

# **Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club**

## **Short Circuit**

*November 2007*

**Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT**

**PSK31**

**November 8, 2007 7:30pm**

Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT, an engineer with Northrup Grumman, is heavily into digital circuitry and now has satellite ham communications as a favorite avocation.

Mike has done the digital and satellite station at the past two (or more) Field Days at the Reagan Library, and has become very adept at PSK31 as well, which will be his topic of presentation for our November meeting.

Mike is also involved with the Northrup Grumman station at the El Segundo facility, as well as with LACo DCS (as Staff 66--Digital Communications Officer).

He is also a member of VCARS, CVARC, and is one heck of a nice guy. He enjoys rehabbing older radios, and has done some extensive work in that regard.

Mike has said he is looking forward to sharing PSK31 with us, and we look forward to hearing his presentation.

## **Holiday Raffle**

**Our list of prizes for the Holiday Raffle include:**

**MFJ-369B 1.8-170 MHz Antenna and Impedance Analyzer**

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/products.php?prodid=MFJ-259B>

Kill-A-Watt AC power meter/recorder <http://www.smarthome.com/9034.html>

A Wood Ranch \$50 Gift Certificate

A 2008 ARRL Handbook with CD ROM

Raffle Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Fill in your name, call sign and phone number on the back of the ticket that you return. You do not need to be present to win.

Get your tickets at this month's general meeting or, we will mail them to you. If you can sell some to friends, please ask us for more.

## **Last Month**

Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, gave a very engaging talk on his work building a cost effective method for measuring near field standing wave ratios to improve his antenna design for weak signal moon bounce reception. Jim stepped up to the plate when asked, and we greatly benefited from his talk about building a 16 element Yagi for 70cm and building a slotted line for his measurements.

## Simi Settlers win Mayor's Trophy

The Simi Settlers Simi Valley Days Parade float won the Mayor's Trophy! The float, titled "Big Boys and their BIG toys -- OOPS!" featured an RC plane crashed into the roof of the cab of the tow vehicle while the pilot (and driver), Dale Manquen KO6VO, asked the crowd "Have you seen my airplane? I lost it.", a dirt bike (motorcycle) crashed into a tree (John Percival WI6O needs some riding lessons!) and Spencer Smith N6IWY operating a ham station with the beam antenna askew because a large owl was roosting on the antenna.

A special thanks to Allen Pettebone KA6WGO for use of his trailer and gear, Luke Manquen for lending us the Dodge Ram tow vehicle, and those who helped build and man the float.

## The Pres Sez

Our club is lining up great speakers for 2008. I'm very excited. I hope more members will renew and more people interested in amateur radio will join our club. Would you like to do more as a club? A club I was involved with back East had a monthly Saturday morning breakfast, a weekly 2m club net on the club repeater in addition to the General meeting. Hams and their families traveled 40 miles for some of these monthly events. If you are interested in some of these ideas, please let me know at our General meeting or drop me an email.

Mike Tweedy and his wife have been very generous to our club in hosting our annual holiday party. It will be very fun, and we'll draw our raffle prizes at party. You don't have to be present to win, you just have to buy tickets. We need your support. You should have a fine time if you are present.

The recent fires have highlighted disaster preparedness and community support. As amateur radio operators, we have special skills which are very useful in disasters. While I was setting up for our Fall Picnic at Lemon Park, I talked with a gentlemen from a local church who was interested in Amateur radio for disaster preparedness as part of their work with Youth. Technology offers so much to people now, but Amateur radio offers special opportunities which shine during disasters. Most of us could learn more from our older Elmers which will make us better equipped for life's challenges. A disaster isn't the time to try a new or old mode or technology for the first time. Once we have it under our belt, that new mode or technology can be added to our 'Swiss Army knife' of abilities we have available.

Our club's flat was recongized at the Simi Valley Days parade. Dale Manquen puts a lot of effort into the float every year and it shows. A Special Thank you to Dale and everyone who helped or contributed.

