

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

February 2006

PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER!!! It contains several new and important items!

**Meeting Program
February 8, 2006**

Handheld Computers

Karl Nicholas from Juniper Systems Inc. will be our speaker for our February club meeting and will speak on handheld computers.

Juniper Systems Inc. is based in Logan, UT and manufactures ultra-rugged handheld computers for data collection in natural resources, land survey, GIS and industrial applications.

Karl is Director of Business Development for Juniper and is responsible for fostering new markets and applications. He will discuss the differences between ultra-rugged handhelds and standard commercial PDA's. In addition, he will present examples of applications where Juniper Systems products have been used and demonstrate data acquisition applications using LabView.

Karl has an electrical engineering degree from Brigham Young University and an MBA from the University of Southern California.

February Raffle door prizes:

ARRL 2005/2006 REPEATER DIRECTORY
RCA RF MODULATOR VIDEO CONVERTER
DURA COMM POWER SUPPLY KIT BUILDING BOX

Last Month - New Police Radio Improvements

We want to extend a big "Thank You" to our host, Greg Riegert, W6GRG, and his helpers from the Simi Police Department and their civilian volunteers for an interesting presentation and very thorough tour of the facilities, including the Graybar Hotel. Greg demonstrated the new car computers' impressive capabilities.

No, refreshments didn't include donuts!

The Pres Sez

Although we are in the middle of our fiscal year, January is always a good time to make New Years resolutions and embark on new projects. With this in mind, your officers have come up with the following ideas for an Outreach Program.

We want to try to bring some of our former members back to our club. Roger Armstrong, WD6EVT, attended our January officer's meeting and suggested:

- a. We publish a calendar of coming events and distribute this calendar to our potential recruits. The calendar will show that the club is active and that we are involved in fun activities.
- b. We stress the social side of our hobby. The best times are when we are just sitting around and visiting with each other. We have seen this in action at our project workshops, Field Day, Taco parties and Field Day.
- c. We use newspapers and other local media to promote our club.

Here is our calendar of events for the next few months:

February 18 J-Pole antenna construction project at Rick Galbraith's back yard

February 25 ARES/RACES events – bike race and Coyote 4 Play (see below)

March 18 Taco party in the park featuring Allen's, KA6WGO, great tacos and pot luck salads and desserts. Open to all hams in the area, not just club members. Good food, maybe a few rigs set up in the park, and a lot of good company.

May 20 & 21 Overnight campout at Lake Casitas(?) with a Saturday night pot luck dinner for everyone, including those who can't stay overnight

June 24 & 25 Field Day at the Reagan Library

We may also send carpool delegations to

Open house at M^2 Antenna Systems in Fresno

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

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to get together for fun and friendship. Please print out and post this page on your bulletin board (refrigerator?)

We have budgeted some money for copying and postage to send this information to our fellow Simi Valley hams. We could use some volunteer help to stuff envelopes and stick on labels and stamps.

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.

J-Pole Construction Session Feb. 18

We will gather in Rick Galbraith's back yard to build J-pole antennas. Rick has even offered to fire up the barbeque, and for those of us who have had the pleasure of sampling Rick's cooking, we will look forward to the food almost as much as the kit building!! Please let us know if you plan to attend so that we can buy the appropriate amount of materials (and food.) Attendees will reimburse the club for their share of materials. Call 529-2496 to sign up.

From Our Treasurer

Treasurer Ed Richards, K6UUZ, has prepared a budget for the remaining half of our fiscal year. Since most of us have already paid our annual dues, we don't have any significant fund raising activities during this period. Expense items include the annual insurance premium, our 'Grab and Go' emergency station and funds for our 'Outreach Program'. The net result is a significant draw-down of our account balance. Got any fund raising ideas????

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Five hams from the Thousand Oaks area are getting together a couple of times a month to practice their German. Please let your members know that this group exists and to contact me, Steve AE6NX for more details.

