



## April 2009

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Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2125  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-2125

# Short Circuit

## *April 2009 Program*

### What is it?

Bring an Amateur Radio related topic or issue to the April 9 meeting if you have a question or don't fully understand it. **See if you can stump your fellow hams!**

Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there. Where?  
Simi Senior Center  
3900 Avenida Simi,  
Simi Valley CA



*The Prez Sez...*

### Media, Field Day, and Amateur Radio

#### Amateur Radio

The ARRL rules for Field Day provide for 100 bonus points for any attempt to obtain media publicity.

It's also a very good idea to have on-site posters providing public information about Amateur Radio, N6R, our clubs and our activities both on-site and off.

Have you thought about how current technologies can help publicize Amateur Radio, Ventura County, and our local clubs beyond a press release?

### Websites

Most of our clubs have websites. How well maintained are these sites? Do they showcase our activities? Maintaining a website is a non-trivial activity. To supplement the Simi Settlers website, we have added a Yahoo Group and a Meetup Group. This provides the club with more exposure, and provides places for us to interact on line. Very active clubs I've known have setup web-pages that tie together each year of Field Day through the life of their clubs.

This takes person who can dedicate some time to this each year.

A great example of this is from the Nashua Area Radio Club – Number One Field Day - N1FD

<http://www.n1fd.org/fd/fdar ch.html>

### YouTube

You Tube is a digital video sharing website. Do you have a modern camcorder? Amateur Radio is well represented on YouTube. Some clubs have prepared a short video of their Field Day effort. A popular one is K6AA's

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoLsGHcjjyE>

Do you have time and resources to prepare a good short video? Perhaps you know someone who does? Many local High Schools have

classes on Media. Do you know a High Schooler who needs a subject?

**Flickr**

Flickr is a photo sharing website that has been acquired by Yahoo. The digitization of classical photographs and the present day direct to digital photographic technologies make this possible. Flickr now is able to host digital video. The SSARC member AI6PG has posted some photos from the N6R 2008 effort at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gracefamily/sets/72157605891075152/detail/>

Can we work together to do better in 2009? Besides bringing a camera, perhaps we could designate someone to document the event. It could be a full time job for someone who has access to the right equipment.

Here's a link to interesting Field Day photos <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=ham+radio+field+day&sort=int>

**Blogs**

A blog (a contraction of the term weblog) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.

K2DBK has a blog at <http://k2dbk.blogspot.com/>

A large website that provides for the posting of

articles and discussion kind of like a super blog is <http://www.qrz.com>

**Podcast**

A Podcast is an audio or video or combination of the two that is available for download via syndication.

An interesting Amateur Radio Podcast is The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast <http://www.kd0bik.com/podcast/>

**Conclusion**

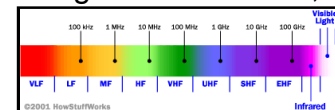
If we aren't on the Internet, are we active? For modern adults, if we cannot be found and if our activities aren't documented, linked to and discussed on the Internet, we may not be found, and may be deemed not worth spending time with. We want people of all ages to find the fun and excitement of amateur radio. Sure, we are "radio-active," but to publicize and make potential new hams aware, we need to be out there where they are. 73 de **AI6PG**

**Bill Introduced in US Senate to Inventory Radio Spectrum**

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)) and the

Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

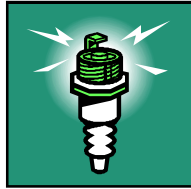
The proposed legislation, known as the [Radio Spectrum Inventory Act](#), states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory of the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total



spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. See: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/25/10725/?nc=1> for the rest of this story.

## Static & Sparks

### History Day August 22, 2009 Strathearn Park



When people think of Simi Valley, they frequently think of the Ronald Reagan Museum and Library where we shall be for ARRL Field Day 2009. But wait.... There's More....The Simi Settlers ARC has been invited to participate in History Day at the Strathearn Park on August 22, 2009. In the past members have setup ATV and HF stations to demonstrate our capabilities and the fun of amateur radio to visitors to History Days. Demonstrators do not have to pay for admission. Will you join us? What would you like to share? Information about History Day is at <http://www.simihistory.com/History%20Days.htm>

### Membership Reminder

2008-2009 membership dues were due in July. The existing application form can be used for renewals, just by filling in the name/call sign and noting any changes. Or see our treasurer and give him a check or cash.

### For Sale

#### Alpha Delta Model DX-LB Low band dipole trap antenna.

Covers 160 - 80 - 40 meters with an over length of 100'. Built with insulated 12 gauge wire and stainless steel hardware. Coax connector is SO-239.

