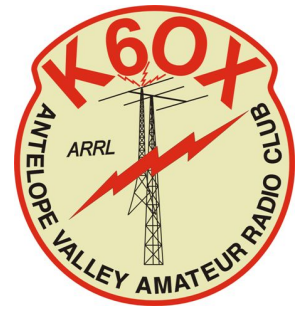


The Short Circuit



<http://www.k60x.club>

The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2025

Meeting Notice: The next AVARC meeting will be on January 23rd, 2025 at the Quartz Hill VFW post. Time 7:30PM, (setup 7:00). Location will be 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. The program will be the annual State of the Club presentation by our president, Loretta Smalls AJ6HO. Come and learn about where the club is going in the future, and what opportunities and challenges await.



From the Prez - Loretta Smalls AJ6HO:
Working Together

I have never been the President of anything before so this is pretty new for me. I started out as this club's Secretary when Pat Okawas fell ill and I learned a lot as the Secretary. Then onto being your Vice President and now President. Yikes, right? Just as with being Secretary and Vice President it will take me a couple of passes to get in my groove, but I hope to do well by you folks. One of the things I would love to see is for us to do more live demos and more radio events such as contests.

Participating in various nets, be they HF or V/UHF, is a great way to get our feet wet and to become more comfortable on the radio . There are also so many different contests for voice, digital and CW we can pick and choose from any of them.

Some contests coming up are Winter Field Day. This year it is January 25 and 26 <https://winterfieldday.org/> we can do this individually or as a club. Field Day 2025 which is the fourth full weekend in June will be June 28 and 29 <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>. The first full weekend of August is the 222 MHz and up contest Aug. 2 through 3. 10 GHz and up contest August 16 through 18 and also September 20 through 22 My favorite website to go to for contest events is <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html> . Here you can find all kinds of different contests including for CW. It is great practice toward any club events we may have later on, including, perhaps, POTA.

We just had our annual Christmas Party which almost did not happen due to a

conflict with the venue scheduling. Thanks to Bud N1ROE we got it worked out and held it on a different day and it turned out beautiful. The prizes were awesome, one of them being an Ed Fong tri band antenna for 2/440/222. There were also Anderson Powerpoles with crimper, and a set of calipers. Very nice prizes thanks to Dan W6DAS for picking those up. Thank you for everyone for bringing the great pot luck dishes, drinks, coffee and just for being there.

Together we can come up with all kinds of ideas to make this club vibrant and enticing to any new hams, and the easiest way to do that is share any presentation ideas you may have. We learn much from these presentations and even hams that have been in the hobby for many years learn as well as teach, and that is what this wonderful hobby is all about. I recently went on a hike to the Saddleback Butte State Park and took a lot of photos. It is a beautiful area and one I think can be very good for our Field Day and POTA.

I mentioned getting on some nets in the first paragraph so I just want to mention a few of them here.

On Monday evenings there are a couple of CERT nets but the one I participate in is the simplex Lake L.A Cert net at 20:10 hours.

Tuesday on the Table Mtn Repeater, I have my Skywarn net at 18:30 hrs where check ins tell us how their weather is at their QTH. Then it is off to Hauser at 1900 hours for the AADARC net. Staying on Hauser at 20:00 hrs is the ARES LAX High Desert District net.

Wednesday on the Keller Peak Repeater at 18:00 hrs for another Skywarn net.

On Sunday the Wrightwood Disaster Preparedness net on HF on 3.987.5 at 17.30 hrs followed by 7.235.0 (up or down depending on how busy that frequency is). This is followed by the 2M net on Table Mtn repeater at 18:00 hrs and usually followed by a simplex test. Also on Sunday, on the Keller Peak Repeater is the EMCOMM net at 20:00 hrs with Rick KK6CTT.

I do have a lot of projects going on and I hope to share any successes with the club. I injured myself back in October and was out of commission for a couple of months but I am getting caught up on these projects. Hope to see more members join, and to have more participants in our activities. Thank you again all for your vote of confidence in us and let's get tjos New Year started.

Humbly your President
Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO.

From the Veep - Bud Turner, N1ROE

I was the lone air traffic controller in the tower at Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine, one night back in 1994 when a vehicle called on the VHF FM frequency to cross the airfield. I was heating up some left-over pizza (I worked part-time delivering for Domino's) so instead of walking all the way across the tower to key up the desk mic, I grabbed the back-up HT from the drop charger on top of the microwave and cleared the vehicle across the runways.

When I unkeyed I heard a CW identifier followed by "this is the WZ1J repeater." Turns out one of electronic technicians (ATC maintenance) had programmed the last channel of the Motorola HT to the ham radio repeater. He must have been using the radio and forgotten to switch it back to our airfield vehicle channel.

I threw out my callsign which, at the time, was WA6NSE and started a QSO with a couple of local hams. A few minutes later the poor guy in the vehicle kindly reminded me that he was still holding short. I hurried over to the desk mic, cleared him across the airfield, and went back to chatting on the HT.

A few minutes went by when someone called me out. "Hey, I just looked up your callsign and it's not in the Callbook." I didn't have the current edition but I had managed to keep my original license in my wallet all these years. Wouldn't you know, my callsign was expired! I apologized, and returned the HT to the drop charger. The guys must have realized I was still listening because they replied with the information for the next club test session.

In my youth, I "helped" my grandfather build his Heathkit SB-101. By help, I mean I grabbed components out of the bins as he built the rig. At the same time, I was studying, practicing CW, and learning how to operate by watching my grandfather. One evening he took me to his local club meeting and announced that I would be testing for General. I was surprised when I passed because I thought I'd been learning CW at 5 WPM for the Novice test. Turns out he had been teaching me at 20 WPM. Fast-forward to my evening in the control tower and I was once again bitten by the amateur radio bug. I brushed up on the rules and went to the test session. I passed the written through General but failed the Morse code. Horribly. Turns out CW is not like riding a bike. It's a VERY perishable skill. I ended up with a No-Code Technician license, which was fine with me because I really just wanted to get back on the HT in the tower.

Later that year I made a trip to HRO in New Hampshire and bought my first radio, a Kenwood TM-241 VHF mobile rig. I think it only had 20 memory channels! I've had several radios since then. I still have a Kenwood TM-261 (which replaced the 241) but I'll never forget installing my first ham radio in my 1992 Honda Civic!

I had been using my grandfather's old Heathkit rig on and off for several years while shopping for my first HF radio. The home-brew 10m dipole was good enough to get me excited for solar cycle 25. I upgraded to General on December 17, 2022, and bought a Yaesu FTDX10 a few weeks later. That was a good Christmas!

I've been enjoying SSB phone and contacting stations across the globe using nothing but 100 watts and an end-fed half-wave antenna. It's strung across the backyard; out of sight from the HOA. My HF rig has a built-in sound card and I've dabbled in FT8. Not really my thing but I can see how others can enjoy it. My VHF/UHF rig in the shack is a Yaesu FTM-400. It's a feature packed rig that was only in my commuter car for less than a year when I replaced it with an FTM-6000. I just wasn't using all the features while driving back and forth to work, drinking coffee, and having the occasional QSO on Hauser. If you've made it this far, thanks for reading. I'm not sure what direction this monthly column will go. I'm sure there will be a little more about me and my family, but I'm hoping to make it informative as well. Check out our AVARC Facebook group and feel free to hit me up on the repeater, via email, text, or old fashioned phone call: Bud@N1ROE.com | (661) 675-6381

Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

General Meetings Minutes for December 18, 2024

Quartz Hill VFW Post - 4342 W Ave. L Quartz Hill 93536

Meeting called to order at 6:58 PM

-Pledge to the Flag -Everyone please remember to sign roll sheet

-Introduction of members present

Members present: 18

Blessing

Announcements

Holiday Potluck Dinner

AVARC club business

Is there a motion to approve the minutes as printed/or with amendments? Mike -

Spelling of "Acton"

Made by Brian / Seconded by Keith Hoyt The motion was approved by the members present. YES

Treasurer's Report - David Haberman AK6DH

<Contact officers for financial balances>

Life Members: 13

Total Paid Members: 35

Total Membership: 48

ARRL Membership 87% Not including renewals

Old Business

Thanks to Bud Turner for alerting about the holiday party conflict. Major effort to get it straightened out.

David and Andy presented check for \$200 as a donation on Dec. 12 to the VFW.

New Business:

Bud turner printed out QSL cards. We can respond to FD QSL's. 100 cards received.

Andy - Keeping liaison with the VFW through the next year. 2025 schedule will depend on VFW Board action. Good relations with VFW is important to the Club. Betsy - schedule the party a year ahead.

Bud - Utilize Facebook pages, (Club and Group) in lieu of spending money on a dedicated web site.

Loretta - Consider Field Day at Saddleback Butte Park.

Andy - Patronize VFW taco night. Change meetings to Tuesdays to patronize the VFW.

Andy - Several members out at Quartzfest in January.

Andy presented Loretta a certificate for her service as VP - above and beyond.

Thursday, January 23, 2025 - State of the Club Report.

Thursday, February 27, 2025, Loretta Smalls - live Microwave demonstration.

Thursday, March 27, 2025 - Todd Hall, (Advanced Sky-warn). Start 6:30.

April - Demo on SMA connector installation technique.

May - Dedicated to Field Day. Saddleback park or Jed's place - TBD.

June - Field day.

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles for December 2024 - Needed by: 1/13



General Meeting Minutes, (cont): June - Field day.

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles for December 2024 - Needed by: 1/13

Next Board Meeting: Monday, January 6th 7:00 pm Zoom

Next Club Meeting: January 23rd.

Any other discussion? Bud Turner - Social Media Accounts. Good idea to develop these by setting up social media accounts.

Facebook and Instagram.

