

## Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

**March 2006**

**Meeting Program  
March 9, 2006**

## The Space Shuttle Engines

Mr. Joe Rivetti, of Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, will speak on the development of the NASA Space Shuttle rocket engine.

Mr. Rivetti has 44 years experience in developing rocket engines and related hardware. He is a nationally recognized expert on hardware performance and configuration management. His awards include the NASA Apollo achievement Award, Rocketdyne IT Leadership Award, NASA Manned Flight Awareness Award, NASA Silver Snoopy Award etc.

He also has received several suggestion awards resulting in significant cost savings/avoidances.

Joe has spent his career watching the development and success of the Space Shuttle Main Engine and has been a leading player in that success.

## Taco Party in the Park March 18

Saturday, March 18 is our next Taco Party in the park. We will be gathering at Lemon Park (official known as Rancho Tapo Community Park) at 2850 Lemon Drive <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2850%20Lemon%20Drive%20Simi%20Valley%20CA%2093063> near Tapo Canyon and Alamo about 11 a.m. for some of Allen Pettebone's, KA6WGO, delicious tacos and trimmings. Please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish and a dessert. The Club will furnish soft drinks and paper goods. We will be under the pavilion roof at the park, which provides good protection and a dry floor in the event of a bit of dampness.

In the event of really nasty weather, call Dale at 529-2496 to see if there is any change of plans.

## March Raffle Prizes

MAGNETIC ANTENNA MOBILE MOUNT

ARRL REPEATER 2005/2006 DIRECTORY

LEATHER WORK GLOVES

12 VOLT SEALED LEAD BATTERY

AND the perpetual membership drawing prize of \$5!

## Last Month - Handheld Computers

Our thanks to Karl Nicholas from Juniper Systems Inc., who brought some examples of handheld computers intended for specialized applications. Since Karl is Director of Business Development for Juniper and responsible for fostering new markets and applications, he was able to give us some examples of new and interesting applications he has encountered.

## The Pres Sez

So far, so good! We had an excellent antenna workshop, and many Club members participated in the Amgen bike race. It was quite a scene to see a huge pack of bicycles all crowded together. I was stationed at a corner, and I was sure there would be a pileup, but fortunately I was wrong.

Our calendar of events for the next few months:

March 18 Taco party in the park featuring Allen's, KA6WGO, great tacos and pot luck salads and desserts. Open to all hams in the area, not just club members. Good food, maybe a few rigs set up in the park, and a lot of good company.

May 20 & 21 Overnight campout at Lake Casitas(?) with a Saturday night pot luck dinner for everyone, including those who can't stay overnight

June 24 & 25 Field Day at the Reagan Library

We may also send carpool delegations to

Open house April 1 at M^2 Antenna Systems in Fresno

First weekend in May Military Radio Collectors Group (MCRG) event in San Luis Obispo <http://syzen.com/milradio/>

June 18 (Fathers' Day) Santa Maria Hamfest

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to get together for fun and friendship. Please print out and post this page on your bulletin board (refrigerator?)

We would also like to offer speakers to the local Service Clubs to bolster the awareness and image of our club. This is your chance to help get the word out.

## J-Pole Construction Session Feb. 18

In spite of threatening weather, we gathered in Rick Galbraith's, W6DQE, workshop to build J-pole antennas. Although there were rain showers before and after our session, we were blessed with a beautiful afternoon. We had a good member turnout and built several different types of J-pole antennas, ranging from 6 meters to 440 MHz and single to triple-band configurations.

For those of you who built an antenna, please talk with Ed Richards about paying for your materials.

Rick, thanks again for your hospitality. The barbeque was great! And thanks to Larry, Jim and others who brought parts of the meal.

## From Our Treasurer

Treasurer Ed Richards, K6UUZ, has prepared a budget for the remaining half of our fiscal year. Since most of us have already paid our annual dues, we don't have any significant fund raising activities during this period. Expense items include the annual insurance premium, our 'Grab and Go' emergency station and funds for our 'Outreach Program'. The net result is a significant draw-down of our account balance. Got any fund raising ideas????

## Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Five hams from the Thousand Oaks area are getting together a couple of times a month to practice their German. Please let your members know that this group exists and to contact me, Steve AE6NX for more details.

Steve AE6NX  
[steve.champion@verizon.net](mailto:steve.champion@verizon.net)

Follow-up:

I visited with one of the members of this group, a neighbor of mine, and he showed me a copy of CQDL (154 pages!), the German equivalent of our ARRL QST magazine. The group members review the articles in CQDL and help each other with the translations so that they can understand the interesting articles. - Editor

## ARES/RACES News

If you missed the big ARES/RACES activities last month, you missed some very interesting opportunities. The Amgen Tour of California bicycle race

(<http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/>) required our assistance with traffic monitoring and race progress reports. The law enforcement agencies were very impressed with our contributions, and they have already requested our help for next year and even adding a few new tasks to our involvement.

The bike race and the second event, the Coyote Four Play (C4P <http://gravityh.com/c4p2006entry.htm>), are covered in detail at [http://users.adelphia.net/~wwoodhams/Ares\\_Races/Newsletter/March\\_Special.pdf](http://users.adelphia.net/~wwoodhams/Ares_Races/Newsletter/March_Special.pdf)

The National Weather Service office in Oxnard is now equipped with amateur radio gear, and this gear has been used to host informal nets during the recent rain storms. In the event of really severe weather, individuals might be called out to help monitor some of the local burn areas for flash flooding. Check the Sulfur Mountain (146.880 – PL127.3) repeater during bad weather to either notify the NWS of storm activity or to see if volunteers are needed.

