

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

February 2014

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Hello all! And again it is time to review what it is that we have been doing with our hobby of ham radio this past month. It has been a really busy one for me.

For the 5th year, I took a trip with family, my sister Adrienne WA6YEO and my brother-in law Dan W6DAS, Dale Snider KØBGL and Malley, Dick Miller KJ6W and his wife Faye, and many more friends from the Sam's Radio Hams. In all, the group took RV's and various motor homes and, of course Dan, Dale and I took our quads. We camped in Quartzsite, Arizona and shared a great week in the beautiful desert. Dan, Dale and I rode several trips on the quads through the hills exploring and keeping in touch along the trail with our HT's mounted to our quads.

On Thursday of the week, we all took a 4x4 trip together with a total of 40 jeeps and the like up into those same hills and trails. I was told that it would be an easy trip for a 4 wheel drive as is such with my RAV4, but it wasn't until we were quite a long way into the trip, we realized that it was the same trip that we had taken many times with the quads. I finally quit and departed the group to head back for camp when we got to the one very steep climb that in the past I would not attempt to proceed even with my quad. I tell you, these groups of adventurers were very bold and courageous and apparently most had way more experience than I had even though I have been riding up and down crazy trails for the past 10

(Continued on page 4)

Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 27, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Jane Reynolds Park, 716 West Oldfield Street, in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions.

The new phone number for the club is **(661) 265-6131**.

This month's meeting will feature our own **Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC**. Eugene will chronicle the tale of our local Quartz Hill repeater—the equipment selection, site preparation, and debugging details. The birth of a repeater is a fascinating story—replete with twists and turns. Mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss it. See you there!



Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC

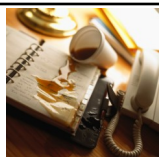
From The Veep

Carol Humpherys AF6OV

As a member of the AVARC, you play a central role in the local radio community. Last month we discussed radio goals for 2014. Together we pondered attending radio conventions, providing communications for service groups, participating in field day, and supporting the Boy Scouts. This month I'm going to present additional ideas of what YOU can do to expand YOUR sphere of influence in the amateur radio world—five fresh, fun things YOU can do to help the hobby thrive:

1. Become a Volunteer Examiner: Attending exam sessions is a wonderful opportunity to befriend new hams, talk about the club, and promote local repeaters. It's EASY to become an examiner – just talk to Adrienne Sherwood (WA6YEO). She will guide you.
2. Chat on the local repeaters, PARTICULARLY when you hear a new call. Do you remember the first time you spoke on the radio? I do. It was May 2006 and I had just passed my technician exam. Although I achieved a perfect score of 100% on the test, (Okay, I'm bragging a bit here – Sorry, but somehow that just slipped in...) I was timid and awkward as I gingerly pressed the microphone button and spoke on the air for the first time. Having a friendly voice on the other end made all the difference.

(Continued on page 4)



From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC Meeting January 23, 2014

Upon arrival at Jane Reynolds Park, we found that the building was dark and locked. Vice President, Carol Humpherys called a meeting to order at 7:25, led a flag salute and adjourned the meeting at 7:30

A park ranger came by and opened the building for us and the regular meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

Introductions: Tully, WB6CYP, informed us that his wife, Francis, KG6MGP(SK), had passed away. The club offers its condolences to the Becker family. The meeting had 23 members in attendance.

Membership Report: We have 114 members of which 36 have not renewed their dues for 2014.

Treasurers Report: We have \$4313.94 in the bank and \$146.00 on hand for a total of \$4459.94.

Old Business: The December Christmas Potluck was discussed.

New Business: A gift card in the amount of \$25 will be given to Brian Hoffman for his magic show at our Christmas potluck. A \$100 donation will be made to the ARRL for its Centennial Fund. Doug, W7HAN, needs to calibrate a Ten-Tec transceiver and asked if anyone had a frequency meter that he could borrow.

Announcements: The next test session will be a GLAARG session and will be held at the First Christian Church on the corner of Ave J and 17th St. East in Lancaster. The date is February 10, at 7 pm. The cost is \$5:00. Paul, KD6SMC, reported that he has recently become a Boy Scout merit badge counselor for the radio merit badge. Anyone wishing to become a merit badge counselor can contact Paul

for info. The installation of the new Quartz Hill repeater is going well. It is located on the top of the Quartz Hill water tank. The frequencies will be 146.865, - offset, pl 100 and 445.560, - offset, pl 110.

Speaker: Carol Humpherys, AF6OV, gave the "State of the Club Address" in the absence of our club President Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR. Carol gave a very nice power point presentation and went over last year's events and highlights and discussed the upcoming events of 2014. The club is fiscally sound and one area that needs to be addressed is the logging of club assets and their locations. Carol stressed that the club's greatest "asset", are its members.

Raffle: The raffle this month was won by Frank O'Dell, N6FOD, who won \$9.00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm and the members had left the building by 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul L'Heureux, KD6SMC
Ex Officio 2014

AVARC Board Meeting Feb 6, 2014

Present: Don Hosman N6NAI, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, Carol Humpherys AF6OV, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC & Terry, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Gary Mork WA6WFC, Gary Barr WA6TWT.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM, by Margie Hoffman.

Minutes of last board meeting read by Dan Sherwood. Carol moved minutes be approved. Eugene second. Passed.

Treasurer's report, Gary Barr: Checking \$4,423.94, Cash \$222.00, Total: \$4,645.94. Membership: 117 members total.

Old Business

Margie: Thanks to Carol for taking the lead at the January meeting. We need more net control operators for the Wed. night net. Carol may do some NCS duties. Schedule TBD.

Review of status of promotional post-cards. Correcting typos and adding email addresses. Action – Check with Keith about Club phone number and address usage. Carol will follow up.

Keith suggested at last Board meeting about donating to the ARRL Centennial fund. Margie will follow up with Keith as to getting it done.

Boy Scouts: Paul will follow up with the Scouts round table meeting on March 4.

Field Day: Field Day June 28-29, 2014. Paul will be FD Chair this year. Don will handle FD publicity. Carol complimented Don's handling of FD publicity in 2013.

Inventory of Club equipment: Need Keith to supply information about antenna. Carol will supply info about the Club projector. Paul has some items too, such as the banner. Anybody with possession of equipment needs to provide serial numbers, photos, etc. Hopefully get it done by April meeting.

Gift Certificate for Brian Hoffman's performance. Motion was carried last month to give Brian a gift certificate but not followed up. Motion proposed by Paul for a \$50 gift certificate. Carole second. Motion carried by all, but Margie abstained. Margie will buy certificate and will be reimbursed by the Club.

Carol: Presentations should be a standing new business topic for discussion at the Board meetings. February meeting will be Eugene Humpherys and the Quartz Hill repeater systems. March meeting will be Pat Coker on more efficient antennas, and other systems to maximize communications utilization.

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Desk...

(Continued from page 2)

April – Brian Basura on his sailing trip.
 May – Field Day.

New Business

Gary Barr: Wants the club to consider changing the General meeting night from the 4th Thursday of the month to the 3rd Thursday, so it is the same for the entire year including November and December. Discussion – needs to be evaluated as a long term proposition and if implemented needs consensus of the entire Board. Issue tabled.

Insurance: City of Lancaster needs new insurance document and a new application to hold our monthly meetings. Margie will update Club information with the City. Location approved in an interim basis until this is finalized. Field Day permit will be done concurrently.

Second Club callsign: K6OXD needs a trustee. Originally established for a D-Star system, which was never built out. Dan to investigate taking over trusteeship of this call.

K6A Special FD call. Paul will investigate acquiring 1x1 for FD. If this does not go through, use K6OXD.

Carol: Antenna building class. Date TBD. Discussion of building "tiger tail" antennas. Carol will follow-up.

Margie: LACARC meeting on March 4. Needs more volunteers for B to V.

Adrienne has test session Feb. 10. Needs VE's.

Margie: Test session March 1 in Acton at 1PM. – VE's needed. Contact Margie KG6TBR.

Next board meeting: March 6.

Adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
 Dan Sherwood W6DAS
 AVARC Secretary 2014



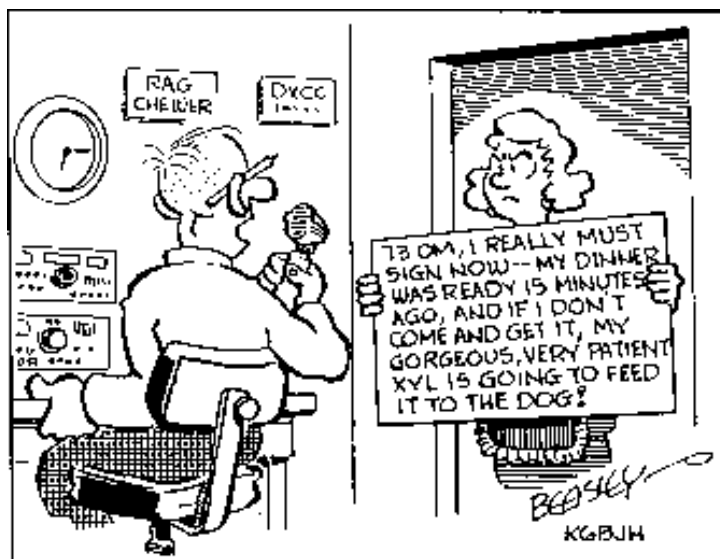
VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2014

1/13/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
2/10/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
3/1/2014	Saturday	9am.	ARRL
4/7/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
5/5/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
6/2/2014	Monday	7pm.	ARRL
7/12/2014	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
8/4/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
9/6/2014	Saturday	9am.	ARRL
10/6/2014	Monday	7pm.	GLAARG
11/1/2014	Saturday	9am.	GLAARG
12/1/2014	Monday	7pm.	ARRL

Test sessions are offered on a monthly basis in Lancaster. Testing fee is \$5.00 for GLAARG sessions and \$15.00 for ARRL sessions. Applicants should bring a photo ID and a copy of your current amateur radio license if you have one. If you are applying for your first ham license, you are urged to apply for an FRN number prior to the test session. You can apply at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

The test sessions are located at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 East Avenue J, across the street from WalMart, in Lancaster.

Pre-registration is not required, unless a special accommodation is required. For more information, please call Adrienne WA6YEO, at (661) 264-1863, or send an e-mail to wa6yeo@arrl.net.



---7:30 A.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW---

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

years. It was a great outdoor event. The group eventually melded with another 4x4 group also of about 40 more jeeps and we all ended up on the same trail and were all the invited guests to have a personal tour of a very large local gold mine and the speaker was the owner of the mine himself. It was one of the most interesting trips yet that I have taken in the Quartzsite area.

During the week, there was a continuous schedule of seminars going on at the main fire pit. Most were ham radio related and some were just about RV'ing and camping while using your radio for communications.

I was reviewing a previous article that I wrote in 2010 about this subject, so you can compare the trips if you wish. As I found out, each time is a new experience. Ham radio is the same. We have so very many opportunities to engage in sports, rallies, volunteer events, that we can find new ways to enjoy our interests in ham radio and being radio operators. Sometimes, when you do, you may find a new interest, such as camping, traveling and still be able to utilize your ham radio skills and share your interests with others you may meet along the way.

Just remember, keep looking and you can find your place in the hobby of ham radio and incorporate it into your travels and other adventures.

73,
Morgie KG6TBR



From the VEEP...

(Continued from page 1)

3. Invite a friend over to see your shack and participate in a weekly net, whether or not they are already an amateur radio operator. My husband and I have enjoyed inviting both non-hams and newly licensed hams over to see our station and listen to local nets. During roll call, we simply smile as we hand our guest the microphone. Walking others through their first tentative steps on the air is great fun!
4. Post a photo of your radio equipment on Pinterest. Many of you have impressive installations in your car and at home. Why not share it with the world by posting a photo on Pinterest? I would love see online a shot of Keith Hoyt's (K6GXO) antenna array, or a photo of the Sherwood (W6DAS / WA6YEO) tower. A depiction of Mike Crabtree's (KJ6IIR) well-lit truck would also be interesting.



Consider posting a photo of yourself with a newly minted J-Pole antenna. Better yet, make a video discussing a particular aspect of amateur radio that you enjoy.

5. Write an article in QST or QRT. A good example of this is Eugene, KG6SLC, whose article reviewing local ham's involvement in Baker to Vegas appeared in the December 2006 edition of QST. You too could write an article about your hamming adventures.

The key is to share your enjoyment of the hobby with others. As we do so, it keeps our hobby alive, fresh, and vibrant within ourselves.

Happy Hamming!

73,
Carl AF6OV

RepeaterBook - App for Amateur Radio Available Online by KG6CVO (BrianB)

When traveling I check in with the local 2m or 70cm groups and I'm often asked how I found their repeater. This usually leads to a discussion of an App which I've found really handy, that works on iDevices and Androids, has great support, doesn't require a data connection, and is free. That's why I thought you might be interested in hearing about RepeaterBook. Did I say its Free and works Great!

RepeaterBook is an offline directory of repeaters sorted by your current location and preferences. It's customizable so you see only the bands, distances, and modes you are interested in. You can also sort it by frequency which makes it easy to ID that repeater you just heard. And it works even when you don't have a cellphone connection!

You can download it from the App Store (iDevices) or at the Google Play Store (Android).

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/repeaterbook/id606820166?mt=8>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zbm2.repeaterbook&hl=en>

I hope you find this as useful as I have.

AVARC Members Preparing for Baker 2 Vegas


It is almost “Baker 2 ‘Vegas” time again. This year it is on March 22-23.....just around the corner! B2V is tremendous fun and a chance to provide valuable service and support the community. While it is typically amateur radio operators that volunteer their time to provide staff for this service, there are positions that are also fun that do not require experience, a ham license, or equipment, so this is a great activity for you to share with your spouse, family member, or friend. If you are able to participate this year contact KG6SLC Eugene D. Humpherys at (661) 810-2594 or (661) 722-4616. Hope you can make it!



Collector Pins from HAMCON 2010/2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

Did you attend the 2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention (HAMCON 2011) at the Torrance Marriott and not purchase an official pin? A limited number of cloisonné pins from this convention will be available for \$3 each at AVARC's February 27 meeting. All proceeds go toward staging HAMCON 2015, which will also be held at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.





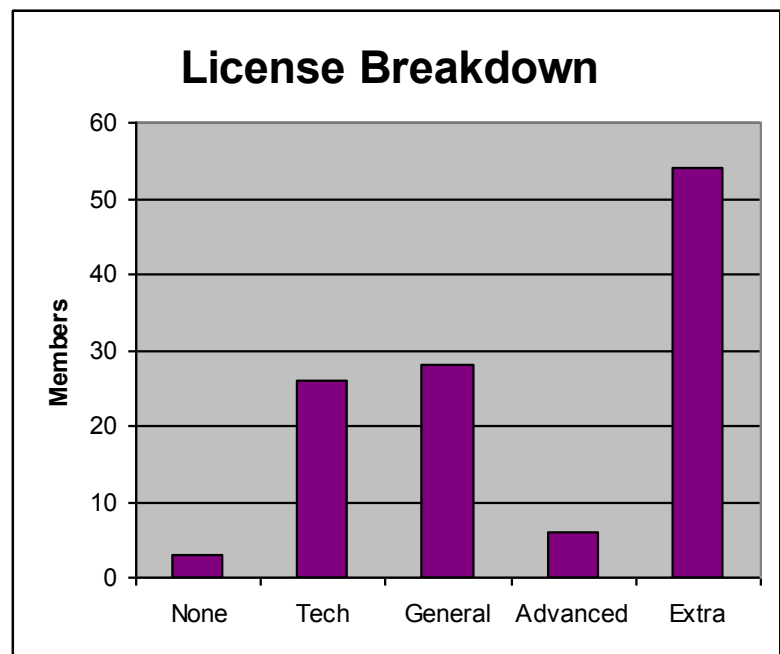
**Frances Becker KG6MGP-SK
1936 - 2013**

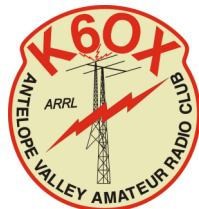
As friends of Frances Becker, we are saddened to learn she is now a silent Key, having passed away December 28, 2013, in Lancaster California. Frances (KG6MGP) was a member of the AVARC until 2010. A long time AV resident, she was born April 6, 1936 in San Francisco. She graduated from Cal Berkeley and the Columbia School of Nursing. Frances was a member of the Eastern Star and very active with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, She was a key figure in the PTA, serving as both President and Treasurer. Francis is survived by her husband Tully WB6CYP, sons George KC6UVM, and Jonathan KC6QOQ, and daughter Hannah (Brent) Bremer.

AVARC Membership Statistics

Did you know that our club boasts 117 members? Many members (46%) hold an Amateur Extra License. General class is 24%, Technician 22%, Advanced 5% and no license (yet) 3%.

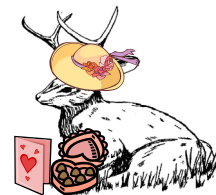
Where do you stand in the license breakdown? Is it time to upgrade?





Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2014 Officers

President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Vice President	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	722-4616
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Treasurer	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Eugene Humpherys	KG6SLC	722-4616
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838



AVARC board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. All members are welcome to attend, although they should let the president or another officer know that they are planning to attend, as the meetings usually include a pot-luck dinner at the home of one of the officers.

The club net is on Wednesdays at 8:00, on the Hauser repeater (146.73 MHz PL 100). The net includes Amateur Radio Newslines, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX
 Post Office Box 1011
 Lancaster, CA 93584-1011

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To ARS: