



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

April 2019

April 9, 2019

## Static & Sparks

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

### April Program

Thursday, April 14 7:00 PM

Bill Woods - AB6BW

### FT8 - DX Without Sunspots.

Sunspots are an important energizer of DX communications. The number of sunspots follows an approximately 11 year cycle. We are currently nearing the bottom of Cycle 24. HF propagation has been very poor for a few years and will continue to be bad or worse for several years to come.

New digital modes have been invented that use advanced signal and data processing to enable radio communications in spite of poor conditions. FT8 is one of the most effective and popular new modes.

Come hear about how you can use this mode to make both DX and domestic contacts in the doldrums of Cycle 24.

### Dinner with the Speaker

**Where? Macaroni Grill**

**NE corner of Alamo & Tapo Cyn**

**When? 5:15 pm**

**Join Bill and other club members for dinner before the club meeting.**

Bill Woods - AB6BW

### Board or Bored Meetings?

Every organization encounters that dilemma. Let's face it - always dealing with just the routine stuff can get pretty boring. That's where our club members can help. Please feed us your ideas and concerns. Feel free to attend the meetings. Send me a email if you think an issue or idea should be on our agenda.

Over the past Year or so, your board has worked on updating our club Constitution and Bylaws. This effort has been successfully completed with the club overwhelmingly ratifying the documents.

In the next few months, we will be working on compiling a check-list of items, events, details that need attention every year. Hopefully, this will help us avoid conflicts such as the one we now face between the annual Simi Valley Emergency Preparedness Street Fair and our Spring Picnic. If there are items/events/etc that you think should be on the checklist, please drop me a *kind* email.

73

Bill - AB6BW

## 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) Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <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>Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International</b> 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM  <b>Mesh IRC Net.</b> 6-10 PM  <b>Mesh VOIP Net</b> 8pm 2.4/5.8 GHz Mesh	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am <b>7.240</b> (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter  <b>CW-QRP</b> 9am 7.032 MHz  <b>Quad Squad net</b> 1PM on 21.365 MHz's

Additional information on local nets can be found on the CVARC web site at: <http://www.cvarc.org>

## Sunday Night Net Control Operators

Thanks to our fine Net Control Operator: Brian KM6MIN.

## ACS/ARES Corner

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](mailto: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 hold the Tue. countywide net at 19:30 (7:30PM) 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))

## Upcoming ACS/ARES Events:

1. TUESDAY- 2 APRIL, 2019 - OPERATIONAL READINESS TESTING (ORT) NIGHT.
2. Tuesday, 9 April: 2019: NBEMs practice at 6:00pm
3. Saturday 4 May - ALS ride. Check with E Group web site for more information.
4. Saturday - 4 May 2019 - Simi Valley Street Fair. Need volunteers to help man the booth. Bring your go box and set up. Contact Steve at [ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com) to volunteer.
5. Monday 6 May District Meeting
6. Tuesday 14 May - NBEMS net 6:00 PM
7. Saturday 18 May - Red Cross Ride for the Red (note: Rick said it is on 25 May)
8. Saturday 25 May - Thousand Oaks Safety Expo
9. Sunday 26 May - Mountains 2 Beach Marathon

## Events

### Thursday, April 4, 2019, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd , Simi Valley

### Thursday, April 11, 2019, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

### Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

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

### Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

### Saturday, May 4, 2019, all day - Simi Valley Emergency Preparedness Street Fair

Simi Valley Town Center (Near Macy's)

### Saturday, May 25, 2019, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm - SSARC Spring Picnic

Jim & Lea Veronica - 442 Peter Pl - Simi Valley - 93065

We expected this to be earlier in May but ran into a conflict with the annual SV Emergency Preparedness Street Fair. Many of our members will be involved with the ACS/ARES booth at the fair. We have moved the date to May 25. The picnic will be hosted by SSARC at Jimmy and Lea Veronicas' home. Hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and condiments will be provided by the club. Feel free to bring your favorite sides and appetizers for all to share. Jim and Linda Parker will be taking signups at Pizza Night and our meeting on April 11. If you can't get to a signup sheet please send an email to Jim/Linda at kj6ljx@gmail.com so we can be sure of having enough food.

***We will have a "White Elephant" table where you can sell (ham) stuff with at least half the proceeds being donated to SSARC.***

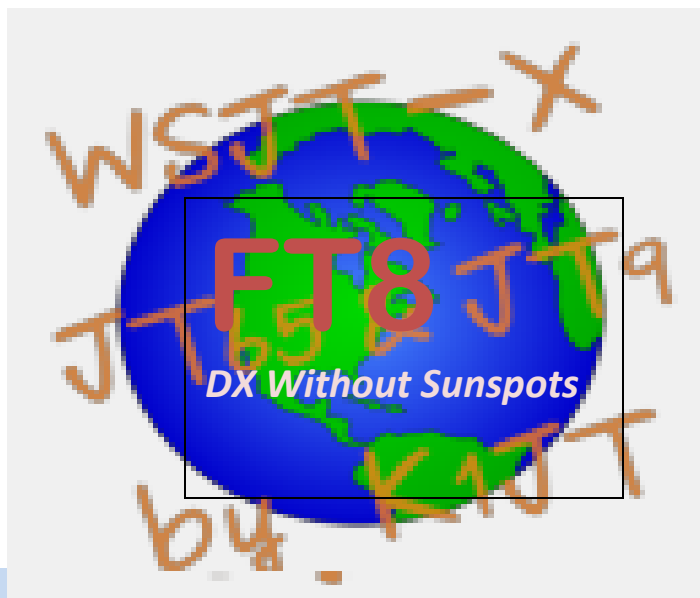


## Raffle Prize!

Jim Hutchinson KI6MZ, our new raffle coordinator, has several great prizes lined up. Bring \$\$\$ !!

## Future Programs

- May 9; Eric Oberg - "BitX SSB QRP how it works"
- June 13; Lea Veronica - "Living aboard a Sail boat with a Ham (operator). (I wonder who.???... Ed
- July 11; Stewart Sheldon - "New Antenna Design"
- August 8, Orv Beach - Mesh Network Update
- September 12, John Kitchens - NS6X - ARRL Santa Barbara Section Mgr.



## What's Happening on Hamnet?

There's a lot of ham network activity going on! Here's what's been done and what's planned for the next few months locally:

### Simi North (north end of Sycamore Road)

We recently upgraded the 3 GHz radio at Simi North. It had been a little Ubiquiti Nanostation M3. It's still an M3 (the bottom plastic box on the mast in the before photo) but we hung it on the feed point of a dish that looks something like a satellite TV dish. It gave us about 9 dB higher SNR on the link going to Simi West (Mellow Lane). See the before and after photos (the after photo shows Eric KE6MLF hanging off the tower after he did all the heavy lifting).



Also planned for Simi North is a 5 GHz upgrade. We'll be replacing the 5 GHz Nanostation there with a 120 degree sector antenna from Altelix, driven by a Ubiquiti Rocket M5 radio. While the Altelix antenna has only slightly more gain than the Nanostation, it applies that gain over 120 degrees of horizontal beam width, compared to 43 degrees of beam width for the Nanostation. This will give us much better coverage of the middle half of our valley.

We recently removed one small dead tree from the site, and will later remove a large tree (also dead) with the owner's permission, to get a better view for the camera for the hills on the south side of our Valley.



### Simi East (Chatsworth Peak)

We've had a PTZ camera on hand for Chatsworth Peak for a number of months. We were going to wait until the site got re-cabled prior to installing the camera. But that re-cabling has been deferred so we've decided to go ahead and replace the defunct fixed focus camera there with this shiny new PTZ camera. We hope to have

that completed in the next month. It will have a view similar to this photo. In addition to have a good view of the east end of the valley, it will be able to see parts of the 118 freeway as it comes through the pass.

### Other stuff

#### More channels!

With the steady expansion of the network, having all 5 GHz nodes on the same channel in the county is becoming problematic. I've sent a proposal to SCRRBA (the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association - the frequency coordination organization for everything above 220 MHz locally) to spread our nodes out across the band. I asked for a lot; we'll see how they respond :-)



#### Software upgrade

The AREDN team recently released a major upgrade of the networking firmware. Since then almost all hilltop nodes in Ventura County have been upgraded. The upgrade removes some bugs, closes some security holes and adds some new features.

#### Other areas

With the help of some Conejo Valley hams, we're scoping out several candidate sites for better coverage of the CV. The current site on Rasnow doesn't cover anything south of the 101 and west of about Moorpark Road. The photo is a 180 degree panorama (centered about WNW) taken near one of the candidate sites on the east side of the valley.

#### Activities

Our Wednesday night Teamtalk net is slowly growing. We had 7 people check in recently. Maybe we should start taking Teamtalk check-ins for the Tuesday night nets :-)

Dave KM6FQ has been doing some mesh network "wardriving" lately. He's got some software that will continually poll a couple of nodes in his car (connected to omni antennas on top). The software records lat/long, signal strength and a few other things about any other nodes heard on that channel. He's done a few test drives in Moorpark and western Simi Valley and sent the results to me, which I plotted on a heat map. We'll continue to refine the procedure and cover more territory to determine where our coverage is lacking.

If you're interested in trying ham networking I have a node or two I can loan out.

73

Orv W6BI

**Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, March 14, 2019**

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Vice President, Jim Veronica, WA6NXX. Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.  
8 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 30, with 6 visitors.
- Introductions: There was a round of introductions for members and guests. The club welcomed visitors Vern Potter, W6NCT, Rick Slater, AG6AY, Eric Harshberger, KM6ZXL, Don Anderson, Caleb Anderson, KM6ZCT, and guest speaker Mark Weiss, K6FG.
- Announcements: Rick Galbraith said that long time past member Larry Pyle, AD6ST, is in a hospital in Los Angeles. Rick said he has a get-well card for members to sign for Larry.  
Jim Veronica said that a Club Picnic has tentatively been set for Saturday, May 4, at his home. It will be potluck, with the Club providing burgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks.
- Constitution/Bylaws: Bill Woods reported that the latest vote count was now 45 votes "FOR" and zero against the adoption of the updated Constitution and Bylaws documents. This exceeded the required two thirds majority of the paid membership to approve the documents.
- Election: Following the resignation of President Mike Hasenfratz in February, an election was held to install a new President. Vice President Jim Veronica asked for nominations from the floor. Two candidates were nominated; Bill Woods, AB6BW, and Brian Hernandez, KM6MIN. While the two candidates stepped out of the room, a show-of-hands vote was taken. There were 15 votes for Bill, and 5 votes for Brian. Bill Woods was thus declared to be elected to serve out the current term as President, through June of this year.
- Field Day: Vern Potter, W6NCT, Stu Sheldon, AG6AG, and Rick Slater, AG6AY spoke about this year's Field Day event that will be Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30. Vern said the Library is welcoming us back again, but parking will still be a problem. Stu explained a few Field Day rules that came up last year related to a person operating at more than one site, and the use of emergency power. He also mentioned the importance of having a control operator at every station.
- Program: President Bill Woods introduced our guest speaker, Mark Weiss, K6FG, who spoke about "Remote Ham Radio". This is operating a fixed station from a different location. He said the reasons include; travel, antenna restrictions at home, emergencies, and just to have fun. He explained how the internet is used to operate a rig from any location. Mark showed the interface screen of the ICOM RS-BA1 remote control software. He mentioned websites "remotehamradio.com" and "remotehams.com", and an article in QST-April 2017, for good information. After the program, Mark was presented with a certificate of appreciation from SSARC.
- Break: A 15-minute break was taken, with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.
- Member Drawing: The progressive Membership drawing was held. The winning name drawn was Bill Woods, AB6BW, who was present to win the \$10 prize. The prize amount will therefore start over with \$10 for our April 11, 2019 meeting. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.
- Prize Raffle: Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, our prize chairperson showed the selection of prizes for tonight.
- February Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11, 2019. The program will be a presentation by Bill Woods about operating with the FT8 digital mode.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.
- Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Letter From The Editor

Please submit articles, pictures, etc. on things of interest to our SSARC community for publication to me at [ab6bw1@gmail.com](mailto:ab6bw1@gmail.com). Such items may discuss your recent antenna project, shack modifications, new operating modes, anecdotes from portable field operations, and so forth. A picture with a caption works. A few sentences strung together works. A few paragraphs, a few pages with detailed illustrations. . . . It's all good. I look forward (with a wee bit of trepidation) to your submissions. **Submission Deadline is Sunday night before 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday!**

73, Bill (AB6BW)

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club Web Page: <http://www.simisetters.org/index.htm>

Simi Settlers' ARC Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC>

Mail: P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, CA 93062-2125

Simi Settlers' Leadership				
<b>President</b>	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019 cell	<a href="mailto:ab6bw1@gmail.com">ab6bw1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Veronica	WA6NXX	(818) 389-3453	<a href="mailto:james4424422@gmail.com">james4424422@gmail.com</a>
<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>	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019 cell	<a href="mailto:ab6bw1@gmail.com">ab6bw1@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>	Linda Parker		(805) 558-1731 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Raffle Prizes</b>	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		<a href="mailto:jhutch17@adelphia.net">jhutch17@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		<a href="mailto:mtweedy@roadrunner.com">mtweedy@roadrunner.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595	<a href="mailto:behxxvii@yahoo.com">behxxvii@yahoo.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		(805) 558-1731 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
Elmers and Members at Large				
<b>Past-President</b>	Mike Hasenfratz	WA6FXT	(805) 405-8696	<a href="mailto:mikeh@tothe.net">mikeh@tothe.net</a>
<b>Past-Treasurer</b>	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
<b>Elmer</b>	VACANT			
<b>Advisor</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:ki6ksv@gmail.com">ki6ksv@gmail.com</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>

**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: \_\_\_\_\_