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

Our 'Grab and Go Kit' is now in the beginning the early construction phase. Our first effort will be to construct one of the smaller 'satellite' stations before we tackle the master station..

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.

## Repeater News

Our current plan is to send the backup receiver to Art Vorpahl, WB6CWJ, in Bismarck, ND for service and tuning, and then to swap out the receivers, sending the current unit to Art for tuning. Art is the original repeater trustee, and is still a dues-paying member of the Simi Settlers. Thanks, Art, for your continued help!

## Amateur Television Update

By Bryon Foster N6IFU

ATV is on a growth curve in Simi Valley. Our own N6IWY is in the last steps of putting his station on the air. The station is equipped with a P.C. Electronics 10-watt transceiver and his homebrew antennas for 434 MHz and 919.25 MHz and a downconverter. Spencer's station will be able to work simplex here in the valley as well as DX. He will also have access to the 'Oat Mountain ATV Repeater', which covers Southern California and Las Vegas.

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News on the Oat Mt. ATV repeater:

The repeater is about to receive a boost in output power. Its present output of a meager 4 watts will be increased to a healthy 40 watts on the next service call. This will be accomplished by installing the repeater's first amplifier. In addition, a 100-watt amplifier is on the bench and being tested to replace the 40 watt-er in the near future.

FYI: The repeater can be worked from Stearns all the way west to Moorpark as it is now. The increase in power will only improve reception.

There are also plans to add an additional input/output pair on 2.4 GHz FM.

## For Sale

by Spencer, N6IWY (805) 583-1127 or email < [n6iwy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6iwy@sbcglobal.net) >

Yaesu VX-5R Triple-Band (50/144/440 MHz) handheld transceiver.  
Comes with charger and Operating Manual. \$75.

SWAN Triband Beam Antenna, TB-4HA. This is a 4-element beam antenna for 10, 15 and 20 Meters. It is brand new (never been installed) and is complete with all hardware and mounting plates.

Specs.

Boom Length	24' 1 1/2"
Longest Element	28' 10"
Turning Radius	18' 6"
Max. wind rating	100 MPH
Wind Surface area	6 sq. ft.
Power rating	2000 Watts P.E.P.

Price: \$125

A pair of Model 150, INFINITY Studio Monitor, speaker cabinets. These are in excellent condition, for sale or trade.

Size: 19 1/2" W x 13" D x 39" H.  
Speaker complement: 15" woofer, two (2) 5 1/4" midrange  
and 3 1/2" tweeter.  
Power handling: 150 Watts.

Variable crossover controls for both high frequency and midrange speakers.

## Minutes for the February Meeting

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. This meeting was held in our regular meeting location at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Derek Galbraith, son of Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Four Board Members were present. The total attendance was 15.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members giving a brief word on their recent activities, trips, and radio operations. Dale suggested that members look at the February newsletter for information about Club events and activities coming up in the next few months.

Program: Larry Pyle, AD6ST introduced our guest speaker for this meeting, Karl Nicholas. Karl is Director of Business Development for Juniper Systems, Inc. of Logan, Utah. Their product is handheld computers that are ruggedly built for outdoor field use, sealed against dust and water. Karl showed two models that operate with windows (CE or Windows Mobile). The smaller of the two models is 6.5 x 3.5 x 1.7 inches and weighs 17 ounces. They have up to 128M of ram, and use flash memory cards for storage. Many interfacing and communication options are available including COM ports, USB, Bluetooth wireless and GPS. They have color displays with touch-screen, and the larger unit has a keypad for data entry. Karl described a number of applications where these computers have been used. At the conclusion of the program, Dale presented our guest Karl, with a certificate of appreciation from the Club.

Break: (Refreshments were not available for this meeting.)

Upcoming Events Dale announced that a J-Pole antenna-building session has been set for Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Rick Galbraith at his home in Simi Valley. The event will start around 11am, and about ten to twelve people are expected.

Dale mentioned that Roger Armstrong, WA6EVT, attended the last Board Meeting and suggested we put together a Calendar of Events and Club activities. Also he said we should try to attract the interest of hams in our area. The Board felt we should plan some mailings to local Hams to publicize our Club and activities. The Club should try to cultivate more social activities.

Allen Pettebone, KA6WGO, will host a Taco Party on March 18<sup>th</sup>, also a Saturday. A show of hands indicated at least ten people are interested.

Dale suggests we plan a campout in May, at Lake Casitas. He also mentioned that M<sup>2</sup> Antennas in Fresno is having an open house on Saturday, April 1, 2006.

Announcements: Allen suggested that we try to get better awareness and recognition of ham radio and our Club among public services, Police, and City officials.

Dale mentioned that we should look for donations to the Club for fund raising.

Member Drawing: The winner in the monthly membership drawing was John Percival, WI6O. The prize for the drawing in March will be \$5.00.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## 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.

## 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

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	Dale Manquen KO6VO	(805) 529-2496	dmanquen@msn.com
Vice President	Spencer Smith N6IWY		N6IWY@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	John Percival WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	Ed Richards, K6UUZ		ZUU6K@juno.com
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 (Dale Manquen acting Editor)		

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## 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.  
Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz -Offset PL 127.3Hz

### **Next General Meeting**

**Thursday March 9, 2006**

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz