



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

January 2017

January 12, 2017

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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### January Program

#### Being DX - Tales of a Contest Expeditioner: 2016 Update

- Marty Woll N6VI

Operating from the other side of the pile-up is always exciting, but it takes planning and perseverance to set up a capable station in remote locations. Back in 2009, Marty shared with us a collection of anecdotes from over a dozen contest operations outside the "lower 48". At this meeting he will update us on his expeditions since that time.

We have asked Marty, if time permits, to give us an overview of the process of forming a tax-exempt entity, a step some radio clubs have taken to further their public-service work and encourage donations toward such efforts.

See Marty's bio on page 3 for more info.

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

**Join your club board members and Marty Woll, N6VI for dinner before the meeting.**

Happy New Year to the Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club Board of Directions and the membership. I look forward to a better 2017.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our hosts Lea and Jim Veronica WA6NXK, for hosting the annual SSARC Christmas party at their home. The location, high in the hills and beautifully decorated, made for a wonderful party for all the members who attended.

I urge the membership to attend our January meeting with our guest Marty Woll N6VI. His presentation will be about what it's like "Being DX - Tales of a Contest Expeditioner".

Over the holidays, while visiting the Ham Nation website, I came across a web site about horizontal dipoles by Dick Reid KK4OBI. It includes a lot of information about different dipole configurations and includes 3D graph analysis. Check it out at [www.qsl.net/kk4obi](http://www.qsl.net/kk4obi).

I urge the membership to look for a new president this coming year as my service will come to an end in June. I have enjoyed my 3 years as president and want to Thank You all for your support.

73,

Frank KI6OQ

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

## 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 Newsline) 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>Mesh Talk Net</b> 7:30pm on the WB6EBY repeaters	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.240 <sup>**</sup> (+ 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>

\*Thanks to our fine Net Control Operators: Steve, KE6WEZ; Rick, W6DQE; Ray, KI6LKD; Jay, AG6JF and Dante, KK6JQC.

\*\* It's a NEW YEAR and time to make some welcome changes! Take a half-hour out of you busy Saturday morning and join your fellow club members, no matter how far and wide they have strayed, for fun and invigorating conversation on the **Simi-Settlers 40 meter net**. We meet every **Saturday from 8:30 am** on a new and improved frequency: **7.240 MHz**. It will only take only 30 minutes out of your winter "honey do list" and give your poor-old-body a chance to digest what's left from yesterday's breakfast-burrito and stale-old coffee! Make this your new year's tradition in 2017!

Frosty,  
NQ1S

## ACS/ARES Corner

1. Monday - 9 January 2017 - ACS-ARES District Meeting - 7:30pm - ECSS
2. Saturday - 28 January 2017 - EmPrep Fair in Camarillo. More info to come.
3. Tuesday - 7 February 2017 - ORT Night. Ask your EC how you can help!

We are always looking for 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



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.

**NOTE:** Please be advised that we will now hold the Tue. countywide net at 19:30 on the Sulphur Mountain WD6EBY repeater 145.200, minus 600 KHz offset, CTCSS of 127.3. Until further notice, this will be our standard frequency for countywide communications.

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

## Events

### **Thursday, January 5, 2017, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night**

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

### **Thursday, January 12, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting**

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

### **Thursday, January 21, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting**

At the home of Diane Rehaut, 2805 El Paso Av, Simi Valley, CA 93063

### **Saturday, January 28, 2017, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet**

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

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

### **Sunday, February 14, 2017, 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

## **Marty Woll N6VI**

Marty Woll N6VI has been in Amateur Radio for forty-nine years and is a frequent speaker at radio clubs and conventions. A retired CPA with a major international accounting firm, he holds an Extra Class license and is a Life Member of the American Radio Relay League. Marty has just completed his ninth year serving as ARRL's Vice Director for the Southwestern Division. He has held positions on ARRL's Administration and Finance Committee, UHF / Microwave Band Plan Committee, Legal Defense and Assistance Committee and the VHF Revitalization Subcommittee. In addition to his League and Division duties, he is Assistant District Emergency Coordinator of the ARES Northwest District of the Los Angeles Section, Training Officer and Battalion Communication Unit Leader for the Los Angeles Fire Department's Auxiliary Communication Service, a licensing Volunteer Examiner and a Volunteer Instructor.

