

# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

## Short Circuit

# February 2009

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### **Speaker for February: Marvin Johnston KE6HTS Amateur Radio Direction Finding February 12, 2009 7:00pm**

Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, has been licensed since 1994 and received his extra class license in 2000. His involvement with amateur radio began in 1993 when he was first introduced to transmitter hunting. His interests gradually evolved from mobile hunts to on-foot transmitter hunts known as ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding.).

Marvin was a member of the US ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Team at the World Championships in 1998 through 2002, and a member of the International Jury at the 2002 and 2004 World ARDF Championships. He is a board member of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club and the chair for the 2009 SB Section Hamfest. Please visit <http://sbhamfest.org> for more information and discussion.

**Thanks to John Clarke N6NQ for his presentation on Software Defined Radio.**

A very active Yahoo group is the Softrock40 group. See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/softrock40/>

The SoftRock-40 is a small, low-cost, good performing 40-meter "software defined radio" receiver that plugs into a computer USB port and delivers I-Q audio signals to the computer's sound card. It was designed by Tony Parks, KB9YIG and Bill Tracey, KD5TFD as an "SDR sampler project" for hams everywhere to easily try out software defined radio.

### **Simi Settlers Breakfast**

Simi Settlers and their family and friends are invited to the Simi Settlers Breakfast to be held at 8am Saturday February 14th 2009.

Carriage Cafe  
2295 Tapo St  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. Please RSVP at the Simi Settlers Meetup.com site.

We hope to see all of you there ! Talk-In:  
147.93MHz - Offset PL 127.3Hz

## **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.**

# Static and Sparks

Greetings Simi Settlers and other friends.

We are always in need of ideas and volunteers to present a subject to our club. If you could make a presentation or know of someone nearby that could, would you let your club leadership know ?

Some topics could include:

- Amateur Satellites
- Computer logging programs
- Operating digital modes
- Logbook of The World
- Wireless networking
- Computer file management
- D-Star
- Contest software
- Sound card modes and interfacing
- Programming a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver

Please join our new internet groups – a Yahoo group and Meetup group.

The FCC has asked for our help in educating the public about the upcoming Digital Television conversion. Hams should \*not\* make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations -- the request is only to distribute technical information and their materials. As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>

PL-259 Connector

Want a good video on installing a PI-259 Connector?

Installing a PL-259 on RG-213  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1nabA6yMol>

Installing a PL-259 on RG8X  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzXXjzmA-IE&feature=related>

Starting in April, your club will be seeking nominations for club officers. If you can help, please speak with one of the club officers.

Thank you to Steve Abarta for the new newsletter layout.

73 de Peter Grace AI6PG [pcg@acm.org](mailto:pcg@acm.org)  
President, Simi Valley Settlers ARC

## From the Secretary

Our Club Secretary kindly submitted these Minutes from our January General Meeting

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, January 8, 2009

Call to Order: President Peter Grace, AI6PG, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. Our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Everett, KI6KSV. Three Board Members were present. The total attendance was 13, with 2 guests.

Introductions: A brief round of introductions was held. Members spoke about their recent Ham Radio activities. The club welcomed guests: Jon Clark, N6NQ and Don Ree, KI6UQI.

Announcements: A Club Breakfast has not been scheduled for this month. Secretary John Percival, WI6O, said the newsletter minutes of the November meeting incorrectly reported our 2008 Field Day result for N6R as "second

place". It was actually "First Place", in category "12A". Peter announced the dates for Field Day 2009 will be June 27 and 28, with setup starting on Friday, June 26.

Program: Our program speaker for this meeting was Jon Clark, N6NQ, on the subject of software defined radio (SDR). With his background in both radio and computers/software, Jon has been working with software defined radios for six months. He explained both what SDR is and what it is not. It is not the same as a computer controlling a radio, but rather a radio in which computer software performs a major role in extracting the information from radio signals. Radio hardware is still used to capture the RF and convert it for processing by computer sound card and software. Jon described several of the low cost SDR kits available and showed samples that he has built. Using his laptop computer, Jon demonstrated the sound of SDR with playback of audio from 40M reception. He also ran demos of software programs "Rocky" and "WinRad" that have spectral displays. Jon gave some insight into the mathematical operations performed by the SDR software. The software performs the functions of filtering, noise reduction, demodulation of various modes, and can provide a pan adapter spectral display. Jon handed out a list of web sites with SDR information. The list is reproduced here:

Softrock40 Group  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/softrock40/>  
Rocky 3.6  
<http://www.dxatlas.com/Rocky/>  
WinRad <http://www.winrad.org/>  
PowerSDR <http://www.flex-radio.com>  
CW Skimmer  
<http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/>

Member Drawing: The progressive membership prize drawing was held. The winning name was Art Vorpahl, WB6CWJ, who was not present to win. Therefore, the prize fund will increase to \$10 for our February 12, 2009 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## ATV NEWS

If you would like to subscribe to the ATV Newsletter send me an e-mail and I will add you to my mailing list.

[bryonfoster@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonfoster@hotmail.com)

If you are currently receiving the newsletter and would like it stopped, please send me an e-mail as well.

