

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

OCTOBER 2008

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

The Big Shake Up

Recently, I've been pondering the question, "What should the club do about the "Big Shake Up." I started a search for answers by reviewing their web site and then following links and doing searches on emergency communications. I discovered a few things I didn't know.

The emergency communications world is changing. The emergency service providers are searching for more reliable emergency communications systems. They are beginning the transition to satellite based emergency backup systems. They wish to be more self reliant when their primary systems fail.

Some local agencies have already made satellite system purchases. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has made at least one purchase. Local wings of the Civil Air Patrol have made purchases. As these systems prove their value, other agencies will make purchases. Initially, they will be backup systems. Eventually, they will become the primary system. We may not have this in the Antelope Valley yet, but it is coming. These systems will become cheaper over time and at some point all agencies will have them.

For those of you who find emergency communications to be your primary reason for being involved in amateur radio, it might seem threatening. However, it really is a good thing. The more capable and self-reliant our emergency service providers become, the better job they will do for us when an emergency occurs.

At first our local agencies may not have the personnel to deploy these systems in an emergency. They may not have enough equipment to cover all their needs. There will still be opportunities to help them, but we should plan on the idea that they will spend less time

(Continued on page 2)



UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 2, at 7:30 pm, 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.

Our meeting for October will be the annual Anchors Away event in which everyone is invited to bring your items you no longer need and put them up either for sale or for a price you name with the proceeds or a portion of that to be donated to the club



From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Inspiration. How are you inspired to get things done?

I think sometimes, we all need to be inspired in order to accomplish things that we have been putting off until later. We may need a specific reason or a little push to express and act on our desires. Otherwise, they just stay as thoughts rolling about in your head about what you would like to do some time in the future.

One of the things I was looking forward to doing was to figure out how to find time to visit my friend Loyd KG6WYF and his wife Terry in Arizona and hauling my Polaris quad with me and ride in the mountains near where they live in Scottsdale. Then, I discovered that the Western Division Ham Convention was going to be held in Mesa, Arizona and lo and behold, this was just about eight miles from their house! I thought, what a great idea! That I could now combine both of my interests into one neat package and go on a trip. How exciting was this? I packed up my trailer and my quad, talked Dan, WA6PZK into letting me take my sister, Adrienne, WA6YEO with me and then called Loyd and asked him if he wanted to go to the ham convention with us. He became a ham a few years back, when I talked him into get-

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner...



(Continued from page 1)

planning and preparing with us as they become confident in their new systems.

Search for legitimacy

The availability of money will determine how fast satellite emergency communication systems are deployed. They will likely be deployed from the top down. Again, the amount of money available will determine how far down the command chain the equipment will be deployed.

Eventually, the sheriffs, fire departments and hospitals will all have such systems. It is only a matter of time.

The vacuum in this evolving situation will be at the bottom. The person on the street will still need help in communicating with the emergency service providers.

What to do? As the emergency service providers move towards a better emergency communication future, they will feel less need for our services. They will be less than enthusiastic to spend time planning and interacting with us.

This will be the natural result of the advance of technology.

Satellite based systems will be more immune to the ravages of mother nature, but it still could fail. Our satellite systems could be attack in international conflict, hopefully hat won't happen but it could. Mother Nature does reach beyond our

planet. Solar storms could take out or diminish our satellite systems. So whatever we do, we should always keep our skills and capability.

The Search for Legitimacy

What does this leave for us to do? Work with Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriffs, DCS and CERT chain to fill in the gaps in that chain? What will ARES do?

What should club members do? It's not obvious to me, what we should do? It would seem that we should focus closer to the person on the street. We enable better communication paths between the people who need help and those who can give it. Maybe we should invite our neighbors to witness our participation in a valley wide net involving all ARES and club members. This would give us some good PR with our neighbors and it would seem to be a natural continuation of the Sheriff/DCS/CERT. If the tie-in with the Sheriffs doesn't work out, we could still have a good result with our neighbors. Please join the weekly discussion on the club net and let me know your ideas.

73,

Jon N6NQ

Swap Shop

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Equipment Approximately 5 - 7 years old.
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73 K6CEV
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This is a three section, 51 foot, medium duty, self supporting, crank-up tower. It does require a concrete base to anchor the tower. It is hot-dipped, galvanized steel construction. It comes with the fixed base, with reinforced rebar to be placed into the concrete base. A detailed mechanical drawing of the tower can be viewed at: <http://www.tashtowers.com/crankup.html> Asking \$800. Bill W2WHC bcrews56@verizon.net or 661-816-9115

For Sale: HEIL Handi Mic, model HM-5 Compact Microphone. Prewired for Kenwood radios with modular RJ-15 type connector. Could be used with most other rigs, (except ICOM), if a different plug is wired on. Brand new in the box. \$65.00.


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From the VEEP...

ting his ticket so we could communicate while on rides together. He did this and is a Technician now, so was happy to attend his first convention with us. I rode with Loyd on Friday in the Tonto National Forest for about 6 hours and a 60 mile trip. The radios came in very handy as twice, I was "attacked" by a huge moth and had to call out to Loyd to check me out as the wings kept hitting me on the chin! He said all was ok, but you never know when a radio will come in handy in a big or a little emergency. I had a great time and the next day, Loyd, Adrienne and I merrily went on to the convention.

This being said, there are many ways that we can combine our ham hobby into the other interests in our lives and you just don't know where this hobby will lead you. Think about it and be creative.

73,

Margie KG6TBR



Ham Sandwich

by
Larry Bianchi AF6CF

The Ham Sandwich is a quiet corner of the Short Circuit spotlighting one or two Hams from the club and making a Ham Sandwich with their info and giving everyone an opportunity to get to know them a bit better.

This month, the Short Circuit will focus on **Shirley Hosman KB6HNF**, and we will learn of her in her own words.

Well, let's see. I entered the world, a long time ago, on November 13, 1927 in Kansas City, Kansas. Actually, they lived in Kansas City, Missouri but when the time came for Mother to go to the Hospital, their reservation at Research Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri had been cancelled due to the fact that that hospital was doing some construction work in that area. So, Mother and Dad walked several blocks, boarded a noisy, not so quiet a ride, street car, rode a mile or so away and I arrived in due time at Bell Memorial Hospital, a small hospital across the state line bordering the two states. That hospital, many years later, became the University of Kansas Hospital

My interests, growing up were the normal interests of a child growing up during the 30s at that time. Attended church with my parents at the Third Presbyterian Church in Kansas City and as a matter of fact was married in that building 21 years later.

I met Jim at his Aunt's home during the month of July in Hamilton, Missouri. He was staying there for a couple of months before reporting for training with the USN contingent at the University of Kansas. From there he went to Norman Oklahoma for preflight training. From there to Palo Alto, California for more training and on to Pensacola where he flew PBY's on sub patrol out over the coast of Florida. We corresponded during that time.

He came home to stay in October of 1945. Came up to the University of Kansas and enrolled in the Aeronautical Engineering Program and graduated in June of 1948. We started dating and it wasn't long until we both knew that the Good Lord intended us to be together. He was hired by McDonnell, Later McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in St Louis. One year later we were married at the Third Presbyterian Church on September 25, 1949.

While there, I majored in Journalism and minored in Mathematics. I worked at McDonnell

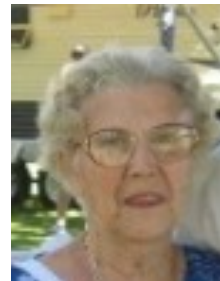
for the first five years that we were married. Then, between 1955 and 1960 family welcomed three sons, David KI6ATT, Douglas KI6RZQ and Donald whose number was N6NAI, I believe. He dropped that association because of his work schedule. Probably will pick it up later. He is finishing his studies for a para-legal degree while working and he dropped everything else but his studies.

We were in the St. Louis area from 1949 'til June of 1972 when McDonnell Aircraft moved us to Lancaster where he worked closely with Irving Burroughs on the F-15 program. Then they moved us down below where he became the McDonnell Douglas Engineer in Residence at Northrop. He retired from McDonnell in 1980 and we toured the United States for 22 months. Returning home, he was called back by Northrop and worked both at Plant 42 and at El Segundo. That required a move to the basin area, then back to Lancaster and he finally retired completely on August 31, 1990 at the age of 65.

He and I, both, got our actual start in Ham Radio in 1982 while living down below and when we moved back to Lancaster, in 1986 we both got our Technicians rating. Shortly after that he became a victim of pancreatic cancer and became a silent key on October 20, 1993. His call sign was KB6HNG. My biggest concern at the moment is to get an antenna on my roof. And get my General License. Maybe soon. Both David and I took our CERT training and plan to continue in that line.

Jim and I were married on September 25, 1949. This September 25th will be our 59th anniversary. I miss him, night and day. He told our sons to take care of their mother and they watch over me like a hawk.

Shirley, it is always a pleasure to see you at the club meetings. Your smile is a welcome sight.



Shirley Hosman KB6HNF

From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting 4 September 2008

Opening:

Jon Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed with thirty-five individuals participating.

A motion was made to accept the June Meeting Minutes as distributed at the meeting. Motion approved and minutes accepted. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds \$4,466.54.

Presentation:

Ralph Ricketson KG6WXY discussed the "Golden Guardian 2008" and "The Great Southern California Shake Out", a week of special events featuring the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history. Event culminates on 13 November with a 10:00 am drill simulating a 7.8 quake on the San Andres fault. Ralph wowed us with a model of the expected shock waves with two to three minutes of shaking. Hold on to your hats! To participate in the event, register at

www.ShakeOut.org/resister. Thank you Ralph.

Old Business:

Club Field Fun Day/ Emergency Response Day: Jon discussed several scenarios. Suggested date is Friday / Saturday, Nov 15/16 to coincide with the 'Great Southern California Shake Out'. Possible activities include participants working stations from home or working HF with individuals in the valley. Could enlist involvement from ARES. Jon asked for volunteers to take the lead to organize the event.

Training: Adrienne Sherwood (WA6YEO) suggested organizing basic training on radio programming and emergency preparedness for new hams. The main motivation for new hams to obtain their license is a desire to participate in emergency communications.

VE Session: The next test session is Saturday, 6 September. Testing officially starts at 9:00 am. Last month's test had a good success rate.

New Business:

Club elections: It is election time! Club officers will be elected at the October club meeting. Nominations were taken tonight and will be taken again in October. Speak up if you wish to throw your hat in the ring.

Current Nominees:

President: Larry Bianchi AF6GF, Jon Clark N6NQ, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Vice President: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Secretary: Carol Humpherys KI6DWE

Treasurer: Don Jackson K6GET
Master-at-Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board members: Dan Sherwood WA6PZK, Larry Bianchi AF6GF, Dan Rowlan KG6PQA

Miscellaneous:

o Keith Hoyt K6GXO has 6 DX DVDs loaned out. If you have one, please return.

o HF advice: Vertical 80 meters antennas may not be able to talk over the hill. Need a horizontal antenna, even an inverted V could work. To learn more about antennas, read *The Complete DXer* or talk to an antenna theory expert such as Al or Keith.

o DX: Keith shared a beautiful QSL card. It was a book! Keith, who is working towards his 9 Band DCC award, indicated he has worked over 100 countries on 9 bands. He is also working on the 5 Band Worked All Zones award.

Raffle: The 50/50 raffle of \$20 was won by Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

The meeting concluded at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Humpherys KI6DWE
AVARC Secretary 2008



AVARC TRUSTEE AND DXCC HONOR ROLL MEMBER OFFERS ADVICE TO NEW HAMS

Hey you newbees.....

OK, now that you have passed your no-code tech test what are you going to do with it over the next few years ? Hopefully you will do more than just push that little talk button on the side of your new handheld radio day after day.

To my way of thinking, the first thing you should be doing is trying to improve yourself, meaning your knowledge and your abilities radio-wise. Study.....upgrade to Extra Class. Develop the hands-on mentality. Experiment with things like antennas, even if it's just to receive. With an Extra Class license you can transmit anywhere on the bands that anybody else can, even an old-timer like me. And since you can go anywhere make an attempt to learn morse code. Go into the CW portion of the bands and talk with your hands for a change.

Once you learn CW you have learned a second language. How many of you are bi-lingual ? How many of you would like to be bi-lingual ? Can you learn 26 letters and a few numbers ? You bet you can !

Right now we are at a solar minimum. That means that the higher frequencies especially are not very good for DX. But in the next few years, after you have hopefully upgraded to Extra Class and

learned that second language, a whole new world of radio communications will open up to you. The sunspot cycle will be on its way up again, the higher frequencies will come alive, and you will be talking all over the world with a "peanut whistle" (QRP rig), both on phone and CW. You can do this even with a tech license.

Take the initiative ! Learn radio. Ask questions and put the old timers on the spot. Get something to receive with and listen, listen, listen. Find somebody sending code and try to copy it. When you think you have it down pat find somebody sending even faster and try to copy that. Keep pushing until you have it. Don't forget to practice your sending also.

It's no secret. I like to work DX (talking to distant stations all over the world). Even my motorcycle license plate says "DXNUT". I have always liked CW but I work phone as well. Some folks talk around the world using the newer digital modes which are also good for EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contacts. I have visited other countries and operated amateur radio from those sometimes exotic places. I operated amateur radio from the Great Wall of China. Amateur radio was my ticket to these special places.

Do you need help or advice ? In this valley, and especially in our club, there are some very knowledgeable radio amateurs. Most of them, I'm sure, are willing to help anyone who has a sincere desire to improve.

More on this subject in the future for those persons interested.

73,
Keith.....K6GXO
Trustee for Club Callsign K6OX

Swap Shop

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TEN METERS WILL
REIGN

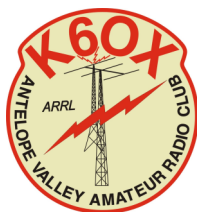
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