

The Short Circuit

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



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 2011

President's Corner

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

HAMCON 2011 – Hope you were able to attend! After diligently working for the past 14 months attending meetings while being on the committee for HAMCON 2011, it has finally come and gone for another four years. I really enjoyed working with the other committee members in making this convention happen. What a big project it has been and I might say that I had no idea how much work it took to bring it from beginning to end. All in all, it was a very successful event, and having worked closely with Joy Matlack KD6FJV and Rich Whited KG6JKJ on the registrations for several long, long days, I can assure you that it was a tedious and complicated task to make sure all the packages were in order and ready to receive all the attendees when they arrived on Friday, September 9, 2011. We had about 686 pre-registration packages to fill and when the doors opened at noon on Friday until they closed at noon on Sunday, we took in about 600 additional registrations.

We had 150 diners for the Banquet on Saturday, 75 for the Luncheon on Saturday, and 75 for the Breakfast on Sunday. I was fortunate to be a Keynote Speaker together with Gayle Olson K6GO for the breakfast. We gave our talk on the all YL Dxpediton to Curacao of March 2011. It went well and was quite well received.

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Meeting Notice

Thursday, September 22, 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 the Hauser Repeater (146.73 MHz. PL 100) if you need directions. The eyeball QSO starts at 7:00 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

This month's meeting will feature a presentation by **Cam Ogan WA6VVC**, who will tell us about the ins and outs of putting a repeater into operation. You won't want to miss this one, so mark your calendars and join us!



Cam Ogan WA6VVC

From The Veep

Larry Bianchi KG1B

As we approach the end of another year, there are a lot of good things that are happening with our club and club members. Last weekend, we had the opportunity to attend HAMCON in Torrence. Also, last Wednesday, (September 7th), the Palmdale City Council met and a group of hams testified before the Council with concerns about the Antenna Ordinance.

There were some concessions made by the Council in order to get the Ordinance passed, which it did. The one bright spot is that a 45 foot limit was agreed upon (up from 35 foot). When the final ordinance as amended is available, a link to it will be available our club website (www.avarc.av.net).

While we are on the subject of the Antenna Ordinance, I would like to thank both Marty Woll N6VI and David Greenhut N6HD for their efforts and time in achieving a workable ordinance. Without their efforts, we would have had a tougher row to hoe. Also, thanks to the ARRL for their legal help and advice!

It is nice to see members of the club coming out and helping and volunteering their help as that help is needed. Notably .. Field Day brought a lot of that out. Next year, we will be trying a few different things to add spice to our "Weekend in Lancaster" (Oh Barry Manilow .. Where are you?).

I would like to thank Jon Clark N6NQ for his presentation on Software Defined Radios that he presented to our club in August. Jon is very knowledgeable and his expertise is something we can all take advantage of. Jon, in the past, has built a variety of antennas including a multi-band dipole.

There are a couple of ideas that I would like to throw out and have y'all chew on

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC Board Meeting 8/25/2011

Members Present: WA6WFC, WA6TWT, WA6YEO, K6GXO, KI6BKP, N6NQ, KG1B, WA6PZK, KG6TBR.

The meeting was called to order at 1847 by Margie Hoffman, KG6TBR. Minutes for the last meeting published in the Short Circuit.

Treasurer's report \$3349.06. Treasurer not present.

Membership: Gary Barr – 115 Members. New Business: Christmas raffle funds should already be collected, which should be matched by the Club in time for HAMCON for purchase of "Show Special". Gary Barr moved to allocate up to \$200 of Club funds. Seconded by Keith K6GXO. Vote to cut check for \$200.00 so that items can be purchased at HAMCON. Approved unanimously. Keith will contact Dan Rowlan to get the check cut. Larry will also sign. Check to be delivered to Margie before the convention.

Old Business:

Margie: More volunteers to handle net control and Newline. This to be brought up at general meeting.

Dan Sherwood: Request from Cal QSO contest organizers for more operators. To be mentioned at Club Meeting.

New Business: Margie – Nominations for 2012. Nominations in September. Larry to provide letter to accept any nomination in his absence. Keith reminded the Board that the bylaws be followed regarding eligibility for nominees to run.

Keith – Proposes doing something different with "Anchors Aweigh" night as it had not done well in later years. Keith moved to eliminate "Anchors Aweigh" and instead allow members to display items for sale at ANY meeting. Keith deferred the motion to the General Club meeting for membership input. Will be brought up at General Meeting.

Margie – Adrienne recommends ARRL VE's to attend the September ARRL local session on 9/3/11.

Next Board meeting: October 6. (Sept. Cancelled). Location TBA.

Reminder: Nominations in September. Short Circuit deadline – Sept. 13, 2011.

Meeting Adjourned at 1917.

AVARC General Club Meeting 8/25/2011

Meeting called to order at 1932 by Margie Hoffman.

Flag Salute and member introductions.

Number of members present: 32
Minutes last meeting: Moved NB6V, Second K6GXO. Approved.

Treasurer's report: Dan Rowlan not present. Balance \$3133.26 last known.
Gary Barr: 116 members including new members.

Old Business:

Margie – Next Board Meeting Oct. 6. Location to be announced on the Net. Prior to the meeting. Hauser 146.73 2000 Wednesdays.

New people needed to run Net Control and Newline. Folks with audio interface can do this well.

HAMCON – Adrienne talked about HAMCOM VE testing. Local test session 9/3. ARRL VE's needed. ARRL VE's should talk to Adrienne about volunteering for HAMCON exams. HAMCON VE's do not have to register for HAMCON itself, but must register to actually see exhibits and other tech talks. Adrienne announced GLAARG VEC Chairman RC Smith is retiring. Adrienne will assume the position in January 2012. Adrienne will not be able to directly run GLAARG VE sessions after that, but can still do ARRL sessions. VE testing schedule will continue unchanged.

David Greenhut and Mark Segal W6MES. Mark will demonstrate an antenna wire launcher to be demoed at HAMCON. David and Mark talked about the benefits of HAMCON. 36 vendors will be there. Mark Stafford will be speaking about "What's New at the IARU", (luncheon). Many good prizes to be given away at this show. Excellent tech talks will be given as well. www.hamconinc.org <<http://www.hamconinc.org>> Room rate code is HAMHAMA.

Margie: Nominations for next meeting: September.

Break:

Talk by Jon Clark, N6NQ – Software Defined Radio

50/50 drawing: AVARC Hat won by: Jim NB6V Cash, \$20.00 Adrienne WA6YEO

Meeting Adjourned 2103.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Sherwood WA6PZK
AVARC Secretary 2011

Larry Evans KE6GUC-SK 1945-2011

Larry was a long-time member of AVARC, and an active amateur. He often served as Net Control for the club's Wednesday night net. He was the pastor of Lord's House Christian Fellowship, and operated the KE6GUC/R repeater in Juniper Hills. He was always willing to lend a hand when needed, and he will be greatly missed by all.

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

We got a lot of good "reviews" afterwards and it was a rewarding experience for us to be a part of the convention programs.

On Friday evening, the Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (LAACARC) together with the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO) co sponsored a HAM Social in the banquet hall. This provided an opportunity for all hams to gather and meet on opening night and this event was open to any ham regardless if they had pre registered for the convention. This event was announced in advance so that any hams in the area would know that they were welcome to join in on this hospitable experience.

The AVARC was in charge of the VE Session held on Saturday at the convention. According to Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO, there were 7 VE's from our club and 2 non-VE hams helping with the exam session. The results were: Licenses earned: 8 new Technicians, 7 new Generals, and 3 new Extras out of a total of 25

applicants. There was also 1 license renewal. Adrienne wants to thank all the VE's who drove out to help and volunteer their time this year.

Everyone had a great time. If you were unable to attend this year, just mark your calendar for the year 2015.

Just another reminder:

In September, we will be taking nominations for Officers and Board members for 2012. The final elections will be held at the October General meeting and you must be present for the vote in order to be elected. So, if you are willing and able to make a commitment to this club for the next year, please do not be shy and let us know if you will run for an office or a board member. This is a great opportunity to see what or how you can contribute your time and be involved in the AVARC for 2012.

73,
Margie KG6TBR

From the VEEP...

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for awhile. One idea (and this isn't new with me) is a vehicle to learn and perfect CW. I know that CW isn't a requirement for advancing through the ranks, but there are a few that would like to learn and perfect their skills. The idea of a CW net has been kicked around as well as a class in CW. Let me know what you might think.

Another idea is to have a workshop learning how to construct hand held antennas for communication with satellites. I have heard whispers that that would be something that people would enjoy having.

I can be reached at 818-237-0706 or you can email me at Strad3@Hotmail.com. Call or write to me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

This month, we have a rare treat in store! Cam Ogan WA6VVC will be our featured speaker at our September 22nd club meeting. He will be speaking about the design, planning, constructing and testing of a repeater. A lot goes into having a repeater come online, and Cam has had quite a bit of fun (some fun, some not) during his quest. We look forward to his presentation.

Well, that about wraps it up for this month. I will not be at this month's meeting, as we are having a wedding in our family and I will be involved with that. So .. have a great time without me and I will catch you when I get back!

Happy Hamming!

73,
Jay KG1B



AVARC Members,
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California QSO Party

CQP & improving your operating skills

From an operating point of view, what do Public Service, chasing DX or working contests have in common?

They all require accurate copy of information under stress – whether the stress of the moment, the adrenaline rush of rare DX or contest pile up, you have to accurately copy and relay information.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, Contesting provides a great learning experience for information copy “under fire”.

The first weekend of October (October 1st & 2nd this year) sees the annual running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX!

Whether you are a “big gun” with stacked yagis and 1500 watts, or a “little pistol” with 100 watts to a vertical or a wire antenna, everyone else in the world wants to work YOU to pick up one of the 58 counties in our state.

It’s a lot of fun being on the receiving end of a pile up or searching & pouncing for other states and countries.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be really on the end of a pile up? Plan a “CApedition” to one of the rarer counties in California and the rest of the world will beat a path to your front end!

Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club led by the NCCC “Green” team chaired by Rick “The Rhino” N6RNO as CQP Contest Chairman. A group of NCCC volunteers help with PR, planning county expeditions and processing all the logs to score the contest.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast!

We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

Stu Phillips – K6TU

Ron Hammel K6WLC, Margie Hoffman KG6TBR, and Dan Sherwood WA6PZK, operating in the California QSO Party at Ron’s Ranch in Lockwood Valley



Antelope Valley Volunteer Examiner Team 2011 Amateur Radio Exam Schedule

Session	Date	Day	Time
GLAARG	10/3/2011	Monday	7 P.M.
GLAARG	11/12/2011	Saturday	9 A.M.
ARRL	12/5/2011	Monday	7 P.M.

Exam location:
Antelope Valley First Christian Church
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.

GLAARG testing fee is \$4.00.
ARRL testing fee is \$15.00



The HAMCON 2011 VE Team

L to R: Bruce Berger KD6GCO; Sheila Berger KE6MHL; John Berger KN6VL; Adrienne Sherwood WA6YEO; Larry Bianchi KG1B; Dan Sherwood WA6PZK (seated); Frank O'Dell N6FOD; Keith Hoyt K6GXO. Not shown: Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

Swap Shop

TUNER FOR SALE

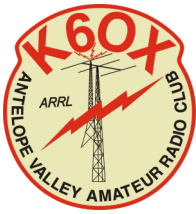
MFJ-993B automatic antenna tuner in like-new condition, complete with instruction manual and 12-VDC adaptor. I paid \$289.90 and am selling it at \$100. It let me use my 4-band Windom successfully on 8 bands. I just installed an 8-band antenna, so tuner is not needed here.

Bill Welsh W6DBB
948-8493

RADIO FOR SALE

For Sale: Icom 275A 25W Base Station All-Mode Radio SSB-FM
\$350.00

Ron Hammel K6WLC
661-810-3386



Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club 2011 Officers

President	Margie Hoffman	KG6TBR	297-6567
Vice President	Larry Bianchi	KG1B	538-9142
Secretary	Dan Sherwood	WA6PZK	264-1863
Treasurer	Dan Rowlan	KG6PQA	944-1123
Master-At-Arms	Gary Mork	WA6WFC	948-8317
Board Member	Gary Barr	WA6TWT	946-2717
Board Member	Larry Mock	KI6BKP	943-6736
Trustee	Keith Hoyt	K6GXO	533-4025
Ex Officio	Jon Clark	N6NQ	305-6969



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