

# The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 2024

## President's Corner

Andy Gippetti W2AJG



Hello everyone, our last meeting in February was definitely a fun one with all the great QSL cards that people had brought in to show and the stories that went with them. And, to top it off, we were treated to a rocket launch from Vandenberg Space Force Base which was clearly visible from the VFW parking lot.

At this year's QuartzFest I had picked up a slightly used FT-891 HF radio. It was a radio that I have always wanted because of its small compact size and full 100 watts of power. After a short learning period of how to set up the radio to my liking, I have now started to learn how to do POTA (Parks On The Air) contacts with the new radio. Watching countless videos on YouTube about POTA I set out to do my first POTA activation. Setting up all my equipment at the Sonny Bono Wildlife Refuge State Park, I had several people join me as well as a

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## Meeting Notice

**Thursday March 28**, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the VFW Hall in Quartz 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](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 give a presentation on WinLink. This is a popular topic which will be of interest to many of our members, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us.



## From the VEEP

Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

### Solar Eclipse

There is going to be a solar eclipse next month on April 8, 2024 from approximately 11:20 to It will be directly over Houston TX at around 13:30 then follow the midwest states and reach Cleveland around 15:20 or somewhere around there. California will not see a full eclipse but there will no doubt be some interesting activity on the ham radio bands that day. The best way I know to plot the path is here;

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>

To know about what activities for hams one place to start is on [Hamsci.org](https://www.hamsci.org);

<https://hamsci.org/projects> or <https://science.nasa.gov/citizen-science/ham-radio-science-citizen-investigation/> also the solar eclipse QSO party <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules> it is also listed on the Amateur Radio Contest Corral at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.html> just choose the 5 week calendar and scroll to April 8. This website also has a lot of other fun contests going on. It would be interesting to share at the

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## From the Secretary's Desk



### AVARC/K6OX

#### General meeting notes from VFW 3K February 22, 2024

We began the meeting at 19:30 hours followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions. Those present were;

President Andrew Gippetti W2AJG via Zoom, Vice President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO, Secretary Dan Sherwood W6DAS via Zoom, Master At Arms Larry Mock KI6BKP, Board Member Brian Basura N6CVO, Board Member Mike Beckers K6YQO

Short Circuit Editor Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO via Zoom and with Miss Minnie

Trustee Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Ex Officio George Becker KC6UVM via Zoom, Tom KN6GLI, Margie KG6TBR via zoom, George KM6HNN, Bob KB7ENJ, John K7XE and his friend Rich, Allan KJ6ZYQ, Monroe NS6W, John KN6WQN, Ron KB6WBO, Betsy AJ6AF via zoom.

We did not make a motion to approve previous club meeting minutes we went straight to old business. There also is no Treasurer's Report from David AK6DH so this is tabled until the board meeting.

Old Business: So far the meetings here at the VFW 3000 in Quartz Hill are going well. Due to the chili cook off we conducted our QSL card night in the conference room but it worked out very well. The test session at the Acton Library, hosted by the Acton Agua Dulce ARC went very well. Out of the 8 tested 6 got their tech licenses and one upgraded from general to extra. Very successful session and thank you to Dan W6DAS for helping get this going and David AK6DH for running it. Thank you Brian N6CVO for hosting and for all the volunteers that donated their time.

We continued discussions about this year's field day and who is interested in helping out. It does look like there is enough interest so we will go ahead and get the procedure started to reserve Rawley Duntley Park.

Help at the GOTA station includes and HF operator(s), V/UHF, perhaps SHF, a

PR person to help get the kids and other folks to sign the roster and then visit the stations. We talked about handing out acknowledgments to those who visit all stations.

We also have some interest in getting more folks to be net control for our Wednesday evening net. As soon as we have a list we will make the roster.

#### New Business:

Winter Field day was in January and it is similar to regular field day in June but on a much more informal format. Winter Field Day (WFD) is a great way for new hams to 'get their feet wet' on how contests like this work, including logging in your contacts.

San Bernardino Microwave Society is hoping to have their tune up party in June, before the ARRL Field Day. They are just looking for a place to have it so once we get this confirmed the information will be shared to any interested members.

#### Future Presentations:

March 28 will be a presentation on the ridge rally and WFD.

April 25 we have Todd Hall with NOAA out of the Oxnard forecast office to continue from last year about Skywarn and weather.

May 23 will be about field day and we have invited Bud NIROE to share his success with his scouts on JOTA. Field day is June 22 - 23. The SBMS 2.4 GHz and up contest is May 4 - 5.

June 27 post field day discussions

July 25 I will try to get Christy KB6LTY to talk to us about satellite communications.

August 22 speaker TBD and the 10 GHz and up contest is Aug. 17 - 18.

September 26 The 10 GHz and up contest resumes Sept. 21 - 22 so this presentation will be all about microwave activities for this year.

October 24 TBD

November 21 a week early due to Thanksgiving

December 20 a week early and on a Friday for our Christmas potluck.

January 23, 2025 State of the club address.

#### Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are needed by March 16

Next board meeting is March 4 via zoom at 19:00 hrs

Next club meeting is March 28 at the VFW Quartz Hill and via Zoom

Other announcements:

The HAARP notice of transmission is out. A copy of this was sent to the officers@k6ox.club. The transmissions begin Feb. 28.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mike Beckers K6YQO and seconded by Brian Basura N6CVO and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 20:56 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Loretta Smalls AJ6HO

### AVARC Board Meeting Minutes March 4, 2024 Zoom Meeting

Called to order at: 7:04PM

In Attendance: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Loretta Smalls AJ6HO, Mark W6WML, Andy Gippetti W2AJG, Mike Beckers K6YQ, David Haberman AK6DH

#### Treasurers Report

Checking account: <on file>

Deposits: <on file>(dues & badge order)

Expenditures: <on file> (Badge and refund to Victor Radilla for overpayment)

Cash on hand: <on file>

Total: <on file>

Life Members: 13 Total Paid Members: 31

Total Membership: 44 ARRL Membership 88%

#### Old Business:

Still need members to step up and be net control Wednesday nights.

QSL Card night was enjoyable.

Look into Domain Name swap. (Dan, Brian, Mike).

#### New Business:

Club will be willing to share 1/3 of Zoom expenses with SRH as well as AADARC, Depending on Sam's RC decision. Password should be changed.

Dan - fix up Club vertical antenna. (Steppir)

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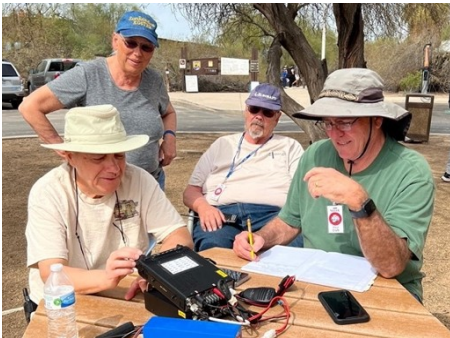
# President...

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group of school students on a field trip. Unfortunately, with everyone looking on, it turned out to be an epic failure because I did not check all the equipment beforehand. Later I found that the coax that I was using had an open braid which caused very high SWR & the radio did not like that. So much for my first attempt at POTA.

Our general meeting this month will take place on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and be held again at the VFW Hall in Quartz Hill starting at 7:30pm. I believe Loretta will be giving a demonstration on Winlink communications.

See you all there,  
Andy - W2AJG



## From the VEEP ...



*(Continued from page 1)*

next meeting in May how many of us participated and what conditions

were like. Speaking of the contest calendar there are a lot of really great contests, especially for CW including the K1USN slow speed test, there is also a medium speed test (ICWC MST) and of course the CWOPS test.

What is great about the solar eclipse is it will give us a glimpse into radio propagation and how space weather can affect it. Not long ago HAARP had a notice of transmission but I still have not really been able to capture any transmissions from them. However, when I printed out their Gakona Ionosonde I could see where the best place is to start listening. On the top of the page where it says FoF2 it displays a frequency of 9.450 and it is around there where I heard tones going between 9.500 and 9.800. Not sure if it was HAARP but it was during that time I heard these tones and at no other time since. Okay I am still learning this stuff but isn't that the beauty of ham radio? Always learning stuff.

I am looking forward to the eclipse even if here in California we are not going to see the full benefit, but on the radio we can surely hear how others are seeing this event. I am sure that soon California will see a big eclipse event soon and I think this coming April will give us a good idea of what to expect by listening to the

hams in the states that are going to get a direct eclipse. Good luck all, have fun with the contests and 73.

Humbly yours,  
AJ6HO Loretta A Smalls V.P.

## Secretary's Desk...

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Future Presentations:

Thursday, March 28th 2024: Loretta wants to do Winlink presentation.

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 Thursday, also SBMS microwave tuneup party.

July 25th 2024: Brian Basura – Pico Balloons (?)

August and September - 10 GHz contest.

October - Microwave operations.

November - Ridge Rally

TBD - Andy may do something about POTA down the road. Has a portable antenna.

Announcements:

Next General Meeting Thursday, March 28th 2024 at the Quartz Hill VFW Post

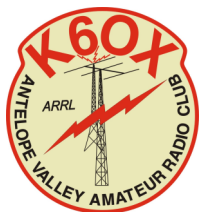
Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 8th 2024 Zoom 7pm

Total AVARC members in attendance today: 6

Meeting adjourned time: 7:45 AM/PM

**Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Sherwood W6DAS  
Secretary**





**Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2024 Officers**

<b>President</b>	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG	433-2106
<b>Vice President</b>	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO	547-7571
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	480-5227
<b>Treasurer</b>	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
<b>Trustee</b>	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
<b>Ex Officio</b>	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 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

Place  
 Postage  
 Here

**To ARS:**

