

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

August 2005

**Meeting Program
August 11, 2005**

August Show & Tell and Swap Meet

Be sure to mark you calendar and attend our **August Simi Settlers meeting** as we will have a great program and Swap Meet!

First of all, we are looking for a few volunteers from the club to take 5 to 10 minutes to "Show and Tell" something regarding a new or ongoing project they have been involved with (it doesn't matter whether the project worked or not). You can bring the project, pictures of the project, or both.

I know that there are many of you that like to put things together or just experiment. Now is your chance to stand and be recognized.

Please contact me, Spencer, N6IWY, at (805) 583-1127 or email me at <n6iwy@sbcglobal.net> for a time slot on the program. We are looking for 4 to 5 "Show an' Tellers".

Also, we will be having a **SWAP MEET** at the meeting. Bring all of those goodies that you have been wanting to find a new home for.

Simi Valley Days Parade

The Settlers will return to the Simi Valley Days Parade September 16th with a float. The concept is Allen's (KA6WGO) trailer with a silhouette of the sinking Titanic. Our message is "Radio has been saving lives since 1912".

We need volunteers to help with the design and building of the float. We need this public exposure to recruit new members and raise community awareness.

The Pres Sez

Well, things don't always turn out as we plan them. Last month I went down to visit Harry Hall KJ6AG, who has donated his VHF/UHF gear to the City of Simi Valley for the Settlers' use for emergency work. Of course I waited for a 100+ degree day at Harry's house in Woodland Hills so that I wouldn't get cold while

working on his roof to remove several antennas. The 'harvest' included a 6-element 2-meter Quad, an AEA Isopole Model 144, a 23-element 900 MHz beam, a large (12' boom) 2-meter beam, a shorter 6' 2-meter beam, and a Ringo 220 MHz ARX-220B.

The interesting part of the story began when I went into Harry's garage to get some of the antennas that were stored on the rafters of the garage. While jockeying around for a good stepladder position to reach the rafters, I bumped into a '78 Bultaco 350cc Alpina motorcycle. Well, it just so happens that my son Luke bought a dirt bike on Memorial Day weekend, and I have been out with him a couple of times to ride his bike. Here was my chance to have my own bike. I asked Harry about the bike, and he offered to sell it to me for a very reasonable price.

So guess what I have been doing for the last 3 weeks? The Bultaco is spread all over my rear porch. The frame has been stripped of every nut and bolt, repainted, and is now being slowly reassembled. I haven't got the engine to run yet, and I expect that it will need some work since the compression is low. Perhaps the rings are just frozen from sitting around for over 5 years since Harry went blind, or it may need to be honed or bored.

That visit to Harry has changed my priorities and my life. I have probably already spent 50+ hours working on the Bultaco. Just what I needed – another project!!!

(I did rebuild the Ham 4 rotor from last month's auction and get it installed on my short tower.)

Thank You for a job well done

Outgoing VP Rick Galbraith W6DQE received a plaque in recognition of his service to the club as VP for two years. Outgoing Treasurer Larry Pyle AD6ST will receive similar recognition when he returns from his travels.

Once again, our thanks to both for their dedication to serving the Settlers.

Ideas for an even greater Field Day!!

QST QST QST To All Amateur Radio Clubs in Ventura County:

Field Day 2005 is over and it seems to be a consensus of several clubs that something needs to be done to keep up interest in amateur radio as a hobby as well as increasing or even maintaining the level of participation in Field Day. To that end, it has been suggested that all the radio clubs in Ventura County get together for a picnic or other social gathering and discuss the possibility of a combined Field Day 2006 comprising all of the clubs at a single location and using a call to be decided upon by all participants.

Just imagine a class designated over 20A wherein those that want to participate for the public relations and fun aspects will have their stations where there is maximum interfacing with the public and those that want to really go out and collect as many points as possible will be able to team up with like minded team members. In this manner, there will be loggers and reliefs so that all stations making up the contingent/consortium will be able to take rest and eating breaks and yet there will be operational continuity. No more having one 'team captain' responsible for setup and operation including doing their own logging.

No one club or organization would be solely responsible for accomplishing this goal; if it is going to come to fruition, it will take the equal cooperation of all clubs interested.

Please make this known to your membership and have a discussion at your next club meeting and get back to me with an indication of their level of interest and concerns they may have. If there is sufficient interest to pursue the social gathering please suggest dates and locations that would be likely to work for your members. I can be reached at kq6no@arrl.net or 805-529-3934.

T U es 73,

Raffle and Auction for August

RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES:

ARRL Repeater Directory 2005/2006

YAESU HAT from the Dayton Hamvention

Motorola HT leather case

Waterproof Cable splice

Assorted Cable clamps

AUCTION:

These items are from Jay Baker's family, and we thank them for their continued support of our club.

This month's auction will be:

KLM Tri Band beam antenna KT-34A 10M, 15M, 20M

See <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1415> for numerous reviews of this antenna. MSRP \$1100. Get a good bargain at the auction.

Club Project for this year

We would like to use the VHF/UHF equipment donated by Harry Hall (see

story near top) to build one or two Grab and Go portable emergency stations that would be available for ARES/RACES activities. The club will contribute enough money to fill in any supplies that need to be purchased.

We are in the planning stages now, and work will begin after we complete our Simi Valley Days Parade project. We will probably gather for at least one Saturday Workfest to build the station(s). Any and all volunteers welcome.

RACES Renewals

For those of you that need to renew your **ARES/RACES** White Badge in the near future, Jackie is back on the job. Please call **805-654-5084** to renew your White Badge.

All you should have to do is give her a call, tell her that you want to renew your **RACES Disaster Service Workers White Badge**, and it should be done. You will receive your new badge in the mail, along with a return envelope to send back your old badge.

Last Month's Program

Mike Dorrrough, KO6NM, provided a look at another side of HF- AM. Mike collects lots of things, including AM broadcast transmitters. We figured out that he probably has at least a hundred kilowatts of AM transmitters.

Spencer Smith and Dale Manquen visited Mike's shack on the evening before the meeting to observe the AM Net on Wednesday nights. Mike's rig was certainly one of the Big Voices on the air, but that hardly tells the whole story. His shack currently has about FOUR kilowatt+ broadcast rigs sitting around, and others in various stages of restoration. We are probably talking about almost a thousand square feet for the shack!

I know that Mike would be glad to have visitors, especially on Wednesday nights.

And thanks, Mike, for a fun club program.

Equipment Auctioned at July Meeting

We delayed the auction of the HAM 4 rotor and Highgain controller until July since we didn't have the rotor at the meeting for inspection. Dale Manquen was high bidder.

The Crystal Ball

Upcoming guest speakers:

Our September program is about digital television. Dick Burden, a close friend of our late Jay Baker, is helping with this one. Do you know that there are several different formats for digital TV, including conventional and high definition? And, more importantly, do you know that the FCC plans to pull the plug on all the conventional VHF and UHF TV station transmitters in less than 18 months, rendering millions of our trusty analog TV sets useless for off-the-air reception? Dick is a recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Broadcast Engineers for his long-term commitment (55 years) to the radio broadcast industry.

Lyle Henry, K7OO, volunteered to present a program in October on the new Digital Broadcast Radio methods. Don't confuse this with satellite transmission. This is stereo In Band On Channel (IBOC) transmission right along with the conventional AM and FM signals. Lyle has recently been involved with the installation of many FM station upgrades to support MSN Direct, an FM digital subcarrier that sends digital data for sports, stocks, etc. to wristwatches. Dick Tracy move over!!

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club **General Membership Meeting July 14, 2005**

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Spencer Smith, N6IWY. This month's meeting was held in our usual meeting place in the Youth Room. Four Board Members were present. The total attendance was 16.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members giving a brief word on their recent activities. Randy Strader, KE6JQT, has returned to the area and has rejoined the Club. Another returning member is John Mendez, N6OMI.

Program: Our program guest speakers this month were Mike Dorrrough, KO6NM, and David Jennings, WJ6W. The program was given as a casual question and answer discussion. Mike has been collecting Amplitude Modulation (AM) radio broadcast transmitters and restoring them. As a museum and archive, Mike has several locations across the U.S. for storage of transmitters and other broadcast studio equipment. Some of the transmitters have been converted for 75 meter Ham band operation. Mike and David spoke about an AM net held nightly on 3.870 MHz at 9:00pm or earlier. Topics discussed included the importance of modulation level, how the AM mode has much better fidelity than SSB, and the systems that were invented for stereo AM broadcasting.

Break: A twenty-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:32 pm.

Field Day: Terry Graves, K7FE, of VCARS visited us to talk about early planning for next year's Field Day (June 24, 25) 2006. At this time, we are looking forward to another joint effort F.D. between VCARS and SSARC. We could have more of a team effort in the operation of stations. Terry said they already have approval to use "N6R" as the call sign. For next year, they would like to cook at the site rather than have catered food. It is hoped that we can get more involvement by non-club member hams in the area. Terry also said that we should try for better publicity next year.

Announcements: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, reminded RACES members that they could call by phone to renew their RACES identification card. Frank also mentioned that an emergency drill is being planned to deal with the subject of a Tsunami. John WI6O mentioned that this year the ARRL Southwest Division Convention would be held in Riverside, September 9 through the 11th. An application form for tickets is available on line. Dale presented a plaque to Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, in recognition of his two years of service as Vice President. Frank Valdez reports that the county hospitals are going to set up for WinLink operation. Demonstrations and training will be given.

Simi Valley Days: Dale reports that at the last meeting of the Club officers it was proposed that we participate in the Simi Valley Days parade that will feature the theme: "Moments and Memories". Our idea is to create a float with the Titanic and the Morse code distress signal. Dale asked for leads on where we could obtain a flat bed truck. Simi Valley Days will be September 14th to the 18th.

Auction: An auction was held to sell the Hi-Gain antenna rotor, cable and controller donated by Jay Baker's family. The rotor system was sold to Dale Manquen for a high bid of \$60.

Member Drawing: The monthly membership progressive prize drawing was not held. The fund for this prize will therefore remain at \$10 for the meeting in August.

Prize Drawings: As with the membership drawing, the monthly prize drawing could not be held due to lack of the drawing tickets and prizes.

August Meeting: Vice President Spencer Smith mentioned that our meeting on August 11th would feature "Show and Tell" night where members are invited to show and describe projects they have built or worked with. Spencer invited members to contact him if they would like to be a presenter. There will also be a swap meet for members to sell or trade items.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

Information from Our Treasurer

Deanna Smitha W6DWS

The club is still solvent, thanks in part to the several auction items over the last year. **It is now time to pay dues for 2005-2006.**

Amateur Television (ATV)

If any club members are interested in experimenting with ATV, the Club recently acquired a 23-element ATV beam antenna (for 900 MHz?) that is available for experimentation. This unit technically belongs to the City of Simi Valley, and is therefore not for sale, but it can certainly be loaned out.

For additional ATV information, contact Bryon Foster, N6IFU.

Student Memberships

In response to Allen Pettebone's, KA6WGO, suggestion that we offer a discounted membership to students to attract younger members to our club, the Executive Committee has approved a trial program to test the concept. The current proposal is to offer full-time students with appropriate school ID cards a \$5 membership while they remain enrolled full time.

RACES NET ON TUESDAY NIGHTS

Everyone is invited to check in to the RACES NET every Tuesday night at 7:10 p.m. on the Simi Valley Repeater (147.93 – PL 127.3). The local 7:10 net is followed by the county-wide RACES NET at 7:30 on the SMRA Repeater (146.880 – PL 127.3)

The latest issue of the Ventura County RACES newsletter is available at <http://home1.gte.net/res19999/index.htm>.

SSARC Stockroom – More goodies

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.) So far, Spence and Michael Selden are the only members to take advantage of this resource. 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

Weather Spotter NEW INFO

Anyone with interest in becoming a **Southern California Weather Spotter** please 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	Deanna Smitha		dwsmitha@yahoo.com
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI		
		Committee Chairpersons	
Membership	Richard Johnson		snurpus@aol.com
P.I.O	Vacant		
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Newsletter	Vacant		

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.

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

Next General Meeting

Thursday August 11, 2005

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz

Seventh Day Adventist Church