

## Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

*May 2005*

Meeting Program

Mr. Frank Valdez, KI6OQ will tell us about how the Gas Company stores gas in underground formations (depleted oil fields). He will cover some of the uses of wireless communications (Spread Spectrum) 902-928 MHZ in gas measurement and plant automation.

## ***Trouble Brewing!!!!***

**We don't have any candidates running for Vice President and Treasurer to replace our retiring officers!!!** That means we need some volunteers before our June elections. If we don't get help, the continuing officers could "melt down" due to the overload of work

## ***The NAB Convention***

Your faithful President got to spend 5 days at the NAB Convention in Las Vegas April 17-21. NAB is a large show with about 120,000 registered attendees, one of the largest conventions in Las Vegas. You can see more High Def TV monitors there than probably anywhere else in the world (and they weren't giving out free samples!! Darn!)

Hot topics this year included equipment to make High Def affordable for the average station and production house, and In Band On Channel digital radio (see below)

The ARRL hosts an evening reception, and I took time to attend for the first time this year. There were hundreds of hams, free munchies and drinks (bar items extra), lots of free door prizes, and Gordon West as MC. I won a 2005 ARRL Handbook as a door prize, one of probably 30 door prizes that ranged up into the hundreds of dollars. You can bet this reception will be on my agenda next time I go to NAB! I also got a chance to recruit two future speakers while hobnobbing.

## ***JPL Open House May 14 & 15***

If you haven't been to a JPL open house in the last few years, you might want to stop by next weekend. More details at <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ps0/oh.cfm>

## Equipment Auction for May Meeting

At last month's meeting we previewed an MFJ 3KW Antenna Tuner as the big auction item for May. This is the high power tuner, just right for those of you running legal limit power.

In the near future we will be auctioning a HAM 4 rotor with Highgain controller; a KLM Tri Band beam antenna KT-34A 10M, 15M, 20M; and

Test equipment: Phillips 25MHz oscilloscope  
Heathkit monitor scope  
Simpson 260 Volt-Ohm meter  
Signal generator  
Heathkit general purpose oscilloscope  
Digital volt meter

There is much more this is only a partial list. Please call Rick Galbraith (805-433-4513) if you would like to stop by to view the more of the items.

These items are from Jay Baker's family, and we thank them from their continued support of our club.

## Last Month's Program

**Mr. Terry Graves, K7FE, of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club.**

Terry discussed this year's Field Day at the Ronald Reagan Library. VCARS has been kind enough to extend the Simi Settlers an invitation to join them for this year's ARRL Field Day. Terry gave us details on what we can and can't do (like pound stakes into the asphalt parking lot.) A band plan sign up was sent to you via e-mail last week. We will talk a bit about station, antenna installations, and camping issues for the Settlers this month.

## Donations to the Club

Last month we auctioned off the tower donated by Jay Baker's family. Patrick Nelson is the proud new owner of this tower.

John Percival, our loyal secretary, took home the **Hustler 5-BVT**. He already has it set up and working on some of the bands for which he didn't have an antenna before.

## The Crystal Ball Sez

### Upcoming guest speakers:

The NAB Convention in Las Vegas last month offered opportunities for recruiting speakers.

Lyle Henry, K7OO, volunteered to present a program on the new Digital Broadcast Radio methods. Don't confuse this with satellite transmission. This is In Band On Channel (IBOC) transmission right along with the conventional

AM and FM signals. Lyle had a demonstration of four simultaneous sub-programs running on a single FM carrier along with the normal main channel stereo program. Unfortunately, Lyle will be back East until after Summer.

I also spoke with Mike Dorrrough, KO6NM, about presenting a program on AM HF. He has a new technique for AM modulation, but it is currently under wraps until patent issues are completed. He did offer to talk about conventional AM.

A third program in the works 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?

## ***Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club*** **General Membership Meeting, February**

### ***Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club*** **General Membership Meeting, April 14, 2005**

Call to Order President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:38pm. Steve Abarta, K6TLM, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 12. Spencer Smith, N6IWY, announced that he had attended the funeral for our former club member Sue Berkhout, KD6ZLG.

Introductions: After Dale welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held with members giving a brief word on their recent activities.

Program: Vice President, Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, introduced our speaker Terry Graves, K7FE, who spoke to us about their Field Day plans at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Terry is a member of VCARS, which has invited the Simi Settlers to join them for their 5<sup>th</sup> year to operate Field Day the Reagan Library. Terry described the security measures at the library and said they lock the gates at night after 8pm. The primary purpose of the VCARS Field Day is to show Ham Radio to the general public visiting the Reagan Library, Terry said, taking priority over the "contest" activity. They keep it a low-key operation, using a wide range of bands and modes. Terry went on to describe where and how they setup equipment and antennas in the parking lot and adjacent grass areas. The setup activity starts around noon on Friday. They can use self-supported antennas, but not large guyed towers. For power they have used batteries and solar power, without generators. A highlight of the event is a catered barbecue dinner on Saturday evening, when the radio operation takes a break.

After the talk, our members asked questions about how we would set up to operate with the VCARS group. There was agreement among those present in favor of this Field Day plan, and that it should be fun to participate with VCARS at the Library.

There was also discussion of the idea for a permanent Amateur Radio station located at the Reagan Library. This would require a joint effort among local radio club groups to coordinate and maintain the operation of such a station. Terry said that VCARS is hoping to get the special Callsign "N6R" as a permanent call assigned for a station at the Reagan Library

Announcements: Dale mentioned that our Club Officers election is in June and we still need candidates for Vice President and Treasurer. Our President, Dale Manquen, Secretary John Percival, and Historian Patrick Nelson have agreed to be candidates for another year.

Break: A fifteen-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:50 pm.

Auction: An auction was held to sell the Hustler model 5BTV, a 5 band trap vertical antenna, that was donated to the Club by former member Tod Andrews, KJ6H. This item was sold to John, WI6O, for a bid of \$30.00. There was also a 2-meter DF antenna, donated by Larry Pyle, AD6ST that was sold to Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, for \$3.00. Jay Baker's wife has donated some additional items to the club, including an MFJ model 989C antenna tuner and the tower and antenna rotator that have been taken down. It is planned to auction the tuner at our meeting in May. Patrick Nelson bought the tower for a \$100 bid.

Member Drawing: Information not available.

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: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Information from Our Treasurer

*Larry Pyle AD6ST*

The club is still solvent, thanks in part to the several auction items over the last year. For those of you who never got around to paying your dues last year, the old year is just about up, and it is soon time to pay dues for 2005-2006.

## 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 7:00 p.m. on the Simi Valley Repeater (147.93 – PL 127.3). The local 7:00 net is followed by the county-wide RACES NET at 7:30 on the SMRA Repeater (146.880 – PL 127.3)

The May newsletter for Ventura County RACES is available at <http://home1.gte.net/res19999/index.htm>. Check out a story about the Baker to Vegas Run, efforts to design a new emergency vehicle, and the upcoming meeting on Winlink 2000 on Monday, May 9 at 7:30 at the West Valley Sheriff Station.

## 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

### Announcing! the dates for the 2005 Dayton Hamvention®

<http://www.hamvention.org/>

Celebrating our 54th show, **May 20,21, & 22, 2005**, Dayton Hamvention® is the world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show.

You are invited to attend:

- our **Forums** where you can meet and hear authorities on all facets of amateur radio - Note: All Forums time slots are BOOKED in advance. We still have a few additional space or times available. Plenty of space for guests to attend. Seating is provided on a first come first served basis so plan to arrive early.
- **500 inside exhibit spaces** where the exhibitors are showing their latest equipment and are available to answer questions about their products
- our **HUGE 2500+ space Flea Market** area! The largest of its kind!
- Help **DARA** celebrate our 75th year! See many old members as well as our newest members.

Come meet your friends, make new ones and remember: "If you can't find it at Dayton, you'll never find it!"

Experience amateur radio tradition  
**Dayton Hamvention®!**  
at the [Hara Arena](#)

**1001 Shiloh Springs Road  
Trotwood, Ohio**

**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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