Steve AE6NX
steve.champion@verizon.net

ARES/RACES News

Two big events are coming up this month, and they both fall on the weekend of February 25. The bigger of the two is the Amgen Tour of California bicycle race (<http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/>) that will be arriving in our area on the 25th. This is a professional-class race that will require traffic control along the race route from Santa Barbara, through Ojai to Thousand Oaks. RACES will be activated to assist law enforcement with monitoring the route and providing auxiliary communications.

The second event 2/21 - 2/26 is the Coyote Four Play (C4P <http://gravityh.com/c4p2006entry.htm>). The Forest Service requires that radio operators to monitor the route and provide emergency communications support this run through the mountains. Some of the stations are located off the beaten path, requiring a bit of hiking with all your gear on your back.

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

Our 'Grab and Go Kit' is now in the second round of design. We have broken down the originally proposed master station into smaller modules that will give us better portability and more flexibility. We will soon be scheduling a workday to build the boxes and wire things up.

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

Repeater News

A 'work party' consisting of Orv Beach, W6BI, Ed Richards and Spencer Smith visited the repeater to assess potential repairs and improvements. Ed prepared a list of suggestions for Repeater Trustee Orv.

Anyone interested in helping with this revitalization work should contact Ed Richards.

Amateur Television Update

By Bryon Foster N6IFU

ATV is on a growth curve in Simi Valley. Our own N6IWY is in the last steps of putting his station on the air. The station is equipped with a P.C. Electronics 10-watt transceiver and his homebrew antennas for 434 MHz and 919.25 MHz and a downconverter. Spencer's station will be able to work simplex here in the valley as well as DX. He will also have access to the 'Oat Mountain ATV Repeater', which covers Southern California and Las Vegas.

News on the Oat Mt. ATV repeater:

The repeater is about to receive a boost in output power. Its present output of a meager 4 watts will be increased to a healthy 40 watts on the next service call. This will be accomplished by installing the repeater's first amplifier. In addition, a 100-watt amplifier is on the bench and being tested to replace the 40 watt-er in the near future.

FYI: The repeater can be worked from Stearns all the way west to Moorpark as it is now. The increase in power will only improve reception.

There are also plans to add an additional input/output pair on 2.4 GHz FM.

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.
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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 January Meeting

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. This meeting was held in the E.O.C. room at the Simi Valley Police Department. Patrick Nelson, KF6RMI, led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 18.

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 over the holiday period since our last General Meeting in November.

Program: Our guest speaker for this meeting was Simi Settlers member Greg Riegert, W6GRG, of the Simi Valley Police Department. Greg described the new UHF digital radio system that will replace the wideband VHF system that has been in use since 1977. He showed on a map the coverage area that the new system will provide for officers in the field with a handheld radio on their hip. The system will have multiple sites with voting receivers. Greg then showed us the laptop computer console system that is installed in police cars. With the laptop and a wireless link to the police computer network, officers in the field have access to lots of information. At the end of his talk, Greg introduced police volunteer Bill Martin and his wife who gave us a tour of the Police Department facilities.

Bill started by describing the activities in the EOC in time of emergency. The members were then led on a tour that included the Shift Commander's office, the dispatch center, the jail receiving area and holding cells, and the Police vehicle parking garage underground. During the tour, Bill answered questions from the members.

Break: A refreshment break was taken at the end of the tour, 10:05pm.

Announcements: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, our RACES EC for Simi Valley, asked for people to become RACES members in Simi. Frank mentioned the upcoming RACES events. In Feb: "Coyote Four Play" race and S.F. to Santa Monica bike race, April: "Baker to Vegas" race, and in May: "Sea to Summit" bike race. Information about the upcoming events can be heard on the Tuesday night RACES Nets.
Frank mentioned the Weather Spotter group in Oxnard, and suggested that we could have a meeting guest speaker from that group.

Member Drawing: The monthly membership drawing was not held. The prize for the drawing in February remains at \$10.00.

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

Treasurer: Our Treasurer, Ed Richards, K6UUZ, gave a report on our financial position after our successful Holiday Party. As of December 31, 2005, our total balance stands at \$xxx.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 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	
Membership	Richard Johnson		snurpus@aol.com
P.I.O	Vacant		
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
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 February 9, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz