# he Short Circuit

http://www.k6ox.club

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2024

## **President's Corner** Andy Gippetti W2AJG



Hello everyone, February is here and 2024 is moving right along. I want to thank our Vice President Loretta Smalls for holding down the fort

last month and doing a great job running the meeting while many of us were at QuartzFest in Quartzsite, AZ. The weather out in the desert this year was a bit challenging with heavy rain for a couple of days. But the sunny days quickly returned and temperatures were in the 70's. The registered Ham Radio Operator count at QuartzFest this year was up to 698 which matched pre covid years, and the empty desert was gridlocked with RVs and campers parked side by side. Many more presentations were held this year since there were no Covid restrictions.



Brian Basura, N6CVO, was able to launch "3" Pico balloons this year and each had successfully began communicating after launch.

Our very own Margie Hoffman, surprised everyone when she won the grand raffle prize at QuartzFest, a brand new ICOM IC-705.

Everyone had a fun week in the desert and we look forward to next year's QuartzFest, which is being held on January 19th to 25th 2025.

## **Meeting Notice**

Thursday February 22, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the VFW Hall in Ouartz Hill, 4342 West Avenue L. 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, stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the meeting invitation link.

QSL cards! Come and learn about QSL cards, what they are, and how to get started collecting these coveted items. Bring your favorite QSL cards to show off.



## From the VEEP **Loretta Smalls AJ6HO**

### **SKYWARN**

I became involved with Skywarn a few years ago simply by just checking into the Skywarn net on the Table Mountain Repeater. At that time it was run by Phil Dupree KG6ZXW who conducted the Skywarn net on both Table Mountain and also on Heaps Peak. Phil moved out of state so Skywarn was handed over do Dan KM6EKZ who actually did a presentation for us in 2021. I started helping Dan conduct the nets and eventually took the reins from Dan in 2022 and I have had it ever since. The Skywarn net is still being conducted on the Table Mountain repeater every Tuesday evening at 18:30 hrs and has moved from the Heaps Peak repeater to the Keller Peak repeater but is still every Wednesday at 18:00 hrs.

Skywarn works with other groups like ECS, CERT, ARES and others whenever there is an activation. When there is a Skywarn activation This month's meeting will be all about many of our AVARC members are also members of some or all of these other groups. During activations we maintain contact with one or more different nets going on at the same time. Most recently, this was demonstrated during the recent storm that passed through Southern California on the weekend of February 2 then again on February 4-5. We monitored three repeaters; Hauser, Table Mountain and Keller Peak. We received weather and road conditions from all around the area including Acton, Lake Los

(Continued on page 3)

◆ The Short Circuit

## From the Secretary's Desk WWW

### Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club/ K6OX

General Meeting Agenda for January 25, 2024 19:30 hrs **Quartz Hill VFW** 

Call to order by Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO at 1935

Pledge of Allegiance: Loretta

Introductions: 18 in attendance, 1 on Zoom

### STATE OF THE CLUB ADDRESS BY V.P LORETTA A SMALLS AJ6HO

Loretta gave the state of club address for our President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG as he is at Quartzfest. Keith spoke about the origins of our club call sign K6OX, from Keith "Wilky" Wilkason, W6CRE FD Committee - we need 4 people to sign (SK).

### Treasurer's Report

### **David Haberman AK6DH not** present. From Board meeting.

(Balances on file)

Life Members: 13 Total Paid Members: 22 Total Membership: 35 ARRL Membership: 82%

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

We will be holding our in person/zoom further notice, and we have resumed our Thursday night schedule. Many of our members will meet for dinner before the meeting at the West side El Toreo restaurant between 17:00 and 18:00 hrs.

Ongoing request for folks to be net control operators and Newsline Report operators for our Wednesday night nets. The net script was revised to reflect the There needs to be a schedule of some newly elected board members. sorts so that there is no guessing game as

to who is doing what. This is not profes- Future Presentations: sional and it looks bad. What can we do to get more interested in helping out? We put out a list for NCS and Newsline operators to sign up.

### **New Business:**

We are going to begin Field Day discussions starting with gathering volunteers for a Field Day Committee. If we cannot get more folks to help out, there may not be a Field Day. Last year it was up in Wrightwood which had much better wx until the winds came but it was not a good location for many of our members so we will go back to Rawley Duntley Park. We need to get a permit for Rawly Duntley park. Betsy raised the issue about using Steve Owen Park. It was concluded that Owen park is subject to us being usurped at the last minute.

up. PR person, (non-ham OK), GOTA HF operator, VHF/UHF operator, and SHF microwave. (Dan mentioned HF as well).

Bud - N1ROE may be asked to coordinate BSA participation in FD.