Motion to Adjourned by Betsy / Seconded by David Haberman

Meeting adjourned time: 7:29

Minutes for the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

Board Meeting January 6, 2025 via Zoom 1900 hrs.

meeting called to order at by President Loretta A Smalls AJ6HO. 7:05PM

Board Members Present: Loretta Smalls, Dan Sherwood, David Haberman, Andy

Gippetti, Bud N1ROE, Brian Basura, Mark Johnson, Mike Beckers

Loretta: AVARC.K6OX@gmail.com is the Club GMAIL account.

Treasurer's Report by David Haberman AK6DH

End of 2024:

Life Members: 13

Total Paid Members: 35

Total Membership: 48

ARRL Membership 87%

20 renewals for 2025

Old Business:

Further discussion about ending web hosting in favor of more affordable social media and Google docs for our newsletter.

Mike: Motion to have Bud Turner to host the AVARC website for the next couple of years. Second: David. Approved unanimously.

Further discussion about Field Day location.

Any updates about Saddleback Butte State Park report from AJ6HO? Spoke to official about group camping. Also considering Jed's place. "Peggy" is the ranger in charge for Saddleback. Free parking on the dirt road leading into the park. She wants an email detailing the nature of the activity.

Mike spoke about the club banner. Brian suggest public welcome signs.

New Business:

Dan to change website and the net script.

David: Update signature card at the bank to add Bud and remove George.

Loretta AJ6HO will meet Bud N1ROE at the VFW on Jan 9 at 6:30PM to attend the

meeting and share information. Shall we have our Christmas Party on the Tuesdays when they have their Taco Tuesday or shall we just leave those for our testing dates?

I will not be able to change to having our general meetings on Tuesdays due to Skywarn and ARES nets that same night. Can we just stick to Thursdays for the general meeting?

Brian: Test session Acton 2/25. Needs to be registered.

Mike: Can we participate in Big Bear.

Future Presentations Vice President Bud Turner N1ROE

January 23: State of the club address.

February 27; live demo with AJ6HO with the microwave dishes.

March 27; Todd Hall with NOAA on the advanced skywarn to start early at 18:30 hrs.

April 24; live demo on using crimping tools for sma and other connections.

May 22; All about Field Day, who will be there for set up and tear down and/or participate, need club participation on the Friday before to set up the club Stepp IR antenna.

June 26: Live demo with Dan W6DAS on Anderson Powerpoles. ??? or some other date??

Other Announcements:

Newsletter due by January 13.

Next board meeting February 3, 7 PM via Zoom.

Next general meeting January 23 at the VFW.

Other Discussions:

Motion to adjourn made by Bud and seconded by Brian Meeting adjourned at.20:12

Acton Agua Dulce Amateur Radio Club
KK6MTQ



Amateur Radio Technician License Class

The Acton Agua Dulce Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a Technician license class beginning Thursday, January 21st, at the Acton Library on Crown Valley Rd. If you have ever been interested in Amateur Radio this is a great opportunity to find out more and earn your Technician License. In only a few weeks you will be prepared to take your exam with confidence and our club members will help you every step of the way. In previous classes we have a 100% passing rate!

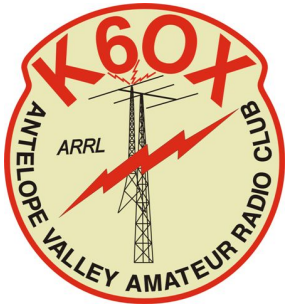
To learn more about Amateur Radio, check out our website at www.aadarc.org or scan the QR code to the right.



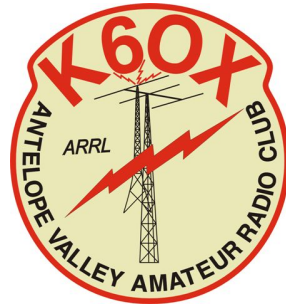
For information on the class, look for the link at the bottom of the home page.

Respectfully Submitted: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Secretary

Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2025 Officers



President	Loretta Smalls	AJ6HO
Vice President	Bud Turner	N1ROE
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS
Treasurer	David Haberman	AK6DH
Master-At-Arms	John Tookey	KN6WQN
Board Member	Brian Basura	N6CVO
Board Member	Mike Beckers	K6YQO
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO
Ex Officio	Andy Gippetti	W2AJG



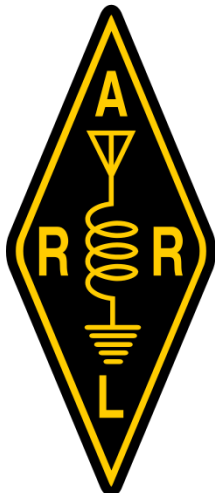
AVARC board meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend, although they should let the president or another officer know that they are planning to attend as meeting times and locations are highly variable.

The club net is on Wednesdays at 8:00, on the Hauser repeater (146.73 MHz PL100). The net includes Amateur Radio Newline, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 Post Office Box 1011
 Lancaster, CA 93581-1011

Place
 Stamp
 Here

To ARS:



Amateur Radio is a National Resource

FIRST CLASS