



June 2009

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

June 2009 Program

General Meeting
June 11, 2009

Topic: Field Day and Elections

Field Day June 27-28,
2009 Reagan Library and
Museum grounds

Library and Museum off of Madera in Simi Valley. If you can help out or have some equipment you can bring, contact Terry Graves, K7FE, our Field Day coordinator at K7FE@aol.com. Better still if you post to http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS_events

I hope to see you all at Field Day.
73 Peter AI6PG

Location:
Simi Senior Center
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley CA

VIDEO OF 2002 FIELD DAY **SPECIAL FOR JUNE MEETING**

The 2002 Field Day took place at a local school in Simi Valley. Come see many faces we haven't seen in many years. Also, sadly, see now Silent Key, Dave Timoshik, WA6AYI, in action running the 20 meter CW station.



Field Day at N6R, Courtesy of VCARS

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FIELD DAY IS COMING!

Have you ever made a contact through a satellite? Spoken to someone in Massachusetts on HF? How about Nevada on 2 meter sideband? Made a CW contact? Worked a contest? Set up a station in the back of a truck?

Sounds like fun? If so, then Field Day is for you. Field Day is an emergency drill, where hams all around the country set up stations out in the field (or mall or parking lot...), complete with tents, antennas, generators, and radios, and then try to contact similar stations around the US and Canada. Of course, it has become a contest (actually, an "operating event"), and a whole lot of fun! Don't worry if you have a Tech license, or even none at all. We will have experienced hams around to help you and serve as control operators.

Field Day setup will begin at noon on Friday, June 26th; the actual event begins on Saturday at 11AM and runs through Sunday at 11AM (yep, we'll be running all through the night), with teardown at 11AM on Sunday. We will set up on the grounds of the Ronald Reagan

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

Static & Sparks

By President, Peter Grace
AI6PG



Field Day June 27-28, 2009 Reagan Library and Museum grounds

Yes 24 hours – Day and night. Come by anytime. We shall be there. Be part of the fun. Field Day is a competitive event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The objective is for participating individuals and organizations to:

- Go to a location where there is normally no communications capability. Create one.
- Contact as many stations as possible during the operating period.
- Tear the site down, and pack it away for a real emergency.

Stations can be contacted on any or all of the amateur bands (except for the 10, 18 and 24 MHz "WARC" bands) during the 27 hour operating period (1800 UTC Saturday through 2100 UTC Sunday). There are limitations on how much of the 27 hour period may be used depending upon when station setup is begun. Field Day is normally conducted on the **fourth full weekend** in June of each year. This is usually, but not always, the last full weekend.

Competition is open to all United States and Canadian amateurs, including the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Foreign amateur stations may be contacted for credit, but they are not eligible to compete.

Emphasis is placed on learning to operate under simulated emergency conditions and acquainting the public with amateur radio. The scoring structure provides bonus points to prevent the die-hard contesters from ignoring the public and emergency preparedness aspects of the event.

Operating

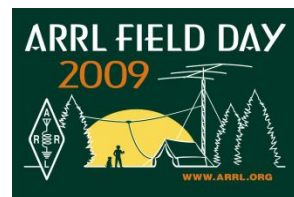
As stated previously, the object during Field Day operation is to log valid contacts with as many other stations as possible during the allowed operating period. A valid contact requires exchanging callsigns and additional information consisting of the station's operating class and their ARRL/Canadian section.

The class is composed of a number and a letter. The number signifies the total number of transmitters operated. Over ninety-eight percent of Field Day operations use between 1 and 6 stations, with the higher numbers rarely heard. Less than one half of one percent operate in the double-digit categories. Prior to 1998 you were allowed one phone and one CW (or digital) station per amateur band. Beginning in 1998, the digital modes are allowed as a separate mode. This raised the maximum number from 46 to 69. The letter (A, B, C, D, or E) signifies the type of operation. "A" is a club or group of 3 or more amateurs operating portable with emergency power (generator, battery, etc.). "B" is used by one or two people operating portable with emergency power. Class A and B stations have a subcategory, Battery, where operation is QRP (less than 5 Watts) and entirely from batteries. "C" is used by mobile stations. "D" is used by home stations operating from their normal commercial power source. "E" is a home station operating with emergency power. This list can be found in the operating aids included in the Primer.

The class in which the combined clubs will operate during the 2009 Field Day will be determined a few minutes before the start of the event. In 2008 the clubs used 12 Alpha. For the purposes of the example exchanges that follow, this value is used for the club, and 3 Alpha is used for the other station (AB4NC).

The class information is followed by the section, which for the N6R multiclub operation is "Santa Barbara" or "SB." Many states have more than one ARRL section, so it is a good idea to have a list of the sections and their common abbreviations handy at the operating position.

Phone. On phone, in response to hearing another stations "CQ," you respond with the full callsign (N6R) being used by the clubs for Field Day. If the station you call hears you, he will respond giving your callsign and his exchange information. You enter the information in the log and respond with your exchange information including callsign. A typical contact would go something like the following: (See next page)



He calls	"CQ Field Day Alpha Bravo Four November Charlie"
You would respond	"November Six Romeo"
He answers	"N6R Three Alpha North Carolina"
You complete your portion of the exchange	"Twelve Alpha Santa Barbara, N6R"
He acknowledges and moves on with	"Roger, QRZ Alpha Bravo Four November Charlie"

When "running" a frequency (staying on the same frequency and calling CQ), roles are reversed from the above and would go like this:

You make your call	"CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day November Six Romeo"
You listen, and hear	"N6R here is Alpha Bravo Four November Charlie"
You respond	"Alpha Bravo Four November Charlie Twelve Alpha Santa Barbara"
He answers	"Three Alpha North Carolina" or "Three Alpha North Carolina AB4NC"
You acknowledge receipt and make a call	"Roger, QRZ November Six Romeo"
You listen, and ...	

On **CW**, the process is the same. A typical "search and pounce" contact would go as follows:

He calls	"CQ CQ FD de AB4NC"
You would respond	"N6R"
He answers	"N6R 3A NC"
You complete your portion of the exchange	"12A SB N6R"
He acknowledges and moves on with	"TU QRZ AB4NC" or "TU AB4NC"

When you are the "running" station the sequence would go like this:

You make your call	"CQ FD N6R"
You listen, and hear	"AB4NC"
You respond	"AB4NC 11A SB"
He answers	"3A NC" or "3A NC AB4NC"
You acknowledge receipt and make a call	"TU N6R"
You listen, and if no one answers, repeat	"CQ FD N6R"

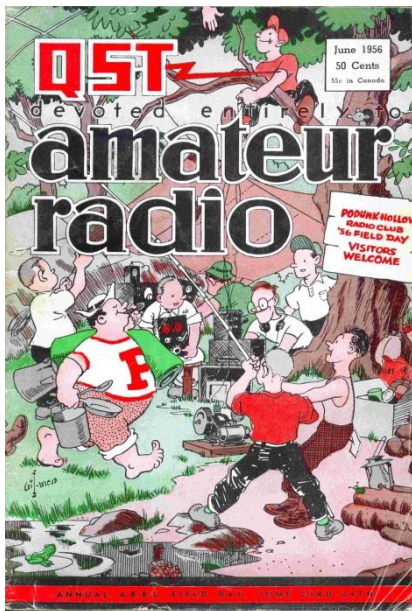
Operating Tips. To maximize the number of contacts, there are several practices that should be followed.

Call CQ. Most of the Field Day participating stations will be "casual" operations whose goal may be to work their last needed state for Worked All States or 5-Band Worked All States. These stations will not be calling CQ! They will be tuning

the bands "searching and pouncing" on stations that they need to achieve their individual goals. The **ONLY** way to log a contact with one of these stations is to keep "N6R" on the air to be heard and called by them. Keep your calls and listening periods short. Don't make stations wait for you to end a long winded "CQ." Give them frequent opportunities to call you. Similarly, allow enough

time for someone to begin a response before calling again, but don't wait longer than necessary. Timing this properly takes some practice. On CW, using QSK if available on the transceiver allows you to catch the "slow starter." It is tough to know when to stop CQing and go to a "search and pounce" mode of operation. There are a few stations, serious competitors, in the 2 to 6 station classes that may not do much, if any, "search and pounce" operation. If the rate at which you are getting calls drops off, there may be another station on your frequency that you can't hear (and can't hear you) because of

propagation. If the adjacent frequency is clear, you may want to move up or down a bit and try there. Otherwise, a quick pass through the band "searching and pouncing" may be more productive, at least until you can find a new frequency to camp out on, and...you know...**call "CQ!"**



QST Magazine from June 1956

Even after operating in many contests, the decision of when to "search and pounce" is a difficult one, and always subject to second guessing afterwards. If in doubt....**call "CQ!"**

Don't Ragchew. Even though Field Day is a somewhat "laid back" contest, don't fall to the temptation to ragchew, especially if you have been receiving one or more responses to each CQ call. The serious competitor will not wait for you to finish chatting! He will recognize that he could log 2, 3 or more contacts while he waited (and possibly you could also have logged as many more!). We may get more people wanting to ask questions based on the June 99 QST article. Be polite, but don't waste time.

Keep your transmissions short. Not only to save your voice but to save time for other contacts, keep the content of your transmissions

short and limited to only the essential information. It is not discourteous to omit "73" from the end of each contact. If you are "searching and pouncing," you need not formally acknowledge receipt of the "CQing" stations information but need only to respond with your own. If you didn't catch all of his information, a simple "AGAIN?" on phone, or "?" on CW should be enough to get the information repeated before you give your portion of the exchange.

Use the full callsign. When "searching and pouncing" always call the station using your full callsign, never use just the last two letters. No competent operator working a frequency wants to have to ask anyone to repeat their call if they can copy it initially. They can't copy it if you don't give it! The two letter "call" is very poor operating practice at any time, regardless of how often you may hear it in DX pile ups.

Don't bother duping during the operating period. If you are using a paper log, follow the advice about CQing to the limit, and don't waste time checking to see if a station calling you has been logged before. Let the stations calling you do the duping during the contest. If you follow the advice to call CQ throughout the contest, your dupe rate will be no worse than if you used one and you will log more contacts.

Rework "dupes" that call you. Even if you have worked him before, it is faster to work him again and indicate "dupe" in the log than it is to discuss it. There is no score penalty for working a station more than once on a band, as long as points are not claimed for the duplicate contact(s).

Always end with your callsign. It is very frustrating to be rapidly tuning across a band, "searching and pouncing" and hear a "CQ" or "TEST" and then silence. You know the station is looking for contacts, but who is it? You have to make a quick decision whether to wait for the station to call again; to call him "blind," not knowing whether you have worked him before; or to move on without calling him.

Either of the first options are time consuming and utterly wasted if you have worked before.

Frankly, the best option for maximum time efficiency is to quickly store the frequency in memory and move on. Check back later, (switching between Memory and VFO modes) in between other contacts. Don't force these measures on others or lose needed contacts...always end with the callsign!

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting, May 14, 2009

Call to Order: President Peter Grace, AI6PG, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He then led the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.

The total attendance was 20, with 3 guests.

Introductions: A brief round of introductions was held. Members spoke about their recent Ham Radio activities.

The club welcomed guests: Keith Metz, KI6YVH, Jan Tadlock, KC6RDF and Anthony DeGregori, KG6RXA.

Program: Marty Woll N6VI gave his presentation: **"Being DX - Tales of a Contest Expeditioner"**

Whether it's "DXpeditioning," leading an ARES disaster drill operation, VHF mountain-topping, or giving presentations to radio clubs and the public, Amateur Radio has been a major part of Marty Woll's life for 42 years. Marty started his ham radio career in his teen years as a member of the West Valley Amateur Radio Club. He is currently serving as the ARRL Southwest division Vice Director.

Marty explained many of the aspects of contesting and described some of the trips he's taken around the world during the past 30 years. He's operated the CQ Worldwide DX contest from twelve zones on five continents. In 1980, Marty was in Hawaii, in 1983 he was in Mexico, and in 1984, Marty was in French Guyana. Marty also had a meeting with King Hussein of Jordan regarding Ham Radio in 1986, and was in the Virgin Islands that same year.

Marty explained the necessity of using ingenuity. For example, in 1987, while operating in the Galapagos Islands, his team had to re-wire a house in order to operate all of their stations for the contest. He was in Alaska, St. Thomas, Brazil, and Morocco in 1988-1990, respectively.

In 1992, he was relocated for work to Hawaii and owned the monster station built by KH6XX. The station had six 90-foot towers and stacked Telrex yagis on two acres overlooking Waimea

Bay. Marty was there until 1996 when he had to return to the mainland.

Marty spoke about his adventures in the rare DX spot of Gambia in 2003, where he made 300



Marty Woll, N6VI, Describes his DXpeditions Around the World

contacts per hour and won the world top multi award. There are no hams in Gambia. In Jamaica (2005), he had 1,000 contacts on 160m, and he had 600 contacts on 10m in the following year in Western Australia. During his recent (2008) trip in Honduras, he had to rewire the room's electrical, but then made 1300 contacts to 93 countries on 80m. Marty's groups do their best to keep their costs low and don't plan too far ahead.

He noted that the choice of equipment can make a difference, and it's important to work with the local operators to achieve success. Often they had to erect portable towers, and use ingenuity and improvisation during the trips.

Announcements: President Peter reminded everyone that Field Day is approaching, June 27 and 28, with setup on Friday June 26. We will join with VCARS and VCARC again this year at the Reagan Presidential Library. Peter asked who was planning to operate a station at Field Day. Members can go to the VCARS events web page for information about Field Day.

It is at:

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS_events/

Member Drawing: The progressive membership prize drawing was not held this month. Therefore, the prize fund will be at \$20 for our June 11, 2009 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by: Brad Rife, KI6KS

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 7:10 pm , every Tuesday ACS Net (ARES/RACES) beginning at 7:10 pm on our local repeater 147.930 – pl 127.3, and then continuing at 7:30 pm on the county repeater at 146.880.

Thursday, June 4, 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_events/ to stay on top of developments.

Saturday, June 6, 2009 8 am, Ham Radio License Exam Session at

Northridge Hospital Medical Center,
 18300 Roscoe Blvd, Education Auditorium
 Far West side of Basement, CA 91325
 (Walk-Ins Allowed)
 Contact: William E. Miller (818)368-4438
 Email: BILL@LTGA.COM

Thursday June 11, 2009 7:00pm Simi Settlers General Meeting

Simi Valley Senior Center
 3900 Avenida Simi
 note start time – we must be out by 2055 local

Friday, June 12, 2009 7:30pm VCARC /K6MEP club meeting

The American Red Cross of Ventura County Chapter House
 2355 Portola Road, Ventura CA.

Saturday, June 13, 2009, 10:00AM Ham Radio License exam session at The Papa System Picnic

Time: 10:00AM (No walk-ins) **Pre-Registration Required**
 VEC: Greater Los Angeles ARG
 Exam Location: Woodley Avenue Park
 6331 Woodley Ave
<http://papasys.org>
 Pre-Registration Required! Van Nuys, CA 91406 **No Walk-ins** Allowed:
 Contact – **Norman M. Goodkin** (818)222-7893
 Email: K6YXH@ARRL.NET

Upcoming T-hunt events – visit
<http://www.homingin.com/index.html>

Sunday, June 14, 2009, 8:30am Ham Radio License exam session at

Ventura Cty Sheriff's E County Station
 2101 E Olsen Rd (Between 23 Hwy & Reagan Library);
 Community Room, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
 Walk-ins-Allowed. **Contact:** Jeffrey M Reinhardt
 (818) 706-3853

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 7 pm Santa Clarita Club General Meeting

Santa Clarita City Hall
<http://www.w6jw.org/>

Thursday, June 18, 2009 7:30 pm, CVARC General Meeting

East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS)
 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
<http://www.cvarc.org/>

Friday June 26, 2009 @ Noon

Field Day Setup by VCARS, SSARC and VCARC members and friends
 Reagan Library and Museum

Saturday June 27 11am – Sunday June 28 11am (Yes – it's 24 hours)

ARRL Field Day
Reagan Library and Museum, Simi Valley CA
Join

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCARS_events/
To stay on top of developments

Please arrive by 9am Saturday if you will be providing a transmitter for the Field Day effort.

Saturday, June 27, 2009 7 am W6TRW

Swapmeet (7am) and
Exam Session (10am)
 Redondo Beach, CA
http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/w6trw_arc_swapmeet.htm



Simi Settlers' Leadership				
President	Peter Grace	AI6PG	(805) 223-0729 cell	pcg@acm.org
Vice President	VACANT			
Secretary	John Percival	WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	Norbert Rehaut,	W9YPM		nrehaut@dslextreme.com
Committee Chairpersons				
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall	WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Repeater	Spencer Smith	N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	n6iwy@sbcglobal.net
ex-President	Dale Manquen	KO6VO		dmanquen@email.msn.com
Newsletter	Steve Abarta	K6TLM	(805) 584-6523	k6tlm@mac.com
Membership	VACANT			
PIO	VACANT			
Field Day	<i>What will you do?</i>			
Youth Coordinator	VACANT			
Historian	Patrick Nelson	KF6RMI		
Elmer	Randy Strader	KE6JQT	(805) 526-3832	randolphstrader@yahoo.com

Pics of May 2009 Simi Settlers' Meeting



President Peter Grace, AI6PG



May Meeting in Progress



Speaker Marty Woll, N6VI