

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 2009

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

Elections

Last month I used this space to remind us all that the club begins its election process at the September meeting. Here's another reminder. We will collect nominations at the upcoming meeting. We will take additional nominations and have the elections at the October meeting. Again I encourage you all to consider running for Officer or Board Member. The club can always use more help. The roles to consider are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Master-At-Arms and Board Members.

Glorioso



If you are into DX or have been thinking about trying your hand at it, now would be good time to get your act together. Glorioso Island will be on-the-air from September 14th through October 5th.

This island is one of the harder QSL cards to get. It is rated as #4 on the most wanted list. The political climate has to be right and the island can only be accessed when the French military are present. The expedition team's website can be found at: <http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/index-e.htm>

Here you will find frequent news updates, log search, propagation predictions, pictures, maps, etc. Good luck on looking for this one.

If you would like to start watching activity for this expedition, I would suggest looking at the DX Summit website for FT5GA. Or my favorite way to watch the DX activity is to use a telnet client like "CC User" from VE7CC. It can be downloaded from <http://www.ve7cc.net/#download>. After installing it, read the web based manual and set it up to log into the local telnet cluster. Here's a terse quick start guide for the Antelope Valley:

- 1) Download and install from above address.
- 2) Select the Configuration/Cluster (Telnet) menu choice.

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

One of the things I planned to do as a new retiree is to make time to get things done in my life that I found that I did not have time to do while working. I have been making statements that I would like to devote more time to the AVARC and with that, become more knowledgeable in areas that I

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, September 24, 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 speaker will be **Gary Titcomb KI6RFT**, coordinator for High Desert CERT, who will speak about the advantages of taking a CERT training class in order to be prepared before a major event occurs. This is a subject that is of interest to all hams, so you won't want to miss this one. Mark your calendar and join us!



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President's Corner...



From the Veep...

(Continued from page 1)

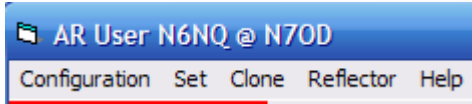
feel that will be of value to myself and to my hobby of ham radio. I have also made a list of desires, which include taking time to make improvements in those areas as well as in personal areas of interest which I just have not had the time to pursue. My list includes exercise, swimming, spending more time with the grandchildren (but not just babysitting), going to the beach occasionally, organizing my office, bedroom, garage, QSL cards, sorting videos and copying to CDs or DVDs, learning to sell stuff on eBay, taking real guitar lessons, taking a life saving class, and CERT training. It is so easy to make the list and even easier to say, "I'm going to do this or that", but I need to follow through and really get some of these items off my list after I have actually accomplished them.

I have asked for the help this month of Gary Titcomb KI6RFT. Gary is the coordinator of the High Desert CERT and will be our guest speaker for the September General meeting of the AVARC. He will be speaking on the advantages of taking a CERT training class in order to be prepared before a major event occurs.

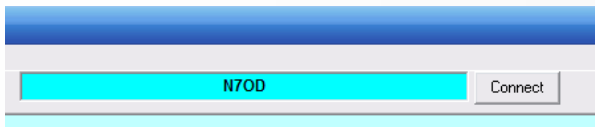
I feel this is a very timely issue as we all think about what we will do if the "big one hits" especially since the Great Southern California Shake Out will be held this year on October 15. Think about this: we all think as members of this radio club that as a club we probably think we

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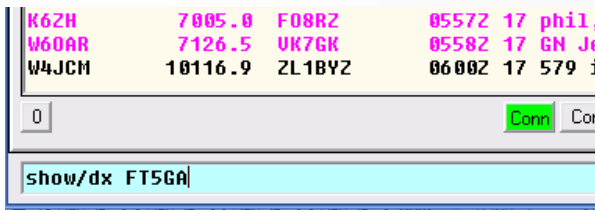


- 3) The "Select Telnet Cluster" dialog will appear. Looking in the Node List, select N7OD. This is a Telnet Cluster based in Hemet, CA.
- 4) Click the "Connect" button on the right side of the bar directly under the menu bar.
- 5)



You'll see some login activity in the upper window. You be asked to login with your call sign.

- 6) After you've connected, click in the very bottom little blue window to get a blinking cursor. Type in: "show/dx FT5GA".



The top window will fill up with all the recent DX spots for FT5GA, newest at the top. That will show you where they've been working recently. Look to the far right of each row to see the reporting or "spotting" station in brackets like this. "<PY2XB>".

18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0514Z	QSX 18143.37	FR/g <UX1UA>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0511Z	Tnx qsx 143.4	FR/g <I27BFR>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0509Z	TNX QSX 110118	FR/g <SU1AUD>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0508Z	up 5 !!!!!	FR/g <IK8HJC>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0504Z	Isn uppppp	FR/g <HA7UG>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0504Z	QSX 10117.56	FR/g <UX1UA>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0502Z	good!!!!!!!!!!!!	FR/g <SU9AHZ>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0501Z	simplex big sig	FR/g <RA6AX>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0459Z	Tnx up	FR/g <I27BFR>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0459Z	up 1 tnx	FR/g <I29ESW>
18138.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0458Z	Tnx QSO - CQ CQ no takers	!!!<Y04HEK>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0458Z	up	FR/g <RA6AX>
10115.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0457Z	up	FR/g <O21LXJ-1>
70020.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0456Z	Anyone know where are?	F <I0LCJ>
14000.1	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0321Z	Try on 20 The best time for	AS<U09VJ0>
3508.0	FT5GA	17-Sep-2009 0234Z	Glorioso Sunrise in 10 Min.	<W02N>

This info is most useful, as it tells you where the DX station was heard. Brazil in this case. If you see listings with K6??? or W6???, that means California stations are hearing the station you're interested in. It's time to turn on your radio and see what you can here.

- 7) Finally, clicking on the "DX" tab in the middle of the screen, you will see the list of current activity. In the default setup, this will show all DX spots as they occur.

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President's Corner...



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Settings	Country	State	Bands	Users	DX
Spotter	Freq	DX	Time	Date	Comments
K5AR	7147.0	XE2JA	05202	17	in QSO w/d AC6DX
K7HS	1823.0	KH7XS	05222	17	Bill +20 slight QSB
AC6DX	7147.0	XE2JA	05222	17	59+ GL & GDx
K8SMC	3795.0	DN8DM	05232	17	
OE6MBG-73	7140.0	PJ7HF	05242	17	
IW0HLZ	7140.0	PJ7HF	05252	17	TNX MARCO
UN7ECA	14020.0	EX/RU3TT/FF	05262	17	EXFF-002 UP! UP!
SU9AHZ	7140.0	PJ7HF	05262	17	Marco Tnx
K9UP	1823.0	KH7XS	05272	17	tnx qso 559 - 579 now
UN9GCF	14203.0	UN7QF	05282	17	CQ Europe_QSL via ex-land UN
DK4VF	10110.0	SU8/OK1MBZ	05302	17	op Zdenek in Thassos EU-174
SU1EPP	18138.0	FT5GA	05302	17	up10
SP8UFR	7012.7	PA/ON7PQ/P	05312	17	EU3 8 tnx
K6TA-6	3508.0	KH7XS	05392	17	
K6ZH	7005.0	F0BRZ	05572	17	phil, tahiti
W60AR	7126.5	UK7GK	05582	17	GN Jerry Tnx Qso
W4JCH	10116.9	ZL1BVZ	06002	17	579 in North West Florida, tnx

Like I said, this was quickie "Get Started Guide". Please use the info at the VE7CC website to learn more. If you can't figure something out, please feel free to call me for help.

Remember that other members of the club have also offered to help anyone that would like to learn more about DXing. Keith, K6GXO has offered members the opportunity to visit his station. He has a good HF DX station. Watching Keith work this rare one might be just the spark you need to get going in DX. Good DX!

73,

Jon N6NQ

From the VEEP...



(Continued from page 2)

are well prepared, but as individuals? I know that the truth is that when the time comes, I don't really think I will be sitting in a club meeting, but most likely will be at home. Or I could be on a trip in the mountains or in another state, or maybe on a vacation. So I need to make sure that I personally am prepared to be a part of the solution and not depend on the whole club to make something happen. I need to know that as an individual, I will have the knowledge and the information I will need to help me through whatever lies ahead as a ham radio amateur or as a citizen of my community. I hope others will feel the same. Please come to the meeting this Thursday, September 24 and listen to what Gary has to offer as he guides us through what is needed and what training is available in order to be well prepared. See you at the meeting!

73,

Margie K66TBR

PALMCASTER

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

RAY CRAMM
Manager

Office: (661) 723-1400
Fax: (661) 949-8023

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From the Secretary's Desk

AVARC General Meeting Minutes – 27 August 2009

Opening:

Jon Clark N6NQ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Flag Salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed. Thirty-four individuals participated. Presentation immediately followed.

Presentations:

Joe Perry W6DCO from California City expounded on two interesting topics:

I. A homegrown, five element, 20m, wire beam antenna:

Utilizing a software program to optimize the design, Joe started with a single driven element, added a reflector and 3 directors as the array progressed. The wires are 20 feet up supported on pairs of fiberglass poles and generate a nice frontal lobe. Antenna details are available on the web site.

II. Astronomy:

Joe delighted us with a potpourri of astronomical particulars: For example, 'where to find astronomy': local star parties are one source with the internet being another. The internet has an astronomy 'picture of the day', eclipse information details, facts about the Messier objects and information the rare solar Green Flash. Oh - Did you know you can rent time on a telescope at \$1 per minute and capture detailed photos of the sky?

Eric Goodchild KI6LPX demonstrated his impressive homemade 4 foot tall SSDC Tesla coil. The extraordinary construction pulsed with light and oscillated to the musical theme of Ghostbusters!! Way to go Eric!

Club Business:

The July 2009 meeting minutes were presented and approved. Treasurer Don Jackson K6GET presented the Treasurer's Report. Current funds are \$3,112.60.

Reminders:

- o The club Officer and Board Member nominations will begin in September with elections held at our October 'Anchors Away' event.
- o The California QSO party is the first weekend in October—and a good time to get contacts!
- o Jon Clark is addressing a plan to make club presentations available on the club web site.
- o The LA Council of clubs meets the first Tuesday of every odd month in Long Beach. Need to identify an AVARC club representative.

Raffle: Tully Becker WB6CYP won the cash raffle.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. After the meeting, many from the club gathered outside and were treated to telescopic views of Jupiter and its Galilean moons.

Respectively Submitted,
Carol Humpherys
AF6OV Secretary 2009

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE

Yaesu MD-100A8X desktop microphone (\$139.99 new) with data sheet and in new condition at \$50. Brand new Yaesu MH-31B8 dynamic microphone in original box at \$5. Call Bill Welsh W6DDB past noon at 948-8493

Your trash may be someone else's treasure! Swap Shop ads will be run in the Short Circuit at no charge to AVARC members. Your ad should include prices, and your name and a contact phone number. Ads may be submitted to the Short Circuit editor by e-mail to wa6yeo@sbcglobal.net, or by calling Adrienne at (661) 264-1863.



An Electrifying Demonstration



Eric Goodchild KI6LPX and his hand-made, 4 foot tall Tesla coil. Eric wowed the club with the coil's impressive electrical effects at the August AVARC meeting.

Protect Yourself During an Earthquake... Drop, Cover, and Hold On!

Federal, state, and local emergency management experts in the United States, the Red Cross, and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. This fact sheet contains important information that may save your life in the next earthquake.

In recent years, an e-mail has been circulating which describes an alternative to the long-established "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" advice. The so-called "triangle of life" and some of the other actions recommended in the email are potentially life threatening, and the credibility of the source of these recommendations has been questioned.

Official rescue teams who have been dispatched to the scene of earthquakes and other disasters around the world, and have searched for missing victims in collapsed structures, continue to advocate use of the internationally recognized "Drop, Cover and Hold On" protocol to protect lives during earthquakes. Given the dynamics of earthquakes and their effects on structures, "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the single most useful instruction that you can follow to protect yourself in the majority of situations.

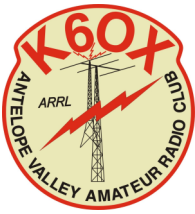
Earthquakes occur without any warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl; you therefore will most likely be knocked to the ground where you happen to be. "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" gives you the best overall chance of protecting yourself during an earthquake... even during quakes that cause furniture to move about rooms, and even in buildings that might ultimately collapse. Dropping, covering your head (and your body by being under a strong table if possible), and holding onto furniture (even if it is moving) offers the best overall level of protection in most situations. In cases where an earthquake is less violent, you might be able to move to a more advantageous position (e.g. away from breaking windows, etc) as you drop to the floor, cover your head, and hold on to a solid object.



Antelope Valley Volunteer Examiner Team 2009 Amateur Radio Exam Schedule

Session	Date	Day	Time
GLAARG	10/05/09	Monday	7 P.M.
GLAARG	11/07/09	Saturday	9 A.M.
ARRL	12/07/09	Monday	7 P.M.

For more information on test sessions call (661) 264-



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2009 Officers

President	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Treasurer	Don Jackson	K6GET	948-4762
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Board Member	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	538-9142
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616



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