

## Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

**June 2004**

**Meeting Speaker**

**Gary Hirth (owner) BatteriesPlus, Inc.  
Battery Technology**

**Dale Manquen on the road again....**

*By Dale Manquen, President*

The end of May found me once again cruising across the U.S. by car. The trip to Chicago was primarily to pick up my girlfriend, Chris at her daughter's house in Chicago, but I also had business calls at a steel mill in Chicago Heights, IL and in the San Juan Valley of south central Colorado where I own some farm property. I/we covered 5180 miles in 13 days. I took along my Kenwood 2M/70cm rig to eaves drop on railroad frequencies, monitor NOAA stations if the weather got bad, and maybe even to try some 2M repeater contacts.

The good news is that I never needed the NOAA information. In spite of lots of storms and tornados wandering about while I was on the road, my route and timing kept me clear of everything. The worst weather was while I was visiting in Chicago, but I didn't need to drive in those storms.

We did spend an interesting hour one evening while driving into Flagstaff on the way home. I tuned in KOMA at 1520 AM, a clear channel station in Oklahoma City, while they were providing continuous coverage of the storms and tornados that hit Carney, OK and closed the Turner Turnpike. I was thankful that we were in Arizona, and not driving through Oklahoma that night!

We drove through St. Paul on the way back for me to check out the apartment building where I had lived in 1965 when I started work with 3M Company. I was also able to find one of my old roommates by visiting his tiny hometown, Amboy, in southern

Minnesota. We also drove through the Black Hills, visiting Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial.

I never did use the radio for any repeater contacts. The first time I tried playing with the radio tuning while driving, I noticed my driving degraded considerably. Since I was in too much of a rush to pull over and tune the radio, I just listened to the preset train frequencies.

I saw the remains of one train derailment in Kansas, a tipped over truck in Iowa, and I was almost involved in a wreck just this side of Needles when the semi in front of me didn't slow down fast enough for construction that had traffic stopped. He locked up the brakes, swerved to the right to avoid the semi in front of him, and almost jackknifed in the process. I bet that driver's heart was beating even faster than mine! The only thing that averted a real disaster was that we were funneled into the left lane by traffic cones, leaving the right lane clear where the incident happened.

It's nice to be back home – safely.

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

**Orv Beach (W6BI) and Steve Abarta (K6TLM)** are retiring as webmaster and newsletter editor this 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 Note:**

COME TO THE **JUNE 2004** MEETING WHERE A SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION OF THE **2002** FIELD DAY (TWO YEARS AGO) WILL BE PRESENTED BY STEVE ABARTA, K6TLM.

**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. Larry Pyle, AD6ST also has tickets for the Field Day raffle of the Yaesu HT. Tickets are \$5 each.

## Information from Our Treasurer

*Larry Pyle AD6ST*

Tickets for the Field Day drawing for the Yaesu 2 meter VX-150 hand held are available from me at \$5 per ticket. I will have them available at the next club meeting on Thursday, June 10 and at the Field Day on June 28th. If you will not be at either of these events and need tickets call me at 805 526 9556 and I will get them to you. You just need to put your name and call sign on the back of the ticket and return them, along with \$5 to me for each ticket purchased. The drawing will be at the Field Day dinner, the evening of June 28th. Winner need not be present.

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.

## FCC Extends BPL Reply Comments Filing Deadline

*Reprint from ARRL.ORG*

NEWINGTON, CT, May 27, 2004-- The FCC has extended the deadline to file reply comments in its broadband over power line (BPL) proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, from Tuesday, June 1, to Tuesday, June 22. The Commission released its BPL [Notice of Proposed Rule Making \(NPRM\)](#) February 23, and the initial comment deadline passed May 3. The FCC acted on a request from the [National Antenna Consortium](#) and the [Amherst Alliance](#) (NAC/Amherst) for a much longer filing deadline extension. The NAC/Amherst petition cited the anticipated release of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 2 BPL study in making its request for a filing delay. The organizations said the FCC was not allowing stakeholders adequate time to prepare comments to address the two-part NTIA report on BPL interference. The FCC said the NTIA has indicated that it will submit comments and a technical appendix in the BPL proceeding this week. Those submissions are expected to contain key findings of the Phase 2 report, due to be released later this year.

## **Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, May 13, 2004**

Secretary, John Percival, W16O

**Secretary John was unable to attend the May meeting, and apparently no one took minutes. Therefore, there will be no Minutes Section to this month's Short Circuit**

-Editor-

### **Miscellaneous News**

#### **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
- ✓ 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.

#### **The Club is Richer, and Da Pres is Poorer**

*By Dale Manquen KO6VO*

For the last couple of months I have been working on my plan to boost my tri-band beam up higher than 4 feet above the roof of my metal storage building. I decided to purchase the rooftop tower that Todd Andrews KJ6H

donated to the club when he moved to Las Vegas, and use this as a ground mounted tower with a ten foot mast for the antenna.

(I live in an area with CC&Rs forbidding outdoor antennas, but this antenna isn't high enough to be seen from the street. In addition, the neighbor behind me is a ham who gave me the beam antenna a few years ago, and one of my side neighbor's comments was "Well now I know where to go in an emergency for communications!" Our homeowners' association, for which I head the Emergency Preparedness Committee, does not get involved in enforcing the CC&Rs. Our dues are only \$20/year, and that goes toward benevolent activities, not police actions.)

I poured some concrete into the cells of an L-shaped retaining wall to anchor 3 corners of the tower, and I dug a hole for a pier of about 100 pounds of concrete under the remaining corner. VP Rick W6DQE helped me with some steel angle iron to tie things together. My son Micah and I tilted the tower, mast and antenna into position yesterday, Saturday, 6/5. Now it is time to begin testing....

## 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
Treasurer	Larry Pyle, AD6ST	lpyle@pacbell.net
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI	
	Committee Chairpersons	
P.I.O	Diane Belcher KF6FSZ	ac6oe@adelphia.net
Webmaster	Orv Beach W6BI	w6bi@arrl.net
Newsletter	Steve Abarta K6TLM	k6tlm@arrl.net

## 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 [W6BI@arrl.net](mailto:W6BI@arrl.net).

**Note from your Editor:** Unfortunately, this will be the last Short Circuit from the shack of K6TLM. I have enjoyed the adventure of pulling this publication together for the past two or three years (who can remember?) Before I took over as Editor, I helped the previous Editor by printing and distributing Short Circuit. I have to say it's really been a pleasure to do this, but it's time for me to move on. My new passion is in a distribution business venture that is **dedicated to the fight against Heart Disease** and I believe that I must give that effort much more time than I have so far. So thanks for all your support and comments. I will still be somewhat active in Simi Settlers, so you can't get rid of me that easily. 73 to all.....**Steve Abarta K6TLM**



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

### Next General Meeting

Thursday June 10, 2004

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93

PL 127.3

Seventh Day Adventist Church  
1636 Sinaloa, Simi Valley