

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

April 2007

Energy Conservation and Control using an Energy Management System

April 12, 2007

Our own John Beckers, W6JON, will discuss Energy Management Networking in a large school environment called the MESH Wireless Network.

This type network is a multihop system in which devices assist each other in transmitting packets of data. It is particularly useful in transmitting data under adverse conditions. You can drop these ad hoc networks in place with minimal preparation, and they provide a reliable, flexible system that can be extended to thousands of devices.

John initially tried to become an amateur in 1959, but ended up in the Navy instead. In 1990, he retook and passed the test. He has since upgraded and is now holds an Amateur Extra Class license. Presently he enjoys working the 80 thru 6 meter bands.

In his off time, he can be found doing Community Service, County hunting, Emergency operations, Kit building, attending hamfests and doing Field Day to name but a few of his activities.

We will have a special prize for the raffle – a 2 meter/440 HT donated by John Beckers. (Also see John's For Sale ad below for a Yaesu monitor scope.)

We will also be auctioning off some items from the estate of Lewis Curry:

- A Panavise with PC board holder and soldering iron dock,

- An assortment of chassis punches:

 - 5/8" Square, and

 - 3/4" Round

 - 5/8" Round

 - 1" Round

 - 1-3/16" Round

 - 1-1/4" Round

- Tube sockets

- Battery holders

- 5 ea. PL-259 connectors w/ reducers

Picnic in the Park Saturday, April 21, 2007

The Simi Settlers ARC will gather in Lemon Park (AKA Rancho Tapo Community Park) at 2850 Lemon Drive
<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2850%20Lemon%20Drive%20Simi%20Valley%20CA%2093063>
near Tapo Canyon and Alamo about 11 a.m. This QTH is a half block west of the Senior Center where we hold our evening meetings.

Please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish and a dessert. The Club will furnish soft drinks and paper goods. Since we don't know yet if we will be able to use the covered pavilion, plan on bringing some lawn chairs and tables.

Last Month – New Ham Hardware from HRO

Eric Christensen, KA6IHT, was our featured speaker for March. He is the manager of the Burbank Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) store.

Eric spoke on some of the new innovations in ham radio by leading manufacturers such as Alinco, Icom and Kenwood etc. He passed around units for us to inspect, but we had to give them back!! See the Minutes of the Meeting below for more details.

May Meeting

Vice President Spencer Smith, N6IWY, is working on a program with CVARC members to learn about their project to build Tiny Tracker APRS controllers. More on these as they firm up. Also in the works is a joint activity with VCARS to prepare for Field Day.

The Pres Sez

Field Day is looming on the horizon in June. As for the past few years, we will be joining VCARS at the Reagan Presidential Library. This year our club will be taking on a bit more responsibility to work as an equal partner with VCARS to shoulder our fair share of the jobs necessary to make everything happen smoothly. I hope that we will see enough volunteers stepping forward to take on our tasks.

Our April 21st picnic at Lemon Park is our first social event of the year. We hope you will join us for a fun afternoon with good food and great friends. It looks like we may not be featuring on normal menu of Allen Pettibone's tacos, but we will make up for that with a regular pot luck dinner.

***** I want to remind everyone that I am stepping down as President in June, along with my responsibilities as acting Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. We need folks to step up and volunteer to take on these responsibilities. Some of you may recall a few years ago when the club almost died when nobody was willing to fill the leadership roles. This club can't run without officers! The workload really isn't that heavy, and the interactions with the other officers is quite enjoyable. If you are interested in ANY of the offices, please make your interest known to one of the officers.*****

From the Secretary

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club
General Membership Meeting, March 8, 2006

Call to Order: President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:42pm. Dale welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. Roger Armstrong, WD6EVT, led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 12.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members and visitors speaking briefly about their recent activities and special interests in ham radio. Joyce Grace, XYL of Peter Grace KB1CVH, is a new ham with call sign KI6HUV, and now a member.

Program: Vice President Spencer Smith, N6IWY, introduced our program speaker for this meeting Eric Christensen, KA6IHT. Eric is manager of the Ham Radio Outlet store in Burbank. He showed a variety of radios and related Ham accessories describing their features. New single, dual and three band handheld radios from Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu and Alinco were the featured items. Also, there were several mobile VHF/UHF radios from Yaesu. Eric passed the items around the room for members to get a close up hands-on look at the "goodies". He spoke about the new "D-Star" digital voice and data system that is now in use on three repeaters in the LA area. Icom is the first manufacturer offering radios with D-Star. Eric also told his story of attending the Dayton Hamvention. At the end of the program, Vice President, Spencer Smith, N6IWY, presented Eric with a certificate of appreciation from the Club.

Break: A twenty-minute refreshment break was held at 8:55pm, with more time to look at the products that Eric brought to show the club members.

Announcements: The Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) will have a program at their next meeting, March 15th, about the Baker to Vegas race. Roger Armstrong said he is planning to reinstall the antenna at the repeater.

Member Drawing: The progressive membership prize drawing was held, and the name drawn was Robert West, WE3ST, who was not present to win. Therefore, the prize fund will increase to \$20 for our next meeting on April 12th.

Prize Drawings: The regular prize drawing was held with five winners selecting the prize of their choice. For our April meeting, we will auction some items from the Lewis Curry estate, including a PanaVise PC Board holder and soldering stand, chassis punches, connectors and other items.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

From Our Treasurer

Gee, we don't have a Treasurer!! We need a volunteer to assume this position until the next election.

ATV NEWS by Bryon Foster

Oat Mtn.:

The ATV repeater has been moved to its new building a few feet away from the old location. Along with some new feedlines and a fine tune on the 1200 MHz receiver, a new 900 MHz modulator for the transmitter, the great pictures we were receiving have improved to **fantastic pictures**.

Two of our local Hams were on the crew for the move, W6DQE and WA6FGK. And their help was invaluable to making the move happen in one day. Thanks again for your investment of time and hard work.

During the repeater move the 2.4 GHz receiver was installed on Oat Mtn. but is not yet operational until the controller is installed. So Hams that are interested in microwave will soon have something to play with.

Oat Mtn. can be seen as far south as Disneyland, east to Acton & Agua Dulce and north to Ventura & Oxnard.

N6IWY, W6KGE and I did a field text at a QTH in Thousand Oaks and were able to receive a workable signal with portable equipment. And we were surprised because of the mountain range between Oat and the QTH.

N6IWY and I performed another field test at KO6VO 's QTH and there we received P5 (Studio Quality Pictures). I loaned Dale a 900 MHz downconverter to play with and suggested he try a spike vertical antenna.

On the way back from Dale's house we drove through the Sheriff's Station on Madera Road and received a P4 signal with my mag mount 800 MHz cellular telephone antenna. (*In fact all my mobile tests are done with the 800 MHz antenna.*) We also drove through the Strathern Museum as a test for the club event coming up on June 3rd and also received P5 Picture and then on to K6UUZ's QTH and again received P5 pictures.

Mt. Wilson:

In the last weeks of March, Mt. Wilson was linked to the network hub and is fully operational.

Santiago Peak/Network Hub:

Santiago Peak is fully operational and about to get a new 2.4 GHz receive antenna.

Snow Peak/Crestline/Blue Ridge Repeaters:

All fully operational. All linked to the network.

Pt. Loma, San Diego:

Pt. Loma is fully operational but not yet linked to the network.

Santa Barbara:

The repeater in Santa Barbara is being relocated and is off the air at this time.

Mt Potosi, Las Vegas:

We are able to receive signals from Nevada but Vegas is having problems with their repeater.

N6IFU Bryon Foster

More info ?

If you are interested in ATV or would like to know more about the "Amateur Television Network" (ATN) contact me or check out this web site. <http://atn-tv.org>
n6ifu@arrl.net

Want a field test?

I now have a mobile ATV station. If you are interested in ATV, I would be happy to come to your QTH and see what kind of signal I can receive. And maybe even shoot a picture from your front yard. Don't be put off by old stories about trees and building blocking you from the repeater. The only way to know for sure is see what is there.

