency for emergency or priority traffic.

One of the biggest challenges for the Ridge Rally was once it got dark it was impossible to see the car numbers. We mostly relied on keeping track of when 'Start' announced the car, and all we could do was make sure a car passed us shortly after, making sure that if 15 cars were called at the start line, we counted 15 cars that passed us by. Sometimes the cars had unique markings which helped to determine which car just went by and the rest were simply implied.

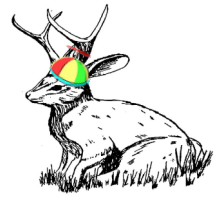
Most of all this event was so much fun, the location was not that far away, it was not overnight and it was so beautiful. The temperature was pleasant even as it got dark and for the most part we got to operate out of our vehicles. We look forward to doing this again this December. Thank you again Brian for one heck of a well put together, very nice presentation.

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**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	268-6061
<b>Board Member</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
<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  
 Post Office Box 1011  
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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**To ARS:**



Amateur Radio is a National Resource

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