**Asking \$45.00**  
See Spencer, N6IWY  
Tel. 805 583-1127



### Yaesu Handi-talkies

The following lot is for sale:

- ✚ 2 ea. FT-208R HT's (one has a PL board).
- ✚ 1 ea. YM-24A Speaker Mic.

- ✚ 1 ea. NC-8 Power Supply / Quick Charger.
- ✚ 1 ea. FBA-2 Battery Pack adapter.
- ✚ 1 ea. Tooled leather case for HT.
- ✚ 1 set Factory Operations Manual.

Both HT's have not been operated for some time and the battery packs are dead.

**Asking \$80 (obo) for the above lot.**

See Spencer, N6IWY  
Tel. 805 583-1127

## Thank You!

Thanks to **Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT**, for his presentation on Portable PSK31 and the NEU-PSK device. <http://www.nue-psk.com/>  
The Wikipedia page on PSK31 is <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PSK31>



Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT demonstration of PSK31



Simi Settlers' Discussion during March 2009 Meeting

**Simi Settlers  
Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, March 12, 2009**

**Call to Order:** President Peter Grace, AI6PG, called the meeting to order at 7:11pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then led the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Three Board Members were present. The total attendance was 17, with 4 guests.



**Introductions:** A brief round of introductions was held. Members spoke about their recent Ham Radio activities. The club welcomed guests: Frank Catuogno, Don Ree, KI6UQI, Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT, and Randy Strader, KE6JQT. Member Bill Unger, W6VDK spoke about the Simi Squares event that performed tests of communication between the E.O.C. and various points around the city.

**Program:** President Peter introduced our guest speaker for this meeting Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT, who spoke on the subject of portable PSK31 operation. The feature of his talk was the NUE-PSK Digital Modem that allows PSK31 operation without a computer. All that is needed is a radio, standard keyboard and the NUE PSK modem. Information about the modem is available at the American QRP Club's webpage for the product, [www.nue-psk.com](http://www.nue-psk.com). It is available factory assembled or as a kit. Mike demonstrated the operation using his Yaesu FT-897 HF radio and a small portable vertical antenna setup on the sidewalk outside the meeting room. Members watched while Mike demonstrated the reception of PSK-31 signals on the NUE-PSK modem, which has a spectral display of signals on the band and displays the text of the signal being tuned in. The typical frequencies used on 40 and 20 meters are around 7.070 and 14.070 MHz.

**Announcements:** A Club Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, March 21, this month again at the Carriage Cafe. A Spring Picnic has been scheduled for Sunday March 29, from 11am to 3pm at Ranch Tapo Community Park, also known as Lemon Park. The picnic is potluck and all are invited.

Steve Abarta, K6TLM, has taken over production of our Club newsletter, "The Short Circuit". Steve asked members to take pictures at our Club events and send them to him to put into the newsletter.

President Peter reminded everyone that Field Day is approaching, June 27 and 28, with setup on Friday June 26. We will join again with VCARS and VCARC this year at the Reagan Presidential Library.

**Member Drawing:** The progressive membership prize drawing was held. Our Guest speaker Mike Hasenfratz drew the winning name, new member Chris Stinnett, KI6TKU, who was not present to win. Therefore, the prize fund will increase to \$15 for our April 9, 2009 meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

**Submitted by:** Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Events

More complete list at

<http://www.meetup.com/SimiSettlersARC/calendar/list/>

### **Sunday March 29, 2009 Simi Settlers Picnic in the Park - Potluck**

11am – 3pm Simi Settlers' Picnic / Lemon Park

<http://www.meetup.com/SimiSettlersARC/calendar/9586530/>

**Tuesday 7-10pm , Every Tuesday ACS Net** (ARES/RACES) beginning at 7:10pm on our local repeater 147.930 – pl 127.3, and then continuing at 7:30pm on the county repeater at 146.880. Every Tuesday.

### **Thursday May 7, 2009 7:30pm VCARS**

General Meeting

The Cameron Center 288 Greenmeadow Dr. Newbury Park, CA 91320

<http://www.vcars.org> – and join

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS/discussion/>

to stay on top of developments.

### **Thursday April 9, 2009 7:00 pm Simi Settlers General Meeting Simi Valley Senior Center**

- note \*NEW\* start time – we must be out by 9 pm

### **Friday April 10, 2009 7:30pm VCARC /**

K6MEP club meeting

The American Red Cross of Ventura County Chapter House

2355 Portola Road , Ventura CA.

**Saturday, April 11, 2009 9:00am** Santa Fe Dam. Rec Area. ARDF antenna and attenuator building and fox-hunting event.

See

<http://www.homingin.com/joemoell/santafemap.html>

### **Sunday April 11, 2009, 7:00AM Ham Radio License exam session at**

The Papa System

Time: 7:00AM (No walk-ins) PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

VEC: Greater Los Angeles ARG

Exam Location: CARROW'S RESTAURANT

18355 Ventura Blvd.

<http://papasys.org>

Tarzana, CA 91356

**No Walk-ins** Allowed: Contact -

[Norman M Goodkin](mailto:Norman.M.Goodkin@arrrl.net) (818)222-7893

Email: [K6YXH@ARRL.NET](mailto:K6YXH@ARRL.NET)

### **Wednesday April 15, 2009 7pm** Santa

Clarita Club General Meeting

Santa Clarita City Hall

<http://www.w6jw.org/>

### **Thursday April 16, 2009 7:30pm CVARC**

General Meeting

East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS) 2101

East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

<http://www.cvarc.org/>

### **Sunday April 19, 2009, 8:30am** Ham Radio License exam session at

Ventura County Sheriff's East County Station

2101 E Olsen Rd Betw 23 Hwy &

Reagan Library Community Room

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Walk-ins-

Allowed. **Contact:** Jeffrey M Reinhardt

(818)706-3853

### **Simi Settlers Board Meeting - TBD**

### **Saturday April 25, 2009 7am W6TRW**

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

[http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/w6trw\\_arc\\_swapmeet.htm](http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/w6trw_arc_swapmeet.htm)

### **Pacificon 2009** Fri-Sun May 1-3, 2009

<http://www.emcommwest.org/>

Circus Circus Hotel, Reno NV

**Walk to Defeat ALS** May 3, 2009  
Ventura, CA <http://tiny.cc/ai6pg>

**Dayton Hamvention** – Fri-Sun May 15-17, 2009 <http://www.hamvention.org/>  
Dayton OH

**ARRL Field Day 2009**, June 27-28, 2009  
**N6R** Ronald Reagan Library **with the**  
**Ventura County Amateur Radio Club and**

**the Ventura County Amateur Radio Society**

Antenna setup on June 26, 2009  
Discussion at  
[http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS\\_events/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS_events/)

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** October 17-18, 2009  
Contact Peter Grace [pcg@acm.org](mailto:pcg@acm.org) for more info.

## Simi Settlers' Leadership

|                               |                                 |        |                     |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>              | Peter Grace                     | AI6PG  | (805) 223-0729 cell | <a href="mailto:pcg@acm.org">pcg@acm.org</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>              | Norbert Rehaut,                 | W9YPM  |                     | <a href="mailto:nrehaut@dslextreme.com">nrehaut@dslextreme.com</a>       |
| <b>Committee Chairpersons</b> |                                 |        |                     |  |
| <b>Webmaster</b>              | Doug Dubrall                    | WA6RJN |                     | <a href="mailto:wa6rjn@arrl.net">wa6rjn@arrl.net</a>                     |
| <b>Repeater</b>               | Spencer Smith                   | N6IWY  | (805) 583-1127      | <a href="mailto:n6iwy@sbcglobal.net">n6iwy@sbcglobal.net</a>             |
| <b>ex-President</b>           | Dale Manquen                    | KO6VO  |                     | <a href="mailto:dmanquen@email.msn.com">dmanquen@email.msn.com</a>       |
| <b>Newsletter</b>             | Steve Abarta                    | K6TLM  | (805) 584-6523      | <a href="mailto:k6tlm@mac.com">k6tlm@mac.com</a>                         |
| <b>Membership</b>             | <b>VACANT</b>                   |        |                     |  |
| <b>PIO</b>                    | <b>VACANT</b>                   |        |                     |  |
| <b>Field Day</b>              | <b><i>What will you do?</i></b> |        |                     |  |
| <b>Youth Coordinator</b>      | <b>VACANT</b>                   |        |                     |  |
| <b>Historian</b>              | Patrick Nelson                  | KF6RMI |                     |  |
| <b>Elmer</b>                  | Randy Strader                   | KE6JQT | (805) 526-3832      | <a href="mailto:randolphstrader@yahoo.com">randolphstrader@yahoo.com</a> |

## Candid Shots of March 2009 Simi Settlers' Meeting



Speaker Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT, as he discusses and demonstrates PSK31 with his station (right)