My Mailing List is not shared or sold.

The "ATV Newsletter" is not part of the ATN network.

**See you on ATV, N6IFU Bryon Foster Editor and Publisher of the "ATV Newsletter"**

## ACS ARES/RACES News

Information about Ventura County ACS ARES/RACES is available at

<http://www.vcacs.org>

Please participate in the ARES/RACES net Tuesday nights beginning at 7:10 on our local repeater 147.930 – pl 127.3, and then continuing at 7:30 on the county repeater at 146.880.

Visit

[http://www.emcomm.org/gear\\_list.htm](http://www.emcomm.org/gear_list.htm) for a comprehensive list of supplies for your emergency kit.

## **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.

# Events

**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.

Wednesday February 4th 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/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS_discussion/)  
to stay on top of developments.

**Sunday February 8th, 8:30am** Ham Radio License **exam** session at VENTURA CTY SHERIFF'S E 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

**Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 7:00pm**  
**Simi Settlers General Meeting**  
**Simi Valley Senior Center**  
• note start time – we must be out by 2055 local

Friday February 13th 2009 7:30pm  
VCARC / K6MEP club meeting  
The American Red Cross of Ventura County Chapter House  
2355 Portola Road , Ventura CA.

**Saturday February 14, 2009**  
**8:00am Simi Settlers**  
**Breakfast, Carriage Cafe** 2295 Tapo St Simi Valley , CA 93063

**Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 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@ARRL.NET) (818)222-7893 **Email:** [K6YXH@ARRL.NET](mailto:K6YXH@ARRL.NET)

Wednesday February 18th 2009 7pm  
Santa Clarita Club General Meeting  
Santa Clarita City Hall  
<http://www.w6jw.org/>

Thursday February 19th, 2009 7:30pm  
CVARC General Meeting  
East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS)  
2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
<http://www.cvarc.org/>

**Thursday February 26nd 2009 7:30pm**  
**SVARC Board Meeting**  
W9YPM's residence

Saturday February 28th 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)

**ARRL Field Day 2009**, June 27-28,  
2009 Ronald Reagan Library w/ **VCARS**

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** October  
17-18, 2009

Contact Peter Grace [pcg@acm.org](mailto:pcg@acm.org) for  
more info.

## 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.

**Times are local (Pacific Time) unless  
otherwise stated.**

147.930 – pl127.3 Tuesday ACS Net  
(ARES/RACES) beginning at 7:10pm and  
then 7:30pm on the county repeater at  
146.880. Every Tuesday.

1.925 MHz AM Tuesday, Thursday  
nights at 8 pm

3.908 MHz LSB Tuesday, Thursday,  
Sunday nights at 8 pm

7.040+/- MHz CW-QRP Saturday  
mornings at 9 am

14.265 MHz USB every night 9 pm (try  
to contact WK7ED Ed Meyer in New  
Mexico)

28.340 Mhz USB Wednesday 1800Z  
Winter, 1700Z Summer

28.340 Mhz USB Thursday 0200Z Winter  
0100Z Summer

28.445 Mhz USB Monday 0100Z

28.475 Mhz USB Tuesday 0400Z Winter,  
0300Z Summer

144.240 MHz USB Sunday, Wednesday  
nights at 8 pm

### NTS Net

147.000 Mhz + 131.8 FM Daily 9 pm

**(temporarily on 145.180 Mhz - 131.8)**

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

### SkyWarn - 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 Peter Grace AI6PG (805) 223-0729

[cellpcg@acm.org](mailto:cellpcg@acm.org)

Vice President open

Secretary John Percival

[WI6Opercivaljohns@cs.com](mailto:WI6Opercivaljohns@cs.com)

Treasurer Norbert Rehaut, W9YP

[Mnrehaut@dslextreme.com](mailto:Mnrehaut@dslextreme.com)

Committee Chairpersons

Webmaster Doug Dubrall WA6RJN

[wa6rjn@arri.net](mailto:wa6rjn@arri.net)

Repeater Spencer Smith N6IWY(805)

583-1127 [N6IWY@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:N6IWY@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

ex-President Dale Manquen KO6VO

[dmanquen@email.msn.com](mailto:dmanquen@email.msn.com)

Membership open

PIO open

Newsletter open It's not hard. I use Open  
Office which is free.

Field Day It was great. How about 2009?

Youth Coordinator open

Logistics open

### Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC/>

### Meetup Group:

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

## Monthly Meetings

Our normal meetings begin at **19:00 (7:00 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

**The February 2009 meeting will be at the Simi Valley Senior Center 3900 Avenida Simi. Note meeting start time is now 7pm**

### Reminder:

**Next General Meeting  
Amateur Radio Direction Finding  
– Simi Valley Senior Center  
Thursday February 12th, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93 MHz  
- Offset PL 127.3Hz  
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

Simi Settlers ARC Yahoo Group  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC/>

Simi Settlers ARC Meetup Group  
<http://www.meetup.com/SimiSettlersARC>

The Yahoo group is for discussion and non-calendar specific information discussion. The Meetup group is used to schedule and distribute information about meetings and events. Please join both to help our club be visible to those that might be interested in learning more about our club and amateur radio.