

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

April 2006

Meeting Program

April 13, 2006

Amateur Television in Southern California

Our guest speaker is Allan Gaynor, W6IST. Allan will speak on the development of Amateur Television (ATV) in Southern California. Mr. Gaynor has been a ham for many years and is past president of the Amateur Television Network (ATN). He is also an ATV "ELMER" for those hams who wish to learn more about amateur television. With his skills, he is recognized as one of the experts on ATV in the Southern California area.

Crisis Developing – We May Need a New Meeting Place!!

We have been advised by the Seventh Day Adventist Church that our benefactor who has been paying for us to meet at the church is no longer sponsoring us. They haven't yet provided any details on what that means regarding the future, but we are probably going to be asked for some form of monthly rental fee. This isn't unusual, but it may greatly impact our treasury and threaten the Club's very existence.

If you have any suggestions regarding free meeting space, please contact Dale Manquen immediately.

Report on Taco Party in the Park

Were you there Saturday, March 18? If so, you know that it turned out to be dry (but cool) day for our Taco Party in the park. Thank you to Allen Pettebone, KA6WGO, for the delicious tacos and trimmings. We had lots of good food and plenty of conversation and fun.

Also, thanks to Doug Dubrall, WA6RJN, for setting up a local T-Hunt course for members to practice T-Hunting techniques.

April Raffle Prizes

Digital Volt Meter
ARRL 2006 Repeater Directory
QRP Radio Pouch
Leather Work Gloves

AND the perpetual membership drawing prize of \$5!

Last Month – Space Shuttle Engines

Mr. Joe Rivetti, of Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, spoke on the development of the NASA Space Shuttle rocket engine. Each of the three liquid-fueled engines on the shuttle provide a half million pounds of thrust. The discussion and pictures were very informative. Now if NASA can just keep things from falling off during launch, we can get on with launching Shuttles and finishing the International Space station....

The Pres Sez

For me it was another month and another road trip to Chicago, but with a few twists. This time I got to visit a few model railroaders along the way, and I came home via Amtrak. I took along my 2 meter HT so that I could monitor all the Amtrak radio frequencies for each segment of the trip. Comprehensive frequency lists are readily available on the Internet at <http://www.on-track-on-line.com/amtrak-freqs.shtml>. I calculated that it cost \$3.50 per hour for my trip home. Once I arrived at Union Station in downtown L.A., I switched to a Metrolink train that brought me to Moorpark, where my son Luke picked me up.

I especially enjoyed riding the train through northeastern Arizona while the motorists on the adjacent highway were fighting light snow and very cold temperatures.

Prior to our departure, we did manage to squeeze our Taco Party picnic between two of the recurring rainstorms that we have been having. Someone up there is watching over us!

We have placed an overnight campout on our calendar, but I am concerned about how many members will attend. Please RSVP to me regarding your interest and commitment to attending this event:
May 20 & 21 Overnight campout at Lake Casitas(?) with a Saturday night pot luck dinner for everyone, including those who can't stay overnight

Field Day is also rapidly approaching - June 24 & 25 Field Day at the Reagan Library

We may also send carpool delegations to

First weekend in May Military Radio Collectors Group (MCRG) event in San Luis Obispo <http://syzen.com/milradio/>

June 18 (Fathers' Day) Santa Maria Hamfest

We would also like to offer speakers to the local Service Clubs to bolster the awareness and image of our club. This is your chance to help get the word out.

CVARC April Program

Now that CVARC has changed its meeting to the third Thursday of the month at the West Valley Sheriff's Station on Madera/Olsen road, our members can attend their meetings without any conflict.

CVARC April 20th Meeting - APRS and 'Crusin the Conejo'

Mike Bass, N7WLC, will be discussing APRS tracking and how we plan to use it at Cruisin the Conejo. The 100-mile bicycle ride represents difficulties for both the rider and the ham operator. APRS can provide a way for net control to know exactly where the support vehicles are. When an incident report comes in, the closest vehicle can be dispatched. This can reduce response time for an injured rider. This topic ties in nicely with the tracker construction project held tonight.

About the speaker:

Mike was first licensed in 1989 as N7WLC as a no-code technician. But the lure of HF and DX led to learning Morse Code and advancing through Tech Plus, General and Extra class licenses. He has worked 60 countries and all 50 states. Mike has been involved in digital modes, from packet to PSK31. His first satellite contact was to the Space Shuttle (N5QWL) using an HT. But his favorite modes are the digital modes on HF. "The soundcard has really opened up a whole new world in HF." In addition to ham radio, Mike is also an avid bicyclist. He has completed several 100-mile rides and a bicycle tour of Southern Utah.

From Our Treasurer

Treasurer Ed Richards, K6UUZ, reminds us that some folks haven't caught up on their dues for 2005-06, and we will soon be starting the membership drive for 2006-07. We have taken a substantial hit in the wallet to fund the Grab-

and-Go kits. If you are unsure about your status, please check with Ed to see if he has you down as a paid-up member.

Should the SSARC take on responsibilities for the AD6SV Simi Valley Repeater?

We have had some preliminary discussions with Orv Beach, W6BI, Trustee of the local AD6SV repeater association, regarding the Club taking over the responsibility of maintaining the AD6SV repeater. Current tasks include maintenance to enhance the reliability and performance of the repeater, and possibly a relocation of the repeater for better access.

We would like to hear from you regarding your willingness to help and if you feel that this is an appropriate activity for our Club.

Our current plan is to send the backup receiver to Art Vorpahl, WB6CWJ, in Bismarck, ND for service and tuning, and then to swap out the receivers, sending the current unit to Art for tuning. Art is the original repeater trustee, and is still a dues-paying member of the Simi Settlers. Thanks, Art, for your continued help!

ARES/RACES News

Ed Richards and Spencer Smith, N6IWY have made excellent progress on the first Grab-and-Go ARES/RACES box. They hope to display the prototype at this month's meeting.

The National Weather Service office in Oxnard is now equipped with amateur radio gear, and this gear has been used to host informal nets during the recent rainstorms. In the event of really severe weather, individuals might be called out to help monitor some of the local burn areas for flash flooding. Check the Sulfur Mountain (146.880 – PL127.3) repeater during bad weather to either notify the NWS of storm activity or to see if volunteers are needed.

Please participate in the ARES/RACES net Tuesday nights beginning at 7:10 on our local repeater, and then continuing at 7:30 on the county repeater at 146.880.

Visit http://www.emcomm.org/gear_list.htm for a comprehensive list of supplies for your emergency kit.

Elections Coming Up in June

We are looking for candidates to serve as next year's officers. Just in case you haven't checked lately, you will note that there are a number of unfilled positions listed at the end of this newsletter, and any of the elected officers would be very happy to step aside to allow others to participate.

Clubs like ours that have just a few member willing to step up and share the responsibilities usually find themselves in big trouble when that core of people start to 'burn out'. It happened in Camarillo, and it could happen here, too. Are you willing to help share the burden?

For Sale

by Spencer, N6IWY (805) 583-1127 or email < n6iwy@sbcglobal.net >

Yaesu VX-5R Triple-Band (50/144/440 MHz) handheld transceiver.
Comes with charger and Operating Manual. \$75.

SWAN Triband Beam Antenna, TB-4HA. This is a 4-element beam antenna for 10, 15 and 20 Meters. It is brand new (never been installed) and is complete with all hardware and mounting plates.

Specs.

Boom Length	24' 1 1/2"
Longest Element	28' 10"
Turning Radius	18' 6"
Max. wind rating	100 MPH
Wind Surface area	6 sq. ft.
Power rating	2000 Watts P.E.P.

Price: \$125

A pair of Model 150, INFINITY Studio Monitor, speaker cabinets. These are in excellent condition, for sale or trade.

Size: 19 1/2" W x 13" D x 39" H.
Speaker complement: 15" woofer, two (2) 5 1/4" midrange
and 3 1/2" tweeter.
Power handling: 150 Watts.

Variable crossover controls for both high frequency and midrange speakers.

Minutes for the March Meeting

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:41pm. This meeting was held in our regular meeting location at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 16, including one visitor and two guests.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members giving a brief word on their recent activities, trips, and radio operations. The Club welcomed visitor, Ralph Frye, W6EJE, to the meeting.

Program: Vice President Spencer Smith, N6IWY, introduced our guest speaker for this meeting, Joe Rivetti, who has worked for 44 years in the Engine Systems group of Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne. Joe was accompanied by Steve Hambly, who works with Joe at Rocketdyne. Joe's work has focused on the main engine for the Space Shuttle. Joe gave a video slide show presentation about the development, construction and operating principles of the Shuttle's main engine. The engine runs for only about eight and a half minutes during launch, and it is carefully inspected during maintenance between flights. The expected life of the main engine is 20 to 30 flights.
At the conclusion of the program, Spencer presented our guests Joe and Steve, with certificates of appreciation from the Club.

Break: A fifteen minute refreshment break was taken at 9:00pm.

Recent events: Dale thanked Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, for hosting the J-Pole antenna-building session at his home last month. Ed Richards, K6UUW, said the results were very good for the different J-pole variations that people built. To cover the cost of materials used, Ed asked members to pay \$20 for each antenna they built.

Announcements: Dale reported that the Amgen bike race event went very well. The Amateur Radio efforts impressed the police agency, and they welcome our help in the future.
Dale said he has communicated with Steve Champion AE6NX, President of CVARC. They plan to move the location of their meetings and change the meeting night to the THIRD Thursday of the month. Beginning with Thursday, April 20th, they will meet at 7:30pm at the East Valley Sheriff's Station (EVSS) on Olsen Road.
Our "Taco's in the Park" picnic is set for March 18th, but since we have no reservation, we need to get there early to hold a spot at the tables. It will start around 11am, and members should bring a side dish, salad or dessert.
Ed Richards reported recent progress on our Grab and Go kit project. Ed and Spencer Smith will work to build the first equipment box. Ed handed out a list of the items needed for the project.

Repeater News: Ed Richards reported on his evaluation of the condition of the repeater and gave his recommendations for needed improvements. Dale said that Orv Beach, W6BI, the trustee for the AD6SV repeater callsign, would be agreeable to SSARC taking over the repeater operation and maintenance. Roger Armstrong WD6EVT said it has been at the present site for 20 years, but he will look into a possible new site through contact with Greg Riegert, W6GRG.

Member Drawing: The winner in the monthly membership drawing was Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, who was present to win. The prize for the drawing in April will be \$5.00.

Prize Drawings: The monthly prize drawing was held with the lucky winners selecting their prizes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

SSARC Stockroom

Don't forget that the Club has a supply of components in our SSARC 'Stockroom'. Most of these items were acquired through Orv Beach (W6BI) when MICOM shut down their engineering lab. All items are free to club members (in reasonable quantities.) Parts categories include cables; fans; EMC filters, cores, inductors and shielding; solid and stranded wire and some semiconductors. A complete inventory list is posted on our Club Website. Call Dale Manquen at 529-2496 for access to these parts.

Tidbits

Nets of Interest

Here's a list of a few nets that might be of interest to my fellow Simi Settlers. Please let me know if any of you have other nets that you would like me to list.

Hope to hear a few of you on the bands.

1.925 MHz AM Tuesday, Thursday nights at 8 pm

3.908 MHz LSB Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday nights at 8 pm

7.039 MHz CW-QRP Saturday mornings at 9 am

14.265 MHz USB every night 9 pm (trying to contact WK7ED Ed Meyer on his cross country road trip)

144.240 MHz USB Sunday, Wednesday nights at 8 pm

222.100 MHz USB Monday night at 8 pm

449.360 (-) pl 167.9 every night at 8 pm

1296.100 MHz USB Friday night at 8 pm

You can also go to <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/spotter/html/> for online training with 31 slides in a packaged slideshow. The last slide has information on how to file an online application.

Simi Settlers' Officers

President	Dale Manquen KO6VO	(805) 529-2496	dmanquen@msn.com
Vice President	Spencer Smith N6IWY		N6IWY@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	John Percival WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	Ed Richards, K6UUZ		ZUU6K@juno.com
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI	Committee Chairpersons	
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Membership	Vacant		
P.I.O	Vacant		
Newsletter	Vacant (Dale Manquen acting Editor)		

Monthly Meetings

Our normal meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. every second Thursday of the month except December at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 1636 Sinaloa Road between L.A. Avenue and Royal.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz -Offset PL 127.3Hz

Next General Meeting

Thursday April 13, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz