

The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

January 2017

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

The year 2016 is about behind us. Now it's time to look forward into 2017, while examining what AVARC has done in the past, and where it's heading now. I have been an AVARC member since around 1982 when we first moved here, so I have seen the Club evolve for the last 35 years. Members have come and gone, interest has waxed and waned, and I've seen the operating interests of many members change over the years. These changes have naturally followed those of the Amateur community at large. First off, we're getting older. The percentage of folks that stay up all night to contest at Field Day, or those folks able to climb 50 feet up a tower to wrench on a Yagi antenna is getting quite small. Twenty years ago, our Field Day site sported 4 or 5 crank-up towers, beams on every station, all-night operation "owning" frequencies running QSO's and the Field Day scores up into the top 10 percentile of the category entered. This past year, we had one tower up, one portable vertical, an all-band dipole up 30 feet, and a few other miscellaneous mobile type antennas. Operation was off and on, usually calling other stations that "owned" the frequency and being beaten by another station in the pileup. In short, it takes effort to be loud!

New hams today vs. 1980: Having been involved in VE testing I have observed the cross section of people coming into the hobby for a long time. The "gee-whiz" factor of global wireless communications has gone by the wayside. Many prospects come these days with ham communications being an adjunct backup when "normal" telecommunications fail. Buy an FT-60, stick it in the sock drawer and wait for the "bad day" to occur. Good luck! I refer to these folks as "licensees" and not amateur

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 19, is the next meeting of the AVARC at Antelope Valley First Christian Church, 1702 E. Avenue J in Lancaster. Talk-in is available on the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions. Eyeball QSO starts at 7 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30.

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

This month's meeting will feature our new president, **Dan Sherwood W6DAS**, will give a "State of the Club" address. Mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss it. See you there!



Dan Sherwood W6DAS

From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Time flies once again, it's a new year, and in looking back to January 2007 & 2008, I can see that was the first time I was elected to Vice President of the AVARC. Throughout the years since I have been a member or officer in one way or the other of this club, I have found the one thread that runs common year after year. We can and should always look forward to the opportunities awaiting us in this diverse world of Amateur Radio.

I have found that there are many ways to become involved, either through community activities, working with fellow hams on tinkering with their equipment, the mentoring of new licensees, and every day that we talk on the frequency with other fellow hams out there on the radio, there are endless ways to stay active. Each day there will be so much more to explore and there will be so much more to learn. I don't think any one of us will ever be able to say, we have learned it all.

The coming year should bring new opportunities to learn, share and participate. It may be listening to speakers at the club meetings, helping out and volunteering for the MS Walk, working at Field Day 2017 or being or becoming a club officer or board member, somewhere everyone will find something that will interest them and encourage them to continue to grow in this world of Amateur Radio.

I am hoping to get off to a good start securing our speakers this coming year, as last year, Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC did an excellent job in bringing new and exciting technical speakers that we had never heard before in our area. In January, we will have our annual "State of the Club" report from our new president Dan Sherwood W6DAS. He will review 2016

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC Holiday Potluck December 16, 2016

Room setup began at 4:30PM
Pre-dinner entertainment by Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO on her harp.

Thanks to Gary Barr WA6TWT and Gary Mork WA6WFC for their hard work in getting members renewed and distributing the prize drawing tickets.

Pre meal serving announcements
6:30PM

Flag Salute

Announcements – Carol Humpherys AF6OV and others. These include:

- Next Board Meeting 1/5/17, location AV First Christian Church 7:00PM with pre-meeting dinner at El Tereo East Lancaster, (across Ave. J in the Walmart complex).

- Club Officers meetup will be held 1/7/17 after the test session for handling the bank signature card transition. More information TBA at the Board Meeting.

- January AVARC Club meeting: January 19, 2017. Location AV First Christian Church. Note this the THIRD Thursday this one time, (moved up 1 week). Topic will be the State of the Club presentation by Dan Sherwood W6DAS incoming president, as well as taking a survey of membership on what they want to get out of the Club and activities that can be done.

end of announcements

Blessing – Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

7:30 PM: A wonderful magic show by Brian Hoffman KI6LUE was

presented. Great all new material, with amazement and laughs had by all.

8:15 PM: Prize drawing began. So many prizes that everyone won something.

9:00 PM: Meeting adjourned. My heartfelt thanks to the folks that volunteered to stay late and help in the cleanup. That was most appreciated. I also thank the membership for exercising care in not spilling food and drink on the carpets. I also want to extend our appreciation to the Antelope Valley First Christian Church for the use of the facility.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Sherwood W6DAS
AVARC Secretary 2016

AVARC Board Meeting January 5, 2017 AV First Christian Church

Board Meeting - January 5, 2017
AV First Christian Church

Opening: Call to order by Dan Sherwood W6DAS President at 7 pm

Minutes from last board meeting: Secretary Dan Sherwood W6DAS. No corrections.

Motion to approve as printed in Short Circuit Made by: Larry Mock KI6BKP

Seconded by: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR. Approved? Yes.

Treasurer's report: Gary Barr WA6TWT Checking \$4,293.46, Cash: \$194.00 Total \$4,487.46.

New expenses: 1) Brian Hoffman KI6LUE \$100.00 Christmas enter-

tainment. 2) First quarterly rental payment to church \$150.00.

Membership Report: Gary Barr WA6TWT 10 Life, 3 Honorary, Total: 102 members.

ARRL members 78%.

Members present tonight: Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Pat Okawa, KJ6CJI, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Gary Barr WA6TWT, Gary Mork WA6WFC

Old Business:

Discussion of Annual Christmas party held on Friday, December 16. Meal was potluck style with a good variety, but late comers found little to eat. Deserts were adequate. Entertainment by Brian Hoffman KI6LUE was great with several new skits. Prizes

were very good with a mix of radios, books, tools, flashlights, and several baskets, & lunch pails of cookies.

Clean up was done well by many members. 4 Acton club members participated.

January meeting date: Moved up a week from Thursday January 26 to Thursday, January 19 due to a conflict with Church usage and a scheduling conflict.

Field Day: Park reservation with City of Lancaster is not confirmed yet.

Non-Profit Tax filing: Matt Stewart K6MES: Waiting for March 1, report.

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Secretary's Desk...



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LA Council of Clubs report: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR: www.qsl.net/laacarc is the web-site.

Club Web site update: Dan Sherwood – fixed problem.

New Business:

Bank Transfer: Pat, Dan, Margie, Gary Barr to go to US Bank on Sat. Jan 7 after GLAARG session to do new signature card for the club.

Transfer of Club Records, equipment and information to new officers to be done by January 19. Margie Hoffman KG6TBR suggested updating the list of club assets also.

Discussion of ideas for programs for 2017 was held. Dan plans to present some ideas at the General Meeting.

State of the Club presentation will be given by Dan Sherwood W6DAS at January 19 Meeting.

Club Insurance is due August 1.

A Membership survey was discussed. How to make AVARC more relevant to the membership by reshaping and adding activi-

ties to make the Club more attractive to members.

Need to meet the needs of new hams. Do more public service events.

Announcements:

Short Circuit Articles are need by Sunday, January 8.

Next Club Meeting: January 19, 2017, at the First Christian Church. Address 1702 E. Ave J – Across from Wal-Mart. This is a week early.

Next Board meeting: February 2, 2017. Location: Humpherys at 38852 Edgemont Dr. Palmdale.

Next VE Session at First Christian Church on January 7. Address 1702 E. Ave J across from Wal-Mart. Session is GLAARG with a \$5.00 fee.

Bank card signing session follows down the street at U.S. Bank.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Okawa KJ6CJI
AVARC Secretary 2017



President's Corner... From the VEEP...



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operators. There may be opportunity here for the Club – stay tuned. CC&R's and other antenna limitations, not to mention time and financial limitations have all conspired to dampen interest and put a crimp in the aspirations of those getting new licenses. Again, something we as a Club might be able to address.

How can AVARC adapt? Let's first talk about the "newbies". How to we turn "licensees" into operators? Post-license, or "Elmering" classes can properly educate new licensees and prospects on the capabilities of what they can do with their license and the stuff they are going to buy. Furthermore, one-on-one instructional site visits are very helpful especially when new operators have acquired equipment. Most licensees have self-studied for the technician level, and in learning to pass the exam they have also overlooked the practical. Time needs to be taken to reach out to these folks. Often too much frustration can lead someone to abandon the effort. Again, too many FT-60's and Baofengs are ending up in sock drawers.

More and varied activities for current members as well as new hams and prospects:

1. Local area campouts – mini "Quartzfest" outings to places like Saddleback Buttes or Table Mountain.
2. Day trips to local parks to do casual portable operation: "Antennas In the Park".
3. "Open House" during some contests such as Sweepstakes or California QSO party.
4. Regular breakfast or dinner get-togethers. Many already participate in an ad-hoc dinner on Saturday nights. I remember when

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and let us know what we did that was good, educational and what we did that was encouraging to both new and experienced members and other interested hams. He will also go over what we all expect as members to see for the future of this club.

In February, it will be my pleasure to once again bring in myself as Assistant Communications Director for the Challenge Cup/ Baker to Vegas Relay (www.radiobaker2vegas.org) and update all that attend on what this annual event is all about. This 33rd year, the event will be held on Saturday, March 25 to Sunday, March 26, 2017. This is a great experience to be participant as a ham operator in addition to those who are non ham volunteers. We need a team of folks who are willing to provide relief for the weekend event. This is one great learning experience and I think all hams that participate in it, gather and

share valuable information in expanding their communication skills.

Later we should be thinking about Field Day 2017, which is the last full weekend in June. We need to think ahead and begin our plans early in order for this to happen and once again be a huge success.

Please become involved in as many ways as you can, as anything you can do will prove to be a rewarding experience. Start thinking now how you can stay active and participate in any or all of these exciting events. Don't forget, this is your hobby and we all can find some way to contribute and share our skills.

73,
Margie KG6TBR

Learn More

www.QuartzFest.org



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- the San Fernando Valley ARC had a regular breakfast.
- 5. Bring back Club transmitter hunts – these were very popular back in the 1980’s. Perhaps add some on-foot hunts to the mix.
- 6. Station site visits of “Big Gun” operators.
- 7. Site visits of newly licensed hams to spec out antenna installations – “Before you buy do this, not that.”
- 8. Kit or antenna building classes similar to the J-pole building class held by Eugene and Carol Humpherys a number of years ago.
- 9. Visits to other radio club meetings and activities.
- 10. Continued outreach to Scouting and other youth groups.

I’m sure I can think up a few more ideas. The problem is that the year could use a few more Saturdays. I’m going to survey the membership over the next two months to see the direction they would like the Club to go in, regarding types of activities and meeting programs offered. Stay tuned.

73,
Jan W6DAS

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2017

2/6/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
3/4/2017	Saturday	9 am	ARRL
4/3/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
5/6/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
6/5/2017	Monday	7 pm	ARRL
7/1/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
8/7/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
9/9/2017	Saturday	9 am	ARRL
10/2/2017	Monday	7 pm	GLAARG
11/4/2017	Saturday	9 am	GLAARG
12/4/2017	Monday	7 pm	ARRL

The regular exam location is the First Christian Church of the Antelope Valley.

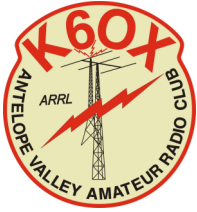
1702 East Ave. J., Lancaster, CA (Across the street from the East-side Wall Mart).

Please enter parking lot off the end of the cul-de-sac 17th Street East, enter the classroom annex, and look for the "FCC Exams" sign outside the correct classroom. Monday Nights: Please do not disturb the A.A. group or other groups that may be using the facilities.

Dates/times may be subject to change.



...to pay your dues for 2017



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2017 Officers

President	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Pat Okawa	KG6CGI	718-3986
Treasurer	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Carol Humpherys	AF6OV	441-4671



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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