

## Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

**July 2005**

**Meeting Program  
July 14, 2005**

Mike Dorrrough, KO6NM, has agreed to visit us in July for a program on AM HF. He also has a new technique for AM modulation, but it is currently under wraps until patent issues are completed. Darn!! Mike also will be bringing along some friends.

In addition to his ham radio activities, Mike is the developer of the Dorrrough Loudness Meter, the accepted standard volume indicator for commercial TV and radio, for which he received the National Association of Broadcasters Engineering Achievement Award in 2000. See [http://www.dorrrough.com/What\\_s\\_New/NAB\\_Award/nab\\_award.html](http://www.dorrrough.com/What_s_New/NAB_Award/nab_award.html) for the full story and a description of Mike's professional activities.

## Election Results

After a bit of negotiation, we did get a full slate of officers for the coming year. Spencer Smith volunteered to serve as Vice President (during his campaign speech he claimed that he invented the Internet...) and Deanna Smitha agreed to be Treasurer if Rick would handle the raffle prizes and raffles when she isn't able to attend due to her variable work schedule. Dale Manquen, John Percival and Patrick Nelson were reelected as President, Secretary, and Historian.

## Thank You for a job well done

Our retiring officers – VP Rick Galbraith W6DQE and Treasurer Larry Pyle AD6ST– deserve a round of applause from all the membership for their excellent work over the past few years. Rick and Larry have taken the time to attend Officers' Meetings and club activities, and they have worked hard on their respective offices.

Larry leaves office with our treasury in excellent financial condition. His financial budgeting and reporting has been of the highest caliber.

Rick never said "No" whenever he was asked to help. Even with an extremely demanding schedule helping run his company, he still found time to pull off a few miracles for the Club.

The President wishes to personally thank Rick and Larry for their tireless efforts and unflagging support. You will be missed at the Officers' Meetings.

## What a Great Field Day!!

We wish to thank Terry Graves K7FE and VCARS for letting us join them for Field Day at the Reagan Library. All of the Settlers who attended were in agreement – “Let’s do it again!”

The Library is a great site, and VCARS took care of most of the details. Saturday dinner from a Moorpark BBQ restaurant was excellent.

Rick Galbraith took the easy way out this year. Rather than playing Monkey Man climbing antenna towers, Rick arranged for the loan of a scissor lift. We were able to hoist our beam antennas into the air without scaling any towers. We also thank Rick for bringing his new trailer. We were in the lap of luxury day and night.

Band conditions were good. Sunday morning, with Dave Timoshik WA6AYI doing a land office business on 6 meters.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, operate and tear down. We had 14 members who signed in. We also had several visitors and one returning member – John Mendez.

## August Show & Tell and Swap Meet

### A Note from the Vice President

Hear Ye, Here Ye.....

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](mailto: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.

## Raffle and Auction for July

RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES:

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:

**HAM 4 rotor and Highgain controller**

Future months equipment auctions will be:

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

## RACES Renewals

For those of you that need to renew your **ARES/RACES** White Badge in the near future, Jackie is out on leave for awhile. Please call **Willa Gustavson** at **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

Last month's program was elections and Field Day preparation.

## Equipment Auctioned at June 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. We did dispose of a lot of gear donated by the family of Jay Baker, including a TNC, computer interface, Simpson volt/ohm meter, a wire antenna, some inverters, a tube tester and a frequency counter. We still have a 100kHz – 32 MHz RFoscillator and a condenser (capacitor to you youngsters) tester.

## The Crystal Ball Sez

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 June 9, 2005**

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:39pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deanna Smitha, W6DWS. This month's meeting was held in our usual meeting place in the Youth Room. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 11.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members giving a brief word on their recent activities. Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, described his recent trip to the Dayton Hamvention.

Program: There was no guest speaker this month. Terry Graves, K7FE, who had planned to join us for further discussion of our joint Field Day effort with VCARS, was unable to attend.

Election of Officers: Dale mentioned that for our Club Officers Election we have candidates for President, Secretary and Historian, but we still need candidates for Vice President and Treasurer. Dale asked for volunteers willing to serve in these offices. Deanna Smitha offered to be a candidate for Treasurer, and Spencer Smith, N6IWY, offered to serve as Vice President on the condition that he had no conflicting commitments. (Spencer

later confirmed that he is available to serve as V.P.) Thus, our slate of officer candidates was complete as follows:

- President, Dale Manquen, KO6VO
- Vice President, Spencer Smith, N6IWY
- Secretary, John Percival, WI6O
- Treasurer, Deanna Smitha, W6DWS
- Historian, Patrick Nelson, KF6RMI

Since there were no contested offices, a motion was made and seconded to declare the slate of officers elected. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Field Day: Dale led a discussion of our Field Day preparations. We will participate with VCARS at the Reagan Presidential Library. Rick said he could arrange for the use of a scissor lift to support our beam antennas for 20M and 6M. Setup activities are to begin on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Deanna mentioned that VCARS wants all operation to run on batteries, with generators used only for charge the batteries. Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, has solar panels (200 Watts total) we can use for battery charging. Dinner will be ordered from Moorpark's "Bar-B-Que Joint". (Rick spoke to Terry Graves, K7FE, by phone during our break and learned that there were still openings on the band signup list, and that we should be able to get in and out of our parking area at night.)

Announcements: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, said that RACES volunteers would participate at the annual Moorpark "Third of July" Fireworks show on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. President Dale reported on guest speakers for future meetings. In July, Mike Dorrough, KO6NM, will speak about AM operations on the HF bands. Dick Burden will speak at our August meeting on the subject of the new digital TV broadcasting scheduled to replace analog transmissions in 2006. For October, Lyle Henry, K7OO, will speak about digital broadcast radio and the new In-Band-On-Channel (IBOC) mode for carrying multiple programs on a single carrier.

Break: A fifteen-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:25 pm.

Auction: An informal auction was held to sell more of the items donated by Jay Baker's wife.

Member Drawing: The winning name drawn was Mike Tweedy, KV6I, who was not present to win the \$5 prize. The fund for this prize will therefore increase to \$10 for the meeting in July.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by: John Percival, WI6O, Secretary, Simi Settlers ARC.

### 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)

*Bryon Foster N6IFU*

ATV is very easy to receive with the cable ready tuners that come as standard equipment on most modern televisions. If you are interested in received ATV, I have a station set up in the center of Simi Valley transmitting a very respectful 28 watts driving an omni directional vertical antenna with 5 db gain, 40' above the ground. This should cover the entire valley.

All you should need to do to receive ATV is disconnect the cable connection that comes into your TV and attach an outside antenna (staying on the cable side of the tuner) and tune to channel 58 (426 MHz) and you should be able to see the signal.

WE3ST hooked up his antenna from his FM stereo, which is horizontally polarized, and he has no problem seeing the signal. KN6NN has a UHF high gain TV antenna with a preamp and he also has no problems receiving. His antenna is also horizontally polarized which gives both Hams the disadvantage of a 20db loss over a vertically polarized antenna.

Any vertically polarized antenna should have the advantage over these examples.

I am happy to turn the ATV transmitter on at anytime so anyone who wants can tune in and test their TV and have a signal to work with. I have also listed a schedule that the transmitter will be on the air.

I can be contacted the following ways:

- on the local 147.930 Simi repeater
- on the local 445.580 Simi repeater
- on 146.43 simplex

[n6ifu@arrl.net](mailto:n6ifu@arrl.net)

Scheduled “on air” ATV Broadcast for two weeks from the date of this e-mail.

Monday/Wed/Friday @ 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm PDST

Saturday @ 11:00 am until 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm PDST

If you have interest in learning more about ATV or setting up a ATV station of your own you might want to visit [www.hamtv.com](http://www.hamtv.com) to see what equipment is available.

The transmitter I am using is K6HXX's (formally KA6HXX, JOHN) who has been so kind to loan it to me.

Thank you,  
N6IFU-  
Bryon Foster

## **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	Rick Galbraith, W6DQE		rick@keymaterial.com
Secretary	John Percival WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	Larry Pyle, AD6ST		lpyle@pacbell.net
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

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**Next General Meeting**

**Thursday July 14th, 2005**

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz

Seventh Day Adventist Church