Are there any objections to the AVARC sharing the Zoom link with AADARC? They will share the cost and their meetings are a week before ours so there is no conflict there. Motion to share zoom link with partner club by Larry, Second Dan, Motion passed.

hybrid meetings here at the VFW until Larry - Pat is in room 127. She likes Coke Zero, (small cans), brought in.,

> Larry - Please pick up the chairs in the Next Board meeting Monday, Feb. 8 19:00 VFW after the meetings. We will be in the smaller conference room next month. VFW will retire old flags if you have them. VFW may need a record of visitors at the meetings.

## President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

February 22 is QSL card night so bring your favorite QSL cards.

March 28 Presentation about the recent Ridge Rally which was awesome and WFD results.

April 25 we have Todd Hall with NOAA penciled in.

May 23 will be all about Field Day if there is one and we hope to get Bud N1ROE to share how his JOTA was such a success.

June 27 post Field Day Discussions whether it be club activity or individual, we want to hear about your Field Day experi-

July 25 TBD - perhaps Brian N6CVO on pico balloons.

August 22 TBD

September 26 TBD

October 24 will be all about microwave activities this year.

November 21 a week early due to Thanksgiving speaker TBD

December 20 Friday a week early due to Christmas and this is our annual Christmas pot luck.

### **Announcements:**

QuartzFest this week, many of our members are there.

Next club meeting Thursday Feb 22 here at the VFW.

hrs on Zoom.

Adrienne mentioned the app Turbo Scan which does PDF scans on a cell phone.

Motion to adjourn, Mike, Mark seconded.

### Meeting adjourned at 2116.

(Continued on page 4)

◆ The Short Circuit 3 ◆

### From the VEEP ...

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(Continued from page 1)

Angeles, Big Bear and Riverside County.

When different organizations work together it shows the public that hams play a vital role in passing traffic that may help folks stay out of harm's way during a significant weather event. Tropical Storm Hilary was my first real world test of how this works, and during the February storms, I actually kept a much better log using the ICS 309 and sent this log to KO6BOB who was running the Table Mtn. net for ECS in cooperation with the other organizations like Skywarn. It is, however, important that we start practicing on simplex frequencies over repeater systems. There is a Wrightwood Disaster Net every Sunday starting at 17:30 hrs on 80 meters at 3.987.5 then onto 40 meters at 7.235.0 give or take. Sometimes 40 meters is quite busy and you may need to scroll around to find them. Then at 18:00 hrs onto the 2 meter repeater net on Table Mountain then finally on simplex. Basically, most of their Sunday disaster net is on simplex except for the main 2 meter repeater check in.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to not only start practicing our simplex communications as Wrightwood does but also to practice using those ICS forms. I know ARES is pretty good about it as well as RACES and others, but not so sure Skywarn is up to speed on Winlink and using Winlink forms via radio. I hope this changes and we can include Skywarn in our digital exercises.

Do not wait until there is an actual weather event, or earthquake, or mass blackout to ask for help with Winlink. Everyone will be busy passing traffic, handling net check ins, making sure their own homes and family are safe. There will be no time for elmering

then. We encourage anyone interested to learn Winlink and the different ways this amazing email system can pass regular traffic, Winlink check in/out forms or just general messages. There is even a Winlink local wx report form and a hurricane form. Perhaps in the near future there will be an automated link to NOAA to send these wx reports. In the meantime I just send them to Todd Hall at his Oxnard office.

To learn more about Skywarn go to https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/click on your State, then click on your county. The Spotter program is fun and you get some pretty interesting education on meteorology. We hope to have Todd Hall with NOAA out of the Oxnard forecast office back in April to pick up where he left off last year at the Elk's Lodge. What a great presentation that was. For the link for space wx go here; https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/

For the task book for the ARRL ICS training go here; https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARRL-ARES-FILLABLE-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2 1 1.pdf.

Finally, I just want to add that during our Skywarn nets we ask that you do not put yourselves in harms way to get a report. There are experienced, fully trained storm spotters that have gotten injured or worse chasing storms. Most of the reports we do get are from folks who are mobile on their way to or from work or some other appointment, or are already aware of routine flooding in their area and advise others not to travel there. For example in my neck of the Lake L.A area I know that 150th St. E washes out in three different areas but especially around 150th St. E and Ave. M. I won't even try that in my F.J and it is high off the ground and has 4WD. Folks living in the Wrightwood and Big Bear areas know which roads are more likely to close or to at least require chains. Cal Trans has road closure https://roads.dot.ca.gov/ websites:

roadscell.php a n d quickmap.dot.ca.gov/QM/maps/traffic/ mwebview.html just to name a couple. It is indeed rare for us to get anything as significant as Tropical Storm Hilary or the storms that came through early February and it does kind of catch us off our guard a little bit. That is why it is good to practice our drills and those drills should include starting our generators every couple of months, checking battery supplies and water, all that good stuff. There is a good chance of a power outage so even small things like making sure laundry is caught up before a major storm hits, loose items outside secured, all animals have food and water especially outside animals. Small things can mean a lot. Everyone stay safe and we shall see you on the net.

Sincerely,

Your V.P

Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO

## Bwap Bhop

### 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



The Short Circuit



(Continued from page 2)

### **AVARC Board Meeting** Monday, February 5th 2024 7pm on Zoom

Call to order by Andy Gippetti W2AJG at 7:05 AM/PM.

Board members present: Andy Gippetti, Dan Sherwood, Loretta Smalls, David Haberman, Mark Johnson, Mike Beckers

Treasurer's Report – David Haberman AK6DH

(Balances on file) Life Members:

Total Paid Members: 25 Total Membership: 38 ARRL Membership 90%

### Old Business:

Last meeting was at the Quartz Hill VFW Post. Loretta - they were friendly. Has open bar. Feb meeting is in the small conference room. Cons - no heat and folks were smoking nearby. we need to bring external speaker for the Zoom computer.

Thanks, Loretta, for running the mee-

Field Day discussions started? Need to get more members participating. Need people running GOTA. Need signup sheet for FD committee. Other old business from general meeting?

### New Business:

Loretta participated in winter FD. Andy mentioned it falls during QuartzFest.

Andy discussed his new Yaesu FT-891. Good HF radio. Remove Andy's drone ad from the newsletter.

Need VE's for 2/21. Acton Library 1800. Will set it up for David as session manager. David will print paper test booklets and answer sheets. Gradecam to be used.

Loretta - 2 GHz and up contest in May. Will operate from Rawley Duntley Park.

Future Presentations: - Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

Thursday, February 22nd 2024 QSL Card Night

Thursday, March 28th 2024: Ridge Rally Presentation, winter FD.

Thursday, April 25th 2024: Todd Hall -**NOAA** 

Thursday, May 23rd 2024: Field Day Discussion / Bud N1ROE - JOTA (Field Day is June 22-23)

Thursday, June 27th 2024: Post Field Day Discussions

July - Brian discussing PICO balloons.

### Announcements:

Next General Meeting Thursday, February 22nd 2024 at the Quartz Hill VFW Post (Andy will be joining meeting via Zoom)

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 4th? or 11th? 2024 Zoom 7pm

Meeting at Foxy's Feb. 19. Presidents'day -Informal.

Any other discussion?

Total AVARC members in attendance today: 9 Meeting adjourned time: 7:50 PM





(Continued from page 1)

Our general meeting this month will take place on February 22<sup>rd</sup> and be held at the VFW Hall in Quartz Hill. This meeting will be a hybrid face to face and Zoom meeting starting with greetings at 7:00 pm and the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. The agenda for this meeting will be all about QSL Cards. Bring your favorite OSL Cards and show them off.







# ..to pay your lues for 2024

◆ The Short Circuit 5 ◆

### ANTELOPE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. HOME OF THE "JACKALOPES"



## K6OX

## P. O. BOX 1011, LANCASTER, CA. 93584-1011



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

				_ DATE			
CALL		CLASS: T G	AE	ARRL:	YES	NO	LIFE
ADDRESS							
CITY, STATE, ZIP:							
PHONE: HOME							
EMAIL COPY	HARD COPY	MAILED _		(Email	copy	is pre	ferred)
EMAIL							
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _							
CALL					YES	NO	LIFE
PHONE: HOME	OFFICE			_ Cell			
EMAIL							
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PRO RATED DUES SCHEDULE	IS FOR NEW AV	ARC MEMBE					
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL		\$20.00	\$15.00			CHE	cv
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APR - MAY - JUN (NEW MEMI		\$15.00	\$11.00			- <u>\$</u>	
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OCT - NOV (NEW MEMBERS (	UNLY)	\$5.00	\$8.00 \$4.00			CAS	H
FAMILY MEMBER AVARC MEMBER BADGE		\$5.00 \$9.00/\$11	\$0.0	0.00		<u>\$</u>	
AVARC MEMBER BADGE			49.0			ı	

NOTE: NEW MEMBERS ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO THE AVARC.

NOTE: NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN DECEMBER WILL BE CHARGED A FULL MEMBERSHIP FEE.
THIS WILL COVER DUES NEXT YEAR.

NOTE: A ONE TIME SURCHARGE OF \$9.00 WILL BE ASSESSED ON ALL NEW MEMBERS FOR AVARC MEMBER BADGE. ADD \$2.00 FOR MAGNETIC PIN. AVARC 1 May 2019 FORM

◆ The Short Circuit 6 ◆



## Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2024 Officers

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President	Åndy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
Vice President	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	547-7571
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
Treasurer	David Haberman	AK6DH	917-4594
<b>Master-At-Arms</b>	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
<b>Board Member</b>	Brian Basura	N6CVO	268-6061
<b>Board Member</b>	Mike Beckers	K6YQO	805-906-9555
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	George Becker	KC6UVM	478-0818



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 potluck 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 Newsline, 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 Place Postage Here



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