Marty is a founding member of the Southern California Contest Club and has served as a member and chair of the ARRL's Contest Advisory Committee. He has been President of the Southern California DX Club and chair of the Los Angeles Area Council of Radio Clubs. He participates regularly in contests from HF through 10 GHz. In nearly twenty contest expeditions, Marty has set up and operated amateur radio stations on six continents.

# Noise Floor Report Does Not Inspire Confidence

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last June, the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee asked licensed and unlicensed users of the electromagnetic spectrum to answer some questions about the noise they were experiencing and whether or not it was affecting their services. Specifically, they asked:

- \* Is there a noise floor problem?
- \* Where does the problem exist? Spectrally? Spatially? Temporally?
- \* Is there quantitative evidence of the overall increase in the total integrated noise floor across various segments of the radio frequency spectrum?
- \* How should a noise study be performed?

Well, the results are in, and Radio World recently published a summary of the responses that the FCC received (<http://www.radioworld.com/business-and-law/0009/noise-floor-where-do-we-go-from-here/338242>). The FCC received 93 replies from 73 (great number, eh?) different people or organizations, including:

- \* 23 companies/industry organizations
- \* 39 RF professionals (broadcast and wireless)
- \* 31 licensed radio amateurs
- \* 9 responders did not reply to the questions asked

Respondents included the ARRL, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, ATT, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I found especially interesting comments from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. They include:

- \* Increased cooperation is needed between manufacturers of Part 15 devices and users of radio spectrum to identify noise sources and take appropriate remedial action.
- \* Radiated emission limits below 30 MHz in the FCC Part 15 rules for unintentional emitters should be enacted. There are presently no radiated emission limits below 30 MHz for most unintentional emitters.
- \* Reduced Part 15 limits for LED lights should be enacted to be harmonized with the Part 18 lower limits for fluorescent bulbs.
- \* Better labeling on packaging for Part 18 fluorescent bulbs and ballasts to better inform consumers of potential interference to radio, TV and cellphone reception in the residential environment.
- \* Specific radiated and/or conducted emission limits for incidental emitters, such as motors or power lines, should be enacted.
- \* Conducted emission limits on pulse-width motor controllers used in appliances should be enacted.
- \* Substantially increase the visibility of enforcement in power line interference cases.

Other organizations made similar comments.

While the report is encouraging, it won't mean a thing if no action is taken on these issues. Given that the FCC is cutting back on its field offices, and our president-elect has said that he plans to reduce the number of governmental regulations, I'm not optimistic that we'll see the noise situation get better before it gets worse. What do you all think?

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When he's not battling the noise floor at his QTH, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# A Ham's New Year's Resolutions

As 2016 slides into 2017, it's natural to think about plans for the coming year. And I'd like to ask a favor of you -- please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. [Click here to see them](#)
2. Try something new. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. An interface is inexpensive to buy or build. D-Star, DMR, and other digital voice modes are growing by leaps and bounds. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How about SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and try something different!
3. Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 25 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World?
4. Build something. Too many years ago, as I newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. Not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start you'll be hooked.
5. Learn something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.
6. Teach something. You know how to do things others don't, but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?
7. Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.
8. Get involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)
9. Be positive, ignore the negative. One of my father's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!
10. Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2017!

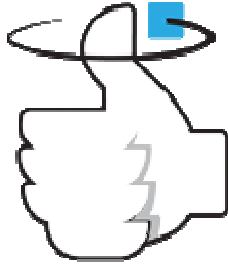
Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and New Year.

Thanks and warm 73, John Bee, N1GNV, Quicksilver Radio Products [www.qsradio.com](http://www.qsradio.com)

# Thumbsat

My name is Wade VanLandingham and I manage a non-profit organization called ThumbNet.

(<http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet> ) To quote part of our own page: ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from



# THUMBSAT

satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet, and with over 240 volunteer groups in more than 72 countries, we're having an immediate and positive effect on the lives of hundreds of students around the globe!

I'm not sure if your club puts out a newsletter to your members around the Simi Valley area, but I know from experience that finding content can sometimes be tricky month after month. I have a small press release about a new receiver for Software Defined Radio (SDR) (<http://www.arrl.org/software-defined-radio>) that we developed for ThumbNet, that may interest your members. It may make a nice, small article for you, just in time for Christmas.

ThumbNet's N3 SDR receiver is unique in its design and it is competitive in cost with the majority of the SDR dongles on Amazon or eBay. We design and produce updates of the receiver to meet the needs of the ThumbNet network, (This is the 3rd generation.) but due to minimum order quantities from the manufacturer, we end up with several hundred more than we need each time we do so. In order to not have thousands of SDR radios laying around, I try to offer them to others that share our education efforts (like Girl Scouts) or simply may have an interest in working with them (like HAM clubs). The small proceeds that remain go right back into the project to support its continued outreach and growth, and not into someone's retirement fund.

Due to the risk of viruses, I would not send you an attachment to open via email, but your members might like to visit the page here: <http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet> and <http://www.nongles.com> to learn more and consider supporting ThumbNet. Reviews are also beginning to appear on various SDR blogs such as <http://www.rtl-sdr.com> .

If this is not appropriate for your club, I apologize for bothering you and wish you the best.

Thanks for your time,

Wade VanLandingham  
W4VNO

# 2017 Arizona Section Convention

## Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 17 & 18, 2017



Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona

[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
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**Vendors & Exhibitors**  
**Consignment Sales**  
**License Testing**  
**Hourly Door Prizes**  
**On-site RV Camping**  
**Hamfest Dinner**  
**ARRL Speaker**  
**Transmitter Hunt**  
**\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)**  
**Full Seminar Schedule**  
**DXCC Card Checking**  
**Incredible Grand Prizes**  
**Emergency Preparedness**  
**Admission Prize**  
**Hospitality Area**  
**Near Space Balloon Launch**  
**Antenna Clinic**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.780 (-) PL 103.5 Hz

Email Contact: [info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org)



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

Simi Settlers' Leadership				
<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:frankki6oq@gmail.com">frankki6oq@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	VACANT			
<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:gnb.2112@yahoo.com">gnb.2112@yahoo.com</a>
Committee Chairpersons				
<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>	VACANT			
<b>Field Day</b>	<i>What will you do?</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:ki6ksv@gmail.com">ki6ksv@gmail.com</a>
<b>Room Coordinator</b>	Linda Parker			<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
Elmers and Members at Large				
<b>Past-President</b>	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	<a href="mailto:Rick@keymaterial.com">Rick@keymaterial.com</a>
<b>Past-Treasurer</b>	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
<b>Elmer</b>	VACANT			
<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

Along with Frank relinquishing his post as President I will be stepping away from my six year position as newsletter editor in June. In preparation for that eventuality I will try to give any of you who might be thinking about giving writing the newsletter a try a little idea of what's involved.

First and foremost the position is newsletter *editor*. Except for this "Letter From The Editor" (which is optional) you don't have to write anything. Nearly all the content is supplied from outside sources such as websites, emails and the other board members (though sometimes they have to be reminded).

Let's look at this month's news letter for example. I sent Marty an email and he sent me the Write up for his talk and his bio. A gentle email reminder and Frank sent me his column. "Nets of Interest" came from several websites with the change to the 40 meter net coming from Frosty. "ACS/ARES Corner" comes from Steve's weekly email. "Events" usually just require updating the dates. Next month I'll talk about where some of other content comes from.

- 73 - Joe W6JWP



# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

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

## Membership Application



### Type of Application:

New Member   
Renewal

### Type of Membership:

Individual (\$18/yr)   
Family (\$20/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 \$18.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_