

## Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

**July 2004**

### Meeting Speaker

**Dale Manquen, JPL Solar System Ambassador  
"SOLAR WEATHER'S INFLUENCE ON HAM RADIO"**

That "Lucky Old Sun" doesn't just roll around Heaven all day with nothing to do. We are learning that the short-term and long-term changes in the Sun have caused major climate changes, including a very cold period within the last 2 centuries. We will explore the nature of the Sun and how the solar winds affect our everyday life on Earth, and learn about the multiple satellites that monitor the Sun continuously.

## Field Day 2004

*By Dale Manquen, President*

If you missed Field Day 2004 on June 24/25, you missed out on a lot of fun! The new site at the YMCA at Cochran and Galena worked out very well. The lawn area was very comfortable, and the adjacent parking lot provided for easy access. Contrary to our fears, we didn't have any noise problems from the high-tension power transmission lines across the street. Public exposure was the main reason for trying this new site, and indeed we got good results. The high visibility of the site from Cochran brought in several visitors, including a few non-member hams that will be visiting our meetings in the future.

We had a good turnout of club members, including a few that we hadn't seen in a while. Dave Timoshik, WA6AYI, was again master of the 20 meter CW station. We ran two towers with one for the 20 meter monoband beam, and the other supporting a 6-meter beam above a multiband beam with a remote rotator. In addition, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, had a vertical multiband and Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, strung up a large wire loop antenna. Greg Owens set up his mobile rig with the Screwdriver on his vehicle, giving us a total of 4A.

Pat Nelson, KF6RMI, had plenty of 6-meter traffic, including some very hot periods with many out-of-state contacts. In general, band conditions were good, providing plenty of contacts.

This year we changed the setup a bit, erecting both towers and the big 20-meter

beam on Friday night. This gave a less hectic setup on Saturday morning, with more time for donuts. Dave was very pleasantly surprised to find everything ready for his station when he arrived.

The Club owes a special debt to Rick for climbing the towers and mounting all of the beam antennae. Rick definitely deserves a 'Monkey Award' for his efforts. (Gee, Rick did have a banana split for dessert Saturday night....)

We also got to see a few members who haven't been around for a while. Gabe, KE6JQS and Greg Owens, WA6HKM, spent quite a bit of time at the site. Jim Schmidt, W6JIM, dropped by for a short visit, and he is looking well after his surgery. Dominick Nelson, KA6UJF, also put in a brief appearance.

Our plans to have Saturday supper at nearby Red's Barbeque went up in flames – literally! Red's had a fire in the kitchen a week prior to Field Day, shutting down the restaurant. We substituted with a buffet of carnitas fajitas from Carrillos Mexican restaurant and an assortment of pizzas. We had ice cream and banana splits for dessert.

Rick brought out his new trailer, which served as headquarters for the event. The interior, still under construction, provided room for two stations, with plenty of room to spare. The trailer's awning provided a shady resting place.

A special thanks goes out to Roger Armstrong, WD6EVT, for once again providing the generator. Field Days have accounted for almost all of the 700 hours on that generator.

Other honorable mentions go to John Percival, WI6O, for his QRP station, Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, and family for help during setup and operating, Jay Baker, WA6BEB, and Jay's visiting son for help with setup, and

Treasurer Larry Pyle, AD6ST, for his general assistance, and Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, for his efforts.

All in all, it was a great weekend.

## Equipment Auction Starts at July Meeting

The Club has received a donation of radio equipment that will be auctioned to the members of the club at upcoming meetings. The following list of equipment should include something of interest to you. The first item will be auctioned at the upcoming July meeting:

### **Standard C1208DA 144MHz FM mobile Transceiver**

At subsequent meetings we will be auctioning the following:

Icom IC-2GXAT 144MHz FM Handheld

accessories: Desk top charger  
DTMF speaker/microphone  
3 each spare battery packs  
Headset unit  
Mobile mounting bracket  
13.8 volt power cord  
Cigarette Lighter power cord

Kenwood TH 79A 144/440MHz FM Handheld

accessories: Drop-in rapid charger  
1 each spare battery pack  
13.8 volt power cord

Sony color TV watchman AM/FM-TV mini 3" screen

accessories: Amplified portable antenna

Realistic (Radio Shack) PRO-43 200 channel direct entry AM/FM programmable scanner

Radio Shack AM/FM handheld radio

Radio Shack 5 watt external speaker

Comet mag mount antenna 144/440 MHz dual band

Astron RS 20 amp power supply with meters

Daiwa 2 Port coax switch HF-600MHz

### **We need a new webmaster and a newsletter editor**

**Orv Beach (W6BI)** and **Steve Abarta (K6TLM)** retired as webmaster and newsletter editor last month. We certainly appreciate their past efforts in these positions, but now we need volunteers to fill these important positions. ***Who "Has Computer, Will Help"?***

## Special Field Day Raffle Winner

Dave Timoshik, WA6AYI, won the 2-meter HT VX-150 at the special Field Day Raffle. Dave was so excited that he sounded like a kid with a new toy (which exactly describes the situation!) We could not have found a more loving home for this radio.

**REMINDER:** 2004-2005 membership dues are due in July. The existing application form can be used for renewals, just by filling in the name/call sign and noting any changes.

## Information from Our Treasurer

*Larry Pyle AD6ST*

July is the start of the SSARC 2004/2005 year and membership dues become due for this new year. Any changes in your membership listing on the General Membership should be noted along with the appropriate membership fee of \$15 for single and \$20 for family. ARRL members should make certain that their membership is correctly noted on the membership listing. We need

51% of the voting (paid) members as ARRL members to maintain our association with the ARRL. The ARRL also provides \$15 to the club for each NEW ARRL member signed up by the club.

Our thanks go out to Steve Abarta, K6TLM for a very interesting video presentation on our **2002 FIELD DAY**. We all had a few laughs while viewing the very well produced program. Great work, Steve!!!!

## Elections 2004

Did you hear that train whistle blow? That was the sound of the Railroad Express that re-elected all of the current officers to serve again in

2004-2005. All of the officers would like to thank the club for supporting their efforts.

## *Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club* General Membership Meeting, June 10, 2004

Secretary, John Percival, W16O

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#### Call to Order

President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:52pm. Five Board Members were present and the total attendance was 12, including one guest. The meeting had begun at 7:30pm with a showing of a video made by Steve Abarta, K6TLM, at the Club's Field Day in 2002.

#### Program:

Vice President, Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, introduced our guest Gary Hirth, who owns a Batteries Plus store in Thousand Oaks. Gary gave a talk on the technology of batteries, focusing on the different types and chemistries. He described the advantages, disadvantages, and tradeoffs with each of the

primary and secondary battery types. Gary spoke about the different charging methods that are best for the different batteries, and he stressed the need for caution with Lithium Ion batteries. Gary's closing comment was that the nature of each application determines the best choice of battery type. At the end of his interesting and well presented talk, Gary answered questions from the members.

Break: A twenty-minute refreshment break was taken at 9:07 pm following the end of our program. .

Announcements: Dale mentioned that the Funeral for Ronald Reagan would be held at sunset on Friday, June 11. Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, spoke about the Races event to support the Reagan Funeral and said that 50 operators are needed. In order to participate, RACES members will need to have their white badge. Check-in for volunteers will be at 9am Friday, to receive assignments. Frank said the operation might continue until about 10pm. Alan Pettebone, KA6WGO, made an announcement about power problems in our area. He said that he has a contact with S.C. Edison and needs to have problem reports in writing. Dale reported that plans are coming along for Field Day to be held at the Simi Valley YMCA at Cochran and Galena, for our Field Day location this year. The setup will begin in the afternoon on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We have plans for a CW station to be led by Dave Timoshik, WA6AYI. Patrick Nelson, KF6RMI, will operate a station on 6 meters, and Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, will operate a station, on SSB. We need volunteers for setup and to operate in the contest. The plan for the Saturday dinner is to get take-out barbecue from Red's. Dale mentioned that we have received a number of radio items donated to the Club by a friend of Orv Beach, W6BI. We plan to auction these items at Field Day on Saturday evening. Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, announced that (Wallace F. Foster) N6CDJ is a Silent Key. Alan mentioned that Jim Schmidt, W6JIM, is recovering well from recent surgery.

Election: June is the month for our election of officers for the Club's new calendar year. Dale announced that the current set of officers had all agreed to serve for another year, and asked if anyone present wished to hold an office. Since there were no volunteers, Deanna Smitha, W6DWS made a motion to accept the slate of current officers and declare them elected. The motion was seconded and passed.

Member Drawing: The name drawn in the Membership Drawing was Jerry Crabtree, W6OVH, who was not present to win the prize. The prize fund will therefore be increased by \$5 for the July meeting.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Miscellaneous News

### Need to tap into a power circuit in your car?

Check this webpage for information on some handy gadgets for adding power to run mobile equipment:

[http://order.waytekwire.com/IMAGES/M37/catalog/216\\_62](http://order.waytekwire.com/IMAGES/M37/catalog/216_62)

## Planning for the New Year

By Dale Manquen KO6VO

The Executive Committee is busy working on activities for the coming year. We would greatly appreciate your suggestions. So far, we are working on

1. A picnic, maybe with a local T-hunt to learn a bit more from Doug Dubrall, WA6RJN,
2. An APRS workshop with a construction project,

### 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.

- ✓ 1296.1 Mhz  
USB Friday nights at 8pm
- ✓ 144.240 Mhz  
USB Sunday & Wednesdays at 8pm
- ✓ 3.908 Mhz  
LSB Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursdays 8pm

3. A tour of CBS Television City,

4. A better effort on JOTA (Jamboree On The Air with the Scouts.)

Please give us your thoughts on what you would like to see and do.

- ✓ 449.360 Mhz (-) pl 167.9  
Every night at 8pm

### Weather Spotter

Anyone with interest in becoming a **Southern California Weather Spotter** please contact Rick Galbraith at 805-520-0127 or see me at the next meeting for an application There are no fees to become a member.

## Simi Settlers' Officers

President	Dale Manquen KO6VO
Vice President	Rick Galbraith, W6DQE
Secretary	John Percival WI6O
Treasurer	Larry Pyle, AD6ST
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI

dmanquen@msn.com  
rick@keymaterial.com  
percivaljohns@cs.com  
lpyle@pacbell.net

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Richard Johnson
P.I.O	Vacant
Webmaster	Vacant
Newsletter	Vacant

## WEBMASTER WANTED!

Here's your chance for Glory and Fame! Well, at least the good feeling you will get from helping out your ham radio club. The Simi Settlers ARC is looking for a webmaster for their web page. Good knowledge of web tools is needed. Familiarity with Linux is helpful but not required. As a bonus, you can have a free email address and ftp site of your very own! Applicants apply at [W6Bl@arrl.net](mailto:W6Bl@arrl.net).

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

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**Next General Meeting**

**Thursday August 12, 2004**

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93

PL 127.3

Seventh Day Adventist Church