

The Short Circuit

<http://www.k6ox.club>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

October 2017

President's Corner

Dan Sherwood W6DAS

Elections upcoming this month: October 26 will have our regular AVARC meeting. Nominations for 2018 officers are still open. Any AVARC member in good standing for at least one year is eligible to run for an office. This is a great opportunity for both new hams and experienced hams to get more involved with the operation of AVARC, and be involved in the future direction for our club.

Field Day 2018: For years, AVARC has always taken the philosophy of doing field day in "a public place". This means an open space in an urban area in the middle of town – in other words, a public park. Unfortunately, (and contrary to what Donald Trump says), global warming is REAL, and urban park means FD in the desert along side the 14 freeway. This is Lancaster, not Santa Maria. We saw temperatures of 112F+ in the shade, and many of us on the Board were not all that physically comfortable with the situation. None of us are getting any younger! The question I raise - is it time for a change?

Field day takes advanced planning. The time to start is now. The Board has already thought

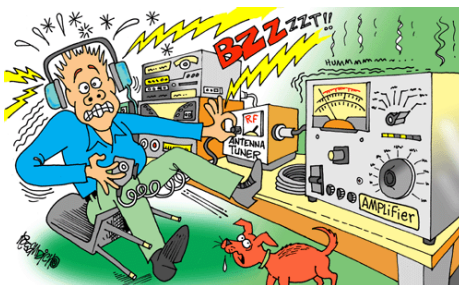
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Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 26, is the next meeting of the AVARC at the Quartz Hill Library, 5040 West Avenue M-2. 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.

Elections: Next meeting will be final nominations for all officers and board members for 2016, followed by elections. Please keep in mind that according to our By Laws, in order to be eligible for nominations for election to a position for the following, you would have to be a member in good standing of the club for the entire preceding twelve months prior to the nomination.

Anchors Away: Bring your ham items for sale to the October meeting. It will be a busy and fun evening for all, so get busy, clean out your shack and plan to join us!



From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Last weekend, October 7-8, I participated in the California QSO Party. This event is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club and is an annual event. I have worked this contest pretty much for as long as I have been a ham.

The requirements are the same amount of contacts for the sweep and the magic number is 58. If you live or transmit from California, the goal is 58 which includes all 50 states and 8 provinces. If you live or transmit outside of California, the goal of 58 is to get all the Counties (58) in the state of California. At the same time you are not only trying to meet your goal, but you are trying to accumulate as many points as possible and each additional state, province or county added to your list of QSL's becomes a multiplier which greatly increases your point total. If you are really interested in seeing what this contest is all about, please refer to the web page by the NCCC in which they have the rules, past contest results and photos from the events. Also take a look at the ARRL web page as it lists all the contests nationwide that other contest clubs sponsor all around the country throughout the year. It is a good opportunity to test your operating skills and increase your collection of QSL cards from those who participate. It also helps you get used to operating and feeling comfortable speaking on the radio. In a contest, one must be able to make the exchanges quickly, accurately and efficiently in order to

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting September 28, 2017

President Dan Sherwood W6DAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the Quartz Hill Public Library, followed by the flag salute and introductions. Number of individuals attending was 31.

Minutes of the August 24, 2017 club meeting were taken by Pat Okawa. A motion to approve them as printed in the Short Circuit was made by John Isles K6RJC, and seconded by Frank O'Dell N6FOD. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Stewart K6MES - Checking balance: \$3,705.51, petty cash: \$150.43 Total: \$3,855.94.

Invoices submitted for payment: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR \$22.61

Membership: Total members 90, percent ARRL 81.1%

OLD BUSINESS:

Future programs: Margie KG6TBR - "Junk-a-thon" scheduled for October 26, meeting, (cash sales) plus elections. Future months: Thurs. Nov 16 - Scott Hanley WA9STI Summits on the Air (SOTA).

Website update, W6DAS: Getting the email lists set up. I will look into the phone number

situation - current contact number does not work.

NEW BUSINESS:

HAMCON - Margie Hoffman KG6TBR reported the attendance was 850. 12 radio clubs sponsored the event. Speakers were well received. 4 club members attended. Bills are being paid. Final report will follow.

Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO reported the VE session tested 21 people with 15 getting their license. She thanked the 9 club members who assisted as VEs.

Nominations for 2018 officers:

President: Dan Sherwood W6DAS
Vice President: Larry Mock KI6BKP

Secretary: Pat Okawa KJ6CJI
Treasurer: Matt Stewart K6MES
Master at Arms: Gary Mork WA6WFC

Board Member: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Diane Roberts K6DER
Board Member: Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC, Mike Beckers KC6YQO

Other new business: Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO reported our club did a VE session in Mojave at Scale Composites with 11 of 12 getting licensed.

Margie Hoffman KG6BTR spoke of donations needed at ARRL for emergency ham radio kits which are sent into disaster areas. Go to the ARRL website and scroll down to HAM AID to donate.

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR introduced our speaker, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, who will speak on Logbook of the World, a logging program used by DXCCs to log and confirm their contacts since 2009. It replaces the old QSO cards as a repository of data that is accepted by ARRL for awards. It uses TQSL software that is free without membership in ARRL. You pay for certificates, but paper QSO cards are still available at greater cost and time. Program is constantly updated and no spoofing is possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Short Circuit Articles - Need by: Sunday, October 15.

Club meeting: Thursday, 10/26/2017 - Officer nominations and election. Program- Junk-a-thon swapfest. Cash sales only.

VE Exam: Monday, 10/2/2017 at 7:00PM - GLAARG.

There was no Board Meeting on September 7. A Board Meeting will follow this meeting.

50/50 drawing won by: Dan Sherwood W6DAS \$ 20.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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



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about a change, but we need to get input from the membership, and it is needed soon. Just about all other options will have a cost associated with them, either in site rental, paid in advance, (soon), or involve a long drive to reach the site. To achieve physical comfort, we're looking at either a mountain, (above 5000'), or the beach. There are no local beaches plus beach locales are high density, so locally we're talking about the mountains. I've already checked out a couple campgrounds, but I can tell you the reservable group sites, (~32 people), are already taken. This leaves reserving individual sites, hopefully adjacent or close. The sooner, the closer together and the closer to AV they will be. Alternatively, we can "occupy" a more primitive non-reservable campground on Tuesday or Wednesday the week before FD weekend. Need a few hardy tent campers to do this, (no access to big RV's). Other options might include getting permission from the Forest Service to set up in a non-camping area, e.g. the Mt. Pinos parking lot, or even making arrangements with a private landowner. Years ago, I did that with another group and it was successful. I once had a standing invitation from Ron Hammel K6WLC, for the use of his ranch in Lockwood Valley for FD, but unfortunately he became a silent key. Even though temperatures were 90F, it would have been better than Lancaster, not to mention the beer was cold. One

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maintain your required skills in a real disaster, verbally saying and repeating only the information that is necessary and no more.

The California QSO contest is also my favorite radio contest as I can hopefully be sure of hearing and being heard throughout the continental US and hopefully the northern territories in Canada. Well, usually if all goes well, then you can make a lot of contacts. I found that this year, I was not as prepared as I had hoped to be. I made some mistakes apparently in my set up and either my grounding or my power supply went on the fritz. As I was completing my 9th contact, the radio kept powering on and off. I was having a terrible time completing the exchange. Fortunately, the YL that I was talking to at that time didn't even notice that the problem was not that of not hearing me well, it was that I wasn't there. Each time the radio turned back on; there she was still trying to complete the exchange until we finally were success-

ful. Amazing what hams will do to make a finished contact.

Remember, you don't have to win the contest, just join in for the fun of it.

I must say, that any radio contest is still all about the fun; the operating experience, and participating allows me to test my skills and see how far I can reach. I still am never disappointed in my results, as we all learn from our mistakes and try to make the corrections that will ultimately help us to contest another day. We must be sure that we will be ready for the "big one", or to be prepared for any other disaster that comes along in the future. So be sure and test your equipment on a regular basis. I know I will.

Just another reminder:

This month, while we continue to nominate members to become our new officers and board members for the year 2018, we finalize the elections at this October meeting. We

VE TESTING SCHEDULE 2017

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 Eastside 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.

President...



final note – on any SoCal mountaintop, expect to share with at least one other club. The use of bandpass filters and contest-grade transceivers will be required.

I wish to conclude with the following survey. Please send your comments / responses by email to: officers@k6ox.club

1. I like doing FD at the park as we have been doing it. Local public exposure is important.
2. I'd like to drive my RV to a local campsite, (< 100 miles), and pay for the use of the site, (perhaps \$30/night).
3. I am willing to tent camp to use a local mountain top that is nearby to save some money. I can drive on some dirt road to get there.
4. I'm willing to drive my RV or tent camp in a quieter more

secluded area that may be well over 100 miles away.

5. I'm willing to stay / operate from an undeveloped open area, (by permit), and am totally self-contained.
6. I just want to participate for a few hours, and am willing to drive up to _____ miles to get there.
7. I have, or I know someone with a weekend place that may be a bit cooler than Lancaster. I'll send you the details.
8. Any other comments or suggestions please pass them along.

73,
Jan W6DAS



VEEP...



hope that you would like to serve your club and be a part of making decisions that will impact the future of AVARC.

As a result, we will not have a guest speaker this month, but right after the elections, we will hold our annual event known Anchors Away. Personally, I have always referred to this event as our annual Junk-A-Thon. Call it what you may, but what this means is that you may bring all that neat stuff that you have been collecting over the years and try your best to sell it at the meeting. You know what stuff I'm talking about? Those ham items that you no longer wish to store in your closet, garage, or your ham shack, or for some of us, on the floor space of your office, now is the time to put a price on those items, throw them into a box and bring it all with you to the meeting. There is usually someone that is looking for that same item and would love to take it off your hands for a price you both agree upon.

And don't forget, that an alternative to keeping the cash you make, you may choose to donate a portion of your sales to our club. As they say, your junk is someone else's treasure.

See you at the meeting!

73,
Morgie KG6TBR



Secretary's Desk...



AVARC Board Meeting September 28, 2017

Opening: President, Dan Sherwood W6DAS, called the meeting to order at 9:08 pm. It followed the General Meeting.

Minutes from the August 3, Board Meeting were reviewed. There was no pending business. Board Meeting of September 7, was cancelled following Dan's hip surgery.

Treasurer's report: Matt Stewart K6MES reported checking balance as \$3,705.51, cash on hand \$150.43. Total: \$3,855.94.

Membership report: 90, ARRL membership 81.1 %.

Members present: Dan Sherwood W6DAS, Matt Stewart K6MES, Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Pat Okawa KJ6CJI, Larry Mock KI6BKP, Gary Mork WA6WFC, John Isles IV, Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC.

Old Business:

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR will attend the Council meeting on October 3.

Margie reported HAMCON was a success with 850 attendees. Speakers were well received. Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO reported 15 of 21 people obtained their licenses at the VE session.

October 26, club meeting will be the annual "Junk-a-thon"

November 16, Speaker will be Scott Hanley WA9STI on SOTA.

New Business:

Holiday Party dates are Fri, December 15, at First Christian Church or Thursday, December 14, depending on the church calendar.

Motion to give a \$100 honorarium to the church was made by Larry Mock KI6BKP and seconded by Margie Hoffman KI6TBR. It was passed unanimously.

There is no total of monthly funds collected yet. Matt Stewart K6MES reported that our budget is currently approximately \$1500.00 in the red. December Dues renewals usually help this. Matt wanted to postpone the setting of the Holiday prize money total and discussion of a dues increase until the November Board Meeting.

Other new business:

Paul L'Heureux KD6SMC began a discussion for a different site for 2018 Field Day since some of us became ill from the 105 heat.

Acton and Juniper Hills are not very high/cool. Table Mountain and Tehachapi were discussed. A Winter Field Day at Saddleback Butte was discussed.

Holiday entertainment: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR was asked to inquire if her son, Brian, would like to entertain the club again. Harp music is also possible for entertainment.

Announcements:

Short Circuit articles are due on Sun. Oct 15.

General Club Meeting will be on Thurs. Oct 26, for election of officers and a Junk-a-thon swapfest.

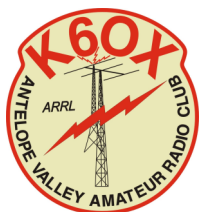
Board Meeting will be on Thurs. Nov. 2.

VE exam will be on Monday, Oct 2, at 7 pm; it is a GLAARG session.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Okawa KJ6CJI
AVARC Secretary 2017





Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2017 Officers

President	Dan Sherwood	W6DAS	264-1863
Vice President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Secretary	Pat Okawa	KJ6CJI	718-3986
Treasurer	Matt Stewart	K6MES	264-4629
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Paul L'Heureux	KD6SMC	305-1838
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 potluck 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 Newsline, and all members and guests are invited to check in.

The Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club K6OX
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