



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

August 2015

August 13, 2015

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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### August Program

#### Emergency Preparedness

Alex Robinson from EMT AED Service a provider for the Ventura County Emergency Medical Service.



**Dinner with the Speaker  
Where? TGIFriday's  
When? 5:15pm**

**Join your club board members  
and Alex Robinson, for dinner  
before the meeting.**

General Meeting  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Simi Valley  
Senior Center  
3900 Avenida Simi  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

I want to thank Ken Larson KJ6RZ for the excellent presentation on Maximum Useable Frequency. In his presentation about Reliable High Frequency Communications he demonstrated how to successfully transmit and receive HF communications, day or night, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An in depth copy of his presentation is available at:

<http://www.cvarc.org/new-wp/technical-articles/>

The FCC Sustains \$22,000 Fine for Egregious On Air Behavior. Michael Guensey KZ8O was fined in 2014 for intentionally interfering with other Amateur Radio communications and for failing to identify. The FCC said he is given 30 days to pay the fine or arrange an installment plan. The FCC also fined another Georgia ham David J. Tolassi W4BHV who was sited last August for failure to properly identify under Part 97 ID rules.

ARRL Filed More "Grow Lights" Ballast Complaints with the FCC. The issue of these complaints were commercial grow light ballast purchase from Home Depot that cause RF interference to HF communications.

For more in depth on both articles go to: <http://www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy>

73, Frank Valdez KI6OQ

## Nets of Interest

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <b>SSARC 2 Meter Net*</b> 8:30 pm SMRA-ERN Repeater 146.805 - 0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 - 5.0MHz PL100.0	<b>Condor Connection</b> 7pm (Plays Newslines) Thousand Oaks 223.940-1.6 MHz PL156.7 Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	<b>ACS Area 1</b> Simi Valley SMRA-ERN 7:05pm Repeater 146.805 -0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 -5.0MHz PL100.0  <b>ATN-CA Net</b> 7:30pm <a href="http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm">http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm</a>  <b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz	<b>Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International</b> 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.262 (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter  <b>CW-QRP</b> 9am 7.032 MHz  <b>Quad Squad net</b> 1PM on 21.365 MHz.

Additional information on local nets can be found on the CVARC web site at:  
[http://www.cvarc.org/new-wp/?page\\_id=470](http://www.cvarc.org/new-wp/?page_id=470)

**\*Thanks to our fine Net Control Operators: Steve, KE6WEZ; Rick, W6DQE; Ray, KI6LKD; Jay, AG6JF and Dante, KK6JCQ.**

## ACS Corner

1. We are looking for one or two ACS members that would like to become Net Controllers. You will receive hands on training at the Simi Valley PD (where we normally conduct the Weekly Net). It is both fun and at times challenging. You will gain valuable experience in running a controlled Net as well as becoming more than just familiar with the equipment in the Radio Room at the PD. If you would like to volunteer for this, let me know - ke6wez@gmail.com
2. If anyone is interested in how to setup your own packet station, RMS Winlink station, or a Mesh Node, let me know and we can get you started in the proper direction. ke6wez@gmail.com
3. Talked about the NBEMS (FLDIGI) test that was conducted on the South Mountain Repeater this evening. If anyone is interested in NBEMS (FLDIGI) contact Steve King at ke6wez@gmail.com.
4. Tuesday 4 Aug 2015 ORT. Will need volunteers for the Simi PD, Simi Hospital, remote location. ke6wez@gmail.com
5. Sunday 9 August 15 Simi Valley Half Marathon. We will need 12 volunteers for this event. I am also hoping to set up a mini-Mesh Net to bring live video back to Net Control. Contact Steve at ke6wez@gmail.com to volunteer.
6. Sunday 22 & 23 August Camarillo Air Show. This is a great event to help out with and you get to see some really great aircraft! Contact Ted Lansing at ausprecher@gmail.com to help.
7. Saturday - Sunday 12 & 13 September 2015 - Ventura Bike Ride & Marathon. These two events will need a lot of help to fully support them. If you can work one or perhaps both day, contact Stewart at kg6bov@arrrl.net.
8. Saturday 3 October 15 Share The Road Ride. This is Century bike ride that covers a good part of Ventura County. We will need 22 folks to fully man up this event. Four of the positions are in vehicles and will need mobile radios and mag mount antennas and be able to plug into the cigarette lighter plug of the vehicle. Contact Steve at ke6wez@gmail.com to help.
9. Saturday 10 October 2015 - Making Strides Cancer Walk. Contact Jose n6vuy@arrrl.net
10. Saturday 10 October 2015 CERT refresher - More info coming.

- Steve King KE6WEZ ([ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com))

## Events

### Thursday, August 6, 2014, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

Round Table Pizza, 2345 Erringer Road, Ste. 100, Simi Valley

### Sunday, August 9, 2015, 8:30am Ham Radio License Exam Session

Ventura County Sheriff's E County Station

2101 E Olsen Rd (Between 23 Hwy & Reagan Library);

Community Room, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Walk-ins-Allowed.

**Contact:** Jeffrey M Reinhardt (818) 706-3853

See: <http://www.cvarc.org/> for more information

### Thursday, August 13, 2015, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

**Note:** The Simi Valley Hamnet Users Group will meet at 6pm just prior to the SSARC General Meeting. And Ray K16LKD will be there early for anyone needing their HT programmed. And, of course, the Powerpole service will be available.

### Thursday, August 27, 2015, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

At the home of Diane Rehaut 2805 El Paso Ave, Simi Valley

### Saturday, August 29, 2015, 7:00am W6TRW Swap meet

(7am) and Exam Session (10am) Redondo Beach, CA

<http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/swapmeet.htm>

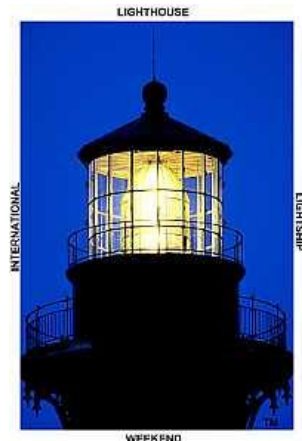
## International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

This premier annual fun event began in 1995 when the Ayr Radio Group had the Scottish Northern Lighthouse Weekend. The concept proved so popular that it was renamed and opened up to the world.

Always held on the third weekend of August, it has steadily grown to now attract more than 500 lighthouses and lightship from about 50 countries. The main reason for its popularity is that the weekend is a fun event, held under simple guidelines, and in the spirit of international goodwill. With four weeks to go 350 registrations have been received. In 2014 there were 544, making it an average 20 a year increase over the last eight years.

In the lead so far is Germany on 64, followed by Australia 58, USA 45 and England 33. Among the newest are Belgium ON4OS at Lange Nelle, Cuba CO9FAA Los Colorados, Malaysia 9M4LHX St Paul's Church, Spain EG1LWC Corrubedo and Switzerland HB9FVR at Romanshorn.

If you want to register a marine navigation beacon for August 15-16, then please see the guidelines and online registration on the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend website at [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net)



## HAMCON 2015

The 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, is September 11-13, 2015 at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel (same location as the 2007 and 2011 conventions.)

Please visit: [www.hamconinc.org](http://www.hamconinc.org) for complete information. You will find a full Vendor/Exhibitor Hall (65 booths), along with many interesting Tech Talk speakers. Every paid attendee also receives four free door prize tickets--no additional tickets will be sold or offered--and everyone has an equal chance. The grand registration door prize is a Kenwood TS-590SG HF transceiver. Those registering by July 31 will also be in a door prize drawing for a Kenwood TM-710G VHF/UHF mobile radio with built-in GPS and APRS. Many additional door prizes will be given throughout the day on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Several items to bring to your attention now:

From August 1 through the convention (including at the door) the registration fee will be \$27.



The special program HAMCON Saturday Lunch, Saturday Dinner Banquet, and Sunday Breakfast will each have a very interesting speaker plus a door prize drawing just for attendees at that meal. The Lunch door prize is a \$150 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate, the Dinner Banquet door prize will have a value exceeding \$500; and the Sunday Breakfast door prize will be a \$100 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate.

Please note a special \$119 per night discounted hotel room rate package at the Torrance Marriott is available exclusively for HAMCON attendees through August 15, 2015. Reservations at this rate may only be made online through Marriott's web portal on the [www.hamconinc.org](http://www.hamconinc.org) website hotel reservations page or by calling the Marriott national telephone reservations center at 1-800-228-9290 and using the code words "HAMCON Convention" at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel. This special rate package is not available through Marriott's main website.

Finally, all hams are welcome--whether you belong to the ARRL or not. Hope to see you at HAMCON 2015 in September.

73,  
Diana Feinberg, AI6DF  
Chair, HAMCON 2015 / the 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

## Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees "will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories." Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-va-nity-call-sign-fee-to-disappear-in-september>

## AREDN Announces Release of Second Beta, v3.15.1.0b2

On July 3rd the AREDN Project posted a second beta release of its upcoming v3.15.1.0 software. It can be found through the Experimental Builds link on the Software Downloads page. While you are encouraged to download it and report any issues, direct support for this release is currently only provided to AREDN Beta Testers. Due to the potentially unstable nature of beta software, it should not be deployed in production networks.



If you are already on 3.15.1.0b01, then you can easily use the OTA (Over the Air) "keep settings" upgrade! Joe (AE6XE) did his first 5+mile remote-over-RF upgrade and saved an afternoon and a long uphill hike (This was on a Ubiquiti 3Ghz node). We've had some great feedback on the "part 97 only" channels where they have significantly improved link quality results

In addition, these are 'clean' image upgrades that minimize memory usage. Whenever 'patch' files are used on nodes, this is a memory additive process. In other words, a replaced file still has old file on the node in addition to the new the file. These BOTH consume precious system memory. The OTA upgrade, on the other hand, behaves as if you did a TFTP "clean" image load, but also pulls the config file settings across the upgrade! It's a VERY COOL timesaver.

For those of you with tunnels, you will need to go into the Admin interface and click on the "Install Tunnel" button. However, after a quick install and reboot, all tunnel settings are preserved and no re-entry is needed. By design, we are not including add-on 'packages' like vtun in the OTA.

For the AREDN Team,

Andre, K6AH  
<http://www.aredn.org/>

## New Manager at HRO in Burbank

Let's all give a warm welcome to Mark Moore N6MGM.

# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership Meeting, July 9, 2015

Call to Order: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 10 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 33, with 4 guests.

Announcements: Frank said that a group of recently ordered badges had come in. Rick Slater, AG6AY, spoke about the preliminary results for the Field Day operation. He said there were over 2,800 contacts made with the estimated point total approximately 8500. Final totals will be posted on the "N6R" page at qrz.com. Steve King, KE6WEZ, mentioned upcoming events; Camarillo Airshow, Simi Valley Half Marathon, and others. He said to check email and the ACS Calendar for event dates. Frank said he is looking for an August meeting program speaker. He said he will be working for the gas company on a pipeline safety project and that may lead to a talk he can give us at a meeting.

Introductions: A round of introductions was held. Guests included: Norm Campbell, AB6ET, Ken Larson, KJ6RZ, Donna Smith, KK6ROI, and Kyle McNicoll who was awaiting his callsign. (Secretary's note: Kyle's call is KK6VHM)

Program: President Frank introduced our program speaker, Ken Larson, KJ6RZ, who gave a presentation on the subject of "Maximum Usable Frequency". Ken became a ham in the late 1950's and through the 1960's, and returned to the hobby in about 1989. He began with some background on the subject of HF radio propagation by reflection of radio waves from the Ionosphere "layer" regions between 30 and 600 miles above the Earth. It is solar radiation that creates the ionization layers. Ken explained that radio waves are refracted back toward Earth when the elevation angles of incidence are below a "critical angle" that varies inversely with the radio frequency. He showed the equations to calculate critical frequency and gave examples of a chart of elevation angle vs propagation distance. After the talk, Ken answered questions about the propagation coverage shown on the Band Conditions Maps included in his slides. A copy of Ken's presentation is available on the [cvarc.org](http://cvarc.org) website under "technical articles". After this very interesting program, Frank presented Ken with a certificate of appreciation from the Simi Settlers.

Break: A 20-minute break was taken at 8:34pm with refreshments provided by Jim, KJ6LXJ, and Linda Parker, filling in for our regular refreshments chairman Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing: The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Brad Rife, KI6KSY, who was not present to win the \$30 prize. Therefore, at our next regular meeting on August 13, 2015, the prize will increase to \$40. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.

Prize Raffle: The featured "Grand Prize" at this month's raffle, a "Mighty D-Light" was won by Ray Campbell, KI6LKD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O



## Simi Settlers' Leadership

<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:fvaldez@dslextreme.com">fvaldez@dslextreme.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Secretary</b>	John Percival	WI6O		<a href="mailto:percivaljohns@cs.com">percivaljohns@cs.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		<a href="mailto:gw.daly@yahoo.com">gw.daly@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>				
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Joe Partlow	W6JWP	(805) 428-7907 cell	<a href="mailto:joe.w6jwp@gmail.com">joe.w6jwp@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:KJ6LXJ@gmail.com">KJ6LXJ@gmail.com</a>
<b>PIO</b>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Field Day</b>	<i><b>What will <u>you</u> do?</b></i>			
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Dante Smith	KK6JCQ		<a href="mailto:danterusso1999@gmail.com">danterusso1999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		<a href="mailto:mtweedy@roadrunner.com">mtweedy@roadrunner.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Ray Campbell	KI6LKD	(805) 404-3246	<a href="mailto:ki6lkd@yahoo.com">ki6lkd@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Steve King	KE6WEZ		<a href="mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com">ke6wez@gmail.com</a>
<b>Food Services</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:wildpoky45@earthlink.net">wildpoky45@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Elmers and Members at Large</b>				
<b>Ex-President</b>	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	<a href="mailto:Rick@keymaterial.com">Rick@keymaterial.com</a>
<b>Treasurer Emeritus</b>	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
<b>Elmer</b>	Deanna Smitha	W6DWS		<a href="mailto:W6DWS@arrl.net">W6DWS@arrl.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:wildpoky45@earthlink.net">wildpoky45@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		<a href="mailto:jhutch17@adelphia.net">jhutch17@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		<a href="mailto:speedy@earthlink.net">speedy@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Spencer Smith	N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	<a href="mailto:n6iwy@sbcglobal.net">n6iwy@sbcglobal.net</a>

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club Web Page: <http://www.simissettlers.org/index.htm>  
 Simi Settlers' ARC Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC>  
 Mail: P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, CA 93062-2125

### Letter From The Editor

The position of Public Information Officer (PIO) has opened up. Mostly entails keeping an eye out for opportunities to promote the club and Ham Radio to the general public. And I'm still emptying boxes after my move. 'Nuff said.

73 to all,

- Joe W6JWP

# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, Ca 93062-2125 --- (www.simissettlers.org)

## Membership Application

*(Membership Year is counted from July 1st of the current year to June 30th of the following year. New Member fees will be prorated accordingly.)*



### Type of Application:

New Member   
Renewal

### Type of Membership:

Individual (\$12/yr)   
Family (\$18/yr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family Members:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Badges requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Shirts requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s) Size(s) (Sm, Med, L, XL, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Jackets Requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$88.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s) Size(s) (Sm, Med, L, XL, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Application type: New  Renewal  Membership type: Individual  Family

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Database completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Badges and Shirts ordered: \_\_\_\_\_