N6IFU

Bryon Foster

n6ifu@arrl.net

AD6SV Repeater News

Nothing to report. If you would like to assist Roger Armstrong with this project, please contact him directly at 584-6052 or armsrus@earthlink.net .

CVARC April Program - LowFers

From Rob, W6RH, CVARC Vice President:

Some of your members were specifically interested in this speaker. Would you consider distributing the info to your members?

Also, we have some openings on our Board. If any members are interested, we would be happy to consider them.

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

David Curry, WD2XFJ, will be the featured Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club speaker on April 19. Well known by LowFers, David will tell us about communications below 200 KHz

Shortly after receiving his novice ticket in 1971, he became interested in the 1750-meter "neglected band" while reading a short transmitter/receiver article in Popular Electronics.

In 1979, he continued experiments with 1750 Meters with a group of local hams in and around the San Fernando Valley. This group grew larger through the 1980's and constructed home brew transceivers, transverters, and Morse code stations. SSB, CW, CCW, AMTOR B, and Packet were regularly used. Contacts from the Mexican Border to San Simeon made using the band practical and enjoyable.

In 1989, David started Curry Communications as a way to augment his income and bring the low frequency art to other interested people.

He has written many magazine articles for 73 magazine and QST. The CW transceiver kit, featured in the 1996 ARRL handbook, is the only low frequency article in any of the ARRL handbooks to date.

Currently David holds a FCC part 5 license, WD2XFJ. This license allows much higher power levels, and has no antenna restrictions, making reliable L.F. two-way communications a reality.

His CW beacon "PLI/WD2XFJ", which runs a radiated power of 300mW, regularly can be heard on 183.5 KHz. This station has been heard in Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, as well as all parts of California.

David is working on specialized low frequency communication equipment for the Los Angeles Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue Group, and has updated LowFer gear on his web site.

Join us and learn about this exotic but experimenter-friendly band from an expert. He will talk about Equipment, LF antennas for receiving and transmitting, and will provide a handout on practical LF antenna design. A CW/beacon transmitter and a portable CW/SSB receiver will demonstrate the reception of his beacon located in Burbank.

CVARC monthly club general meetings start at 7:30 P.M. the third Thursday of each month and are held at:

[East County Sheriff's Station \(ECSS\)](#)
2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Visit the CVARC website <http://www.evarc.org/> for details.

Santa Clarita Club April Program

****D-STAR****

Santa Clarita Amateur Radio Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th 2007, at 7pm. in the Century Room at City Hall. Our speaker for April is Tim Barrett, K6BIV, who will present D-STAR, a digital protocol developed by Japanese Amateur Radio League. Icom is the first manufacturer to manufacture D-STAR-compatible radios. D-STAR enables simultaneous digital voice and data transmission. Tim, K6BIV, will present the D-STAR system in detail, with an update on Icom technology, the radios currently available that support D-STAR, and what is in development.

Please join us for the April SCARC meeting. Wednesday April 18th, at 7pm in the Century Room. Our club meets at: Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA.

Take I-5N exit at Valencia Blvd keep right and stay on Valencia Blvd until you hit Citrus Street city hall will be on your right.

Club Web site www.w6jw.org

ARES/RACES News

The latest edition of the Ventura County ARES/RACES Newsletter is available at <http://home1.gte.net/res19999/> .

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.

For Sale

For sale

Yaesu YO-100 Monitor scope & Instruction Manual \$100.00



Ebay just sold one for \$185.00

John Beckers w6jon
805)527-3989

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

Weatherspotters

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	Open		
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI	Committee Chairpersons	
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Membership	John Mendez AE6YA		
PIO	Al Febraro W6AAX		
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 Simi Senior Center at 3900 Avenida Simi one block north of Alamo and a half block west of Tapo Canyon (next to the Simi Library). Park and enter from the West parking lot, not the North lot.
Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz -Offset PL 127.3Hz

Next General Meeting

MESH Wireless Networks

Thursday April 12, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz