

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

February 2004

Supporting Your Club

By Dale Manquen, President

Richard Johnson N6HJD, our new Membership Chairman, has initiated a Membership Drive to bolster our roster. His first step is to review our list of delinquent members to try to get as many renewals as possible.

Personally, I am distressed that we have some members who haven't paid their dues in a year or two, but still participate in club activities. For example, the dues-paying members bear the full burden of paying for the Club's insurance policy each year, and that covers everyone who attends activities such as Field Day, our Holiday Party, or even our monthly meetings. Wouldn't it be fairer for everyone who benefits to share this load?

We have been able to maintain a steady bank account for the last few years, thanks in no small part to donations of equipment that has been sold by the Club, but we haven't been able to fund some desired projects, such as buying an emergency power generator for the Club. If we hadn't implemented e-mailing of the monthly newsletter to save printing and postage costs, we would probably be in a fairly deep financial pit by now.

C'mon, all of you that are sitting on the fence! The dues are only about a dollar a month, not even enough for a Starbuck's coffee. Chip in your fair share so that the club can do a bit more than tread water. If you are uncertain of your membership status, ask **Treasurer Larry Pyle**.

My Apologies!

Newsletter Editor, Steve K6TLM

Last month, your Short Circuit was truly "short circuited," and wasn't posted until AFTER the January club meeting. I must have been partially brain dead as the deadline just got by me. I could make excuses (I was in Arizona the week I do the newsletter) but that just won't float. I apologize and pledge to not let it happen again. And be sure to see the January newsletter that is posted on the club web site.

I echo Dale's comments above. We need everyone who participates in the club to carry their fair share and current dues payment demonstrates good faith to all.

Next General Membership Meeting Thursday, February 12, 2004--Simi Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church

Coming up for our February meeting is our very own, **Orv Beach, W6BI**. Orv will be discussing what really goes into the internal workings of amateur radio repeater. His topic is: "BEHIND THE SCENES OF OUR SIMI VALLEY REPEATER." We hope to see all of you there. (Talk-in frequency: 147.930 down 600; PL 127.3)

Here are some of the upcoming guest speakers for 2004:

- ✓ **April 8, 2004 Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y**
"INSTALLING TOWERS AND ANTENNAS"
- ✓ **May 13, 2004 Art Goddard, W6XD** "THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI)... ANOTHER FIRST FOR AMATEUR RADIO"

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting, November 13, 2003

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Treasurer Larry Pyle, AD6ST, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present and the total attendance was 14, including 2 guests.

Introductions: A round of introductions was held with each member giving a brief word on their recent activities in Ham Radio or other interests. There were also comments about how the members were or were not affected by the local fires near the end of October.

Program: Vice President Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, introduced as our guest speaker, Edgar Brown, N6OU. Edgar spoke about the communication system used to monitor and control the power distribution system from Southern California to Oregon. Edgar has been retired from the L.A. Department of Water and Power for five years. He presented a slide show with pictures of many of the remotely located power transmission microwave communication stations and spoke of his experiences on that system.

Break: A fifteen-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:50 pm following the end of our program.

Announcements: The Holiday Party date has been set for December 6, at Mike Tweedy's home. Tickets for the prize raffle are available at \$2.00 each, 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10. Mike said for the potluck dinner, members should bring a main dish, salad or desert item for 6 to 8 people. He added that help would be appreciated to get things set up for the party at about 6pm. Bill Starkgraff, KD6UQB, said that the RACES help during the recent fires was much appreciated, and that the city of Simi Valley will hold a ceremony to recognize the volunteers. Dale mentioned that there was an article in QST about Emergency Service training and he suggested that our Club could possibly do a series of these classes in the new year.

Member Drawing: The Membership Drawing was held and the winner, Angela DeGregorio, N6XCV, was not present to win the \$5 prize. The prize fund will therefore increase to \$10 for the January meeting.

Club Raffle: The monthly prize raffle drawing was held with the lucky winners selecting their prizes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.
Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting, January 8, 2004

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present and the total attendance was 13, including 1 guest.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to our first meeting of the year, a round of introductions was held with each member giving a brief word on their recent activities in Ham Radio or other interests.

Program: Vice President, Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, introduced our guest speaker, Archie Willis, W6LPJ, of Sun Valley, CA. Archie has been continuously licensed since 1944, and served as manager for the ARRL 6th District Incoming QSL Bureau for 27 years prior to 2000. During the last sun spot cycle, at the peak of activity, nearly 500,000 QSL cards were processed. Archie said that he could sort up to 1,000 cards in half an hour. Archie said that the new address for the 6th district Incoming QSL Bureau is: P.O. Box 530, Weed, CA 96094-0530. He reminded us that all of the Bureau work is by volunteers, and that the ARRL web page has complete information about the QSL Bureaus.

Break: A ten-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:20 pm following the end of our program. The members present sang "Happy Birthday" to Archie, our guest speaker, who was celebrating his birthday today.

Announcements: Dale mentioned that the Club has some ARRL Video Tapes available for members to borrow. He also mentioned that Steve Abarta, K6TLM, apologized for not getting the Newsletter out in time before this meeting.
Dale announced that member Richard Johnson, N6NJD has volunteered to run our membership drive. We plan to have a special prize drawing with entry tickets earned by bringing guests to meetings and/or getting new members. Greg Riegert, W6GRG, has donated the Yaesu VX-150 he won in the Holiday drawing back to the Club to use as a prize for the membership drive.
Treasurer, Larry Pyle, AD6ST, said the Club did well with the Holiday Party, nearly breaking even between ticket sales and expenses.
Bill Starkgraf, KD6UQB, reported for RACES that a newsletter is available by email to ARES and RACES members.
Dale mentioned that we need to find a Field Day chairperson early and that we are considering an alternate site to get better exposure to the public.
Jim Schmidt, W6JIM, said he has a 20M beam and a Butternut all-band vertical that he will offer to club members if they will make the antenna available to the Club for use at Field Day.
Dale invites members to suggest topics they would be interested in for Club meeting programs. We could have program topics that can lead into a participation activity for Club members.
Dale announced that the Club would give one of the RockMite QRP kits to Ed Meyer, WK7ED, in appreciation for his years of service to the Simi Settlers ARC.

Member Drawing: The name drawn in the Membership Drawing was Lana Meyer who was not present to win the \$10 prize. The prize fund will therefore increase to \$15 for the February meeting.

Club Raffle: The monthly prize raffle drawing was held with the lucky winners selecting their prizes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

Simi Settlers' Officers

President	Dale Manquen KO6VO	dmanquen@msn.com
Vice President	Rick Galbraith, W6DQE	rick@keymaterial.com
Secretary	John Percival WI6O	percivaljohns@cs.com
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P.I.O	Diane Belcher KF6FSZ	ac6oe@adelphia.net
Webmaster	Orv Beach W6BI	w6bi@arrl.net
Newsletter	Steve Abarta K6TLM	k6tlm@arrl.net

Check out the new Ventura County ARES/RACES Newsletter

We now have a monthly ARES/RACES Newsletter describing the various activities going on in our county. If you would like to take a peek, go to the following web site:

<http://pages.sbcglobal.net/wwoodhams/Newsletter/Feb04.pdf> for the current issue.

If you have not gotten around to renewing your RACES card with the county, now would be a good time so that you can be included on the regular Newsletter mailing list

NASA dedicates memorial, Martian landmarks to shuttle *Columbia* crew (Feb 3, 2004) -- The families of the shuttle *Columbia* crew lost February 1, 2003, and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe this week unveiled a monument at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the astronauts and their mission. The space agency also has dedicated seven Martian hills--one named for each lost crewmember--located east of the *Spirit* rover-landing site in honor of the *Columbia* astronauts. Three of the seven *Columbia* crewmembers were Amateur Radio licensees.



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

Next General Meeting

Thursday February 12, 2004

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93

PL 127.3

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1636 Sinaloa, Simi Valley