

The Short Circuit

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The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2006

President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

I have always been interested in electronics. Even at an early age I recall using books such as Cub Scout manuals as a guide for simple door bell and other electro-magnetic projects.

In elementary school I would frequently trade items with friends. One particular trade, made while in the fourth grade, yielded a telephone. This was a special find as at that time virtually all phones were owned and controlled by the telephone company. I remember doing research as to how I could use this newly acquired phone in my second story bedroom. Most homes at that time had only one phone and ours was located on the ground floor. Even at this age I realized that this must be a covert operation. I successfully camouflaged the wires under siding, trim, molding and other obstacles from my room to the silver phone connection box then made the necessary connections. Upon final inspection I could only see my wires for a few inches just before they disappeared into the rectangle silver phone box mounted on the side of our house. Even those wires were not readily noticeable as I had carefully ran them behind existing wires as to avoid them being seen. Everything looked good but the "acid test" had yet to be performed. I picked up the phone anddialtone! Over the next few days I would call my friends and enjoy my elevated status of having "my own"

(Continued on page 3)



UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, **February 23**, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Lancaster City Hall, 44933 N. Fern Ave. in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature a very interesting program about the activities of the West Coast Military Radio Collectors Group, MRCG, by **Dennis DuVall W7QHO**. Dennis is one of the founders and President of the MRCG and will talk and present slides of the groups activities, restoring military radios, and how to get involved in this fascinating aspect of ham radio.



Dennis W7QHO

From The Veep

Bill Feldmann N6PY

I would like to thank Keith Hoyt (K6GXO) for the great program on the Costa Rica expedition he presented at the January membership meeting. DXing is a very interesting and important part of our hobby and I hope this program will encourage some of you to get involved.

At our next meeting we'll have a program by Dennis DuVall (W7QXO) the president of the West Coast Military Radio Collectors Group, MRCG. The MRCG encourages the collecting and restoring of vintage military radios. Besides having a net every Saturday night on 3983kc at 9:00pm PST where members can exchange information, buy and sell these radios, along with doing on air testing; the MRCG hosts events such as a meet during the Spring and a vintage military field day in the Fall of each year. The spring meet is a two-day event featuring lectures on military radios, a great flea market where you can obtain many hard to find parts and military radios, and lots of good fellowship during a great BBQ dinner. Please plan to attend our February general membership meeting for this interesting program.

I really enjoy collecting, restoring, and operating vintage radios. But I especially enjoy the WW2 military ones and really get a kick out of

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

AVARC General Meeting January 26, 2006

The President called the meeting to order at 1930hrs with 47 members present. The minutes and the treasurer's report from the last meeting were voted on and accepted.

Adrienne let us know that the next test session would be the 6th of February and cost four dollars. February 1st would be special test secession at the fire station on 6th street East and Ave. M for tech only. There will be a new tech class starting on the 21st of February. The class will be for 10 weeks from 7 till 9 pm Tuesdays and cost \$20.

Keith Hoyt, K6GXO gave the night's presentation on his trip to Costa Rica to operate in a DX contest. He had a nice video of the trip and all the operators in action during the contest.

Next months speaker will be Dennis Duvall of the West Coast Military Collectors Group. He will be speaking about his group and old military radios.

Don Jackson, the treasurer, reported that we have \$1790.96 in the bank at that time. The meeting ended at about 2115hrs, (9:15pm).

Submitted by
Robert K. Holland, KG6DHQ
Secretary, AVARC 2006

AVARC Board Meeting

Date: 2 Feb 2006

Location: Keith Hoyt's Home

Board Members Present:

Eugene Humpherys, KG6SLC, Club President

Bill Feldmann, N6PY, Vice President

Don Jackson, WA6KKP, Treasurer

Bob Holland, KG6DHQ, Secretary

Gary Mork, WA6WFC, Master at Arms

Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, Trustee

The subjects discussed were Field Day, Retention, Insurance, Southwest Convention, and Taxes.

We need to get started planning for Field Day and get in contact with the City to reserve the Park. Suggestions made to help with retention were maybe a booth at the AV Fair, the AV Mall, Poppy Festival, or the Fall Festival. Suggestions are welcome. The club needs to pay our insurance so that we have proof of insurance to show the City for Field Day. Do we want to participate in the Southwest Convention in 2007? If club votes to participate we need to pay \$200. We need to check if we need to pay any taxes to retain our tax status with the State.

Submitted by
Robert Holland, KG6DHQ
Club Secretary, 2006



From the Veep...

(Continued from page 1)

working on and operating 60-year-old radios that helped us win WW2. It's hard to believe that many of the people who designed, built, and operated these radios are now gone, but their memory lives on in these old war horses that still work as well as they did in 1945. Military radio collecting has not only given me the satisfaction of getting them on the air, but studying their history is very fascinating to myself, being a history buff.

Last year Dennis (W7QHO) loaned me three books published by the US War Department just after WW2 that documented the history of the Signal Corps before and during WW2. The first book titled "The Emergency" told of the struggle to keep the Signal Corps in existence between WW1 and WW2 along with their research conducted into advanced radio systems at Fort Monmouth with very limited resources. The politically correct thinking of the time was WW1 had made war obsolete and research and development of military equipment was a waste of money, especially during a depression, so why even have a Signal Corps. But through the foresight of men like General

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

phone. It is said that "ignorance is bliss" and I was blissfully unaware in my ignorance of the "Ring Equivalency tests" routinely performed by the phone company. My ignorance of this test would be short lived as I later discovered.

One day my father met me as the school bus dropped me off in front of my house and said "Come here, I want to show you something". He then led the way to the rectangle silver telephone box. I knew I was "Busted" when I saw my wires hanging after having been disconnected by the telephone company. Needless to say, the conversation that followed is beyond the scope of this article. I recall words regarding ethics and morals but was never actually punished for this infraction. Nothing more was ever said regarding it.

A more recent experience illustrates having a knowledge of electronics can be beneficial. A few months ago an electrical contractor installed a multi-building paging system where I work. Upon initial hookup there was LOUD buzzing coming from the paging horns in one building. The workers in this building were not "Happy Campers". After some time the contractor admitted that he did not know how to fix the buzzing and had no clue where it was coming from.

I recalled numerous examples of common mode chokes removing this type of interference while reading the EMI/RFI book published by the

ARRL but up to this point had no personal experience with this specific problem. Here was an opportunity to experiment! Knowing that all torroid cores are not created equal, I consulted the EMI/RFI book for the proper core that would work at the frequencies involved. I located and removed a suitable volunteer from an old power supply, unwound all previous wiring attached to it, then wound the intercom wires (just prior to where they entered the amplifier) through the torroid making a common mode choke. Since both pages and buzzing were in the audio spectrum and not RF I could not entirely remove the buzz without affecting the quality of the paging audio. I was, however, able to greatly reduce it to a now acceptable level. The moral of this story is that one never knows when knowledge gained as an Amateur Radio operator will be of benefit to others.

Amateur Radio is, in many ways, synonymous with service. Many times our opportunities to serve occur frequently other times we are not needed as often. We are, however, and continue to be, a much needed resource to the public. We freely give of our time and talents for the benefit of all whenever disaster strikes or needs arise.

73,

Eugene K6BLLC

From the Veep...

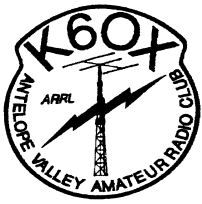
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Olmsted and General Marshal during the 1930's they still developed advanced communications systems like the SCR299 mobile communication system, the SCR-284 field radio system and the crowning jewel was the SCR-268 radar system. These pre-WW2 developed systems contributed greatly to our victory in WW2 because when war broke out we just had to put these developed systems into production and also used them as building blocks for more advanced radio systems. If the politically correct people had won in the 1930's and we went into WW2 with only the systems we had in WW1, the outcome may have been far different and more costly.

This also brings up another lesson for today. This country should never loose its leadership in technology and its pool of trained technical people. I feel the training of young ham radio operators will encourage young people to seek careers in technical field that will contribute to the future strength of our country.

73,

Bill N6PY



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2006 Officers

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