

# THE SHORT CIRCUIT

<http://www.avarc.av.org>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 2007

## President's Corner

Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

When one uses amateur radio on a regular basis it becomes second nature to routinely consider this method of communication even when other means of communicating is readily available. Here is a case in point. We had a vehicle, that we no longer used on a regular basis, fail a "test only" smog check. This was the car's second failure in two years. The previous failure resulted in a new catalytic converter having to be installed. That repair turned out to be expensive.

The testing station advised us that this time would most likely result in requiring other repairs in addition to having to again replace what may have been a defective catalytic converter. We decided to take up California on its offer to buy our vehicle to get it off the road. After a number of steps we had to deliver the vehicle to a facility from their list of authorized collection points to finalize this transaction. The nearest to us was in San Bernardino. Because of the travel distance my wife and I chose to remain in communications via amateur radio instead of using the "more

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## UNITED WE STAND

### Meeting Notice

**Thursday, November 1**, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Primrose Room of the Larry Chimbole Center in Palmdale. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month we will here from several of our contesting members who worked the California QSO Party this year. AVARC VP **Jon Clark N6NQ** will share his experiences as a new member of a top contesting team, and **Dan Sherwood WA6PZK**, **Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO**, and **Margie Hoffman KG6TBR** will also participate.

This month we will also be electing club officers for the coming year, so be sure to join us for this very important meeting!

## From The Veep

Jon Clark N6NQ

### California QSO Party

I was recently given the opportunity to participate in a serious effort to compete in the California QSO Party. I joined a team headed by Bob Selbrede, K6ZZ, to work the contest from Fossil Falls, just off Highway 395 in Inyo Country. It was a great opportunity for me as I learned a lot about contesting. The team was comprised of Bob, Rich Hansen K6VR, Jim Zimmerman N6KZ, Jay Flynn WB9AWX, Dave LaBat NT6AA, and me.

The California QSO Party is an annual contest. For those outside of California, the objective is to work as many QSOs as possible and to make a contact in each of California 58 Counties. The Counties count as multipliers, so getting as many as you can is important. For those inside the State, you also want as many contacts as you can get as well as a contact from each state and the Canadian Provinces, grouped into an additional 8 locations, so everybody has 58 multipliers to chase. This year, it ran from 9:00AM Oct 6<sup>th</sup> to 3:00PM Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. I drove up to our camp on Friday morning.

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## From the VEEP...



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The trip up to Fossil Falls was a nice two hour drive and very scenic. I had never been north of Mojave before, so the trip was a treat for me. If you have never seen Red Rock Canyon, that alone is worth the trip. Everything was really nice till we got to the last thirty miles of the trip. That's where the wind started to blow. We probably had 45 – 50 MPH gust in a nice cross wind. Now that kind of wind is no problem for my truck, but the tower trailer got a workout it probably hasn't seen in a while. So I slowed to about 45MPH and made it into camp safely.

We spent the rest of Friday's daylight in setting up the antennas and equipment for the contest start on Saturday morning. Friday night, we had a group dinner. We all had a good laugh over the making of that dinner. A key

ingredient, some frozen meatballs got left behind. A quick trip to Coso Junction yielded an interesting substitute. This caused the dish to receive a new name. You'll have to come to the November meeting to learn more about that.

After dinner, we were treated to one of the darkest skies I've seen in way too many years. The Milky Way was very bright. The Andromeda Galaxy was naked eye as were a number of the Messier star clusters. I took a pair of binoculars in anticipation. I was not disappointed.

Saturday, we had a quick breakfast and rushed to be ready for the start. At 9:00AM sharp, our first CQs hit the airwaves and we were off and running.

Thirty hours of operating later, except for an hour and half break

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## President's Corner...

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traditional" device called a cell phone. For the vehicle's final journey I conveniently clipped my handheld to the visor and we were on our way. She drove my car which is equipped with a Yeasu FT8900 and we were thus able to communicate for the duration of the excursion.

The trip went well and we enjoyed using amateur radio to talk back and forth as we traveled down the highway. After delivering the vehicle we were told that our now surrendered vehicle would be crushed within the hour. Just as we were leaving the facility we saw someone get into our now released vehicle to take it to the crushing area. Then it hit me! I had forgotten my handheld and left it clipped to the visor! By the time I had my car door open my adrenalin was already in high gear! I quickly ran to catch the vehicle and was just able to overtake it prior to it no longer being accessible on its last ride. Whew! That was a close one for me. Another moment of not remembering my handheld would have resulted in my being crushed


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Other military gear available.  
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**From the VEEP...***(Continued from page 2)*

late Saturday night , the contest was over and we where tearing down, packing and headed home.

It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot. I will share more of this with you at the **November 1st meeting**. I'll have pictures, more description of the location, the work, the fun and the good time we had.

Dan and Adrienne Sherwood, along with Margie Hoffman, Dale Snider and Ron Hammel worked the contest from Ron's Ranch near Frazier Park. Dan, Adrienne and Margie will tell about their experience as well.

73,

Jon N6NQ

**President's Corner...***(Continued from page 2)*

as well as my radio!

Now to a different topic. I enjoyed this year's Anchors Away session. This year was typical in that bargains were to be had and some equipment/items managed to change hands. Other items, however, were destined to go back into storage to await perhaps another appearance at a subsequent swap meet.

Remember that this coming meeting elections will be held. Since this is my second term as president the club bylaws stipulate someone else must take on this responsibility. If you have not previously served as an officer or board member I

encourage you to not be shy and step up to the plate and participate. It is rewarding, gives one experience and is enjoyable all at the same time. Remember, there are others that are willing to assist you as you learn what is necessary in your new position when you are elected.

If you are not considering a position for yourself give thoughtful consideration as to who would provide positive leadership and talents to a club office and present their name for nomination. Let's elect officers and board members that will allow us to enjoy our hobby for years to come.

73,

Eugene K6BLC

**SWAP SHOP**

I am assisting a local amateur who is moving out of the area by disposing of some of his amateur radio items, some of which are as follows:

8877 (3CX1500A7) transmitting tubes

3-500 transmitting tubes

130 feet of direct burial RG-8/U coax

50 feet of Tandy RG-8/U coax

100 feet 8 conductor rotator cable, heavy guage

Force 12 Model C4 tri-band yagi with 40 meter element

(Never out of the original box)

In the near future I may also have available other items including a 4 position remote coax switch by Ameritron and a Yaesu rotator.

Offers are welcome but the owner is hoping to receive 50% of the original prices. I will bring the items that have not sold to the club meeting. Call or write me if you have questions.

Keith.....K6GXO

661-533-4025

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