73 de Peter Grace KB1CVH kb1cvh@arrl.net

## From Our Treasurer

*Our bank statement shows we have \$2513.37 in our account, as of 9/28/07.*

**Next month I'll try to give a more detailed financial statement. At this time we have 36 members, last year we had 54 members.**

Also when renewing membership, if any information has changed, please fill out a new form. Also please use block printing.

Thank You  
John AE6YA

## From the Secretary

*Our Secretary has returned from his travels with Minutes from our September and October General Meetings*

### *Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, September 13, 2007*

- Call to Order: President Peter Grace, KB1CVH, called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Simi Valley Senior Center and then led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 17 with 1 guest.
- Introductions: A round of introductions was held with members and visitors speaking briefly about their recent activities and special interests in ham radio. Edwin Grace, son of Peter Grace, is a new Ham with Callsign KI6LSH, having passed testing at the Hamcon Convention. Edwin is now our youngest licensed member, at 11 years old. Vice President Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, and Peter presented certificates of appreciation to the Club Officers who served in 2005-2006; Dale Manquen, Spencer Smith, Patrick Nelson and John Percival.
- Program: Vice President Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, introduced our guest speaker Glen Kinney, KD6HJR. Glen is a Division Communication Services Officer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In the presentation, Glen gave a brief history of the Auxiliary, founded in 1939 and explained that it is neither military nor law enforcement and is a volunteer rather than paid service. There were about 50,000 volunteers during WW2 and about 28,000 C.G. Aux. members today. With the primary role being to promote boating safety, there are many areas of interest for volunteers to go into. More information can be found on the internet at "cgaux.org".
- At the end of the program, Deanna presented Glen with a certificate of appreciation from our Club.
- Break: Following the program, a 20 minute refreshment break was taken at 8:32pm.

- Announcements:** Dale Manquen, KO6VO, spoke about our float for the Simi Valley Days parade. The parade theme is "It's Great to be a Kid", and our float will depict: "Big Boys and Their Toys". Dale also reported that the donation of Dave Timoshik's radio equipment has been received from Dave's Sister. She was very glad to see the gear go to our Club for use. A plan is being developed to store the gear at Strathearn Park, perhaps as a Club station setup there. The equipment can be loaned to hams who would like to try HF operation. Our club will participate in "History Day" at Strathearn Park on Sunday Sept 16th with a demo setup using Dave's equipment. Dale said he has spoken with Greg Riegert about storing our Grab-and-Go Kit at the Simi P.D. President Peter said we still need a volunteer to be a raffle prize organizer for our meetings.
- Member Drawing:** In the progressive membership prize drawing, the winning name was Roger Armstrong, WD6EVT, who was not present to win. The prize fund will therefore be increased to \$45 for our next meeting on October 11th.
- Prize Drawings:** The regular prize drawing was not held this month.
- Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.
- Submitted by:** Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

***Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club***  
**General Membership Meeting, October 11, 2007**

- Call to Order:** President Peter Grace, KB1CVH, called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Simi Valley Senior Center and then led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Five Board Members were present. The total attendance was 19 with one guest.
- Introductions:** A round of introductions was held with members and visitors speaking briefly about their recent activities and special interests in ham radio. The club welcomed visitor Brian Fawcett, KG6WHO.
- Program:** Vice President Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, announced that our scheduled guest speaker Dale Carnathan, KB6DHF, was unable to attend. He will be rescheduled in the future. The program planned for November will be about PSK-31. As an alternative "plan B" program, our member Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, gave an interesting talk on a project he has been working on. He is interested in using DSP for weak signal reception. To test weak signal reception, he has been building a 16 element yagi antenna for 440 MHz, to receive moon bounce signals. Jim described how he uses a precision slotted-line he has built to make near-field measurements on the antenna. These measurements allow him to optimize the design of the antenna. Jim's presentation was much appreciated.
- Break:** Following the program, a 20 minute refreshment break was taken at 8:48pm.
- Announcements:** Richard Johnson, N6HJD, thanked our Club for participating in the History Day at Strathearn Park on September 16th. In particular he thanked Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, for his presentation in the Visitor Center.

Spencer Smith, N6IWY, said that he has materials to get the antenna back up at the repeater around the end of October.  
We have a pot luck "Picnic in the Park" scheduled for 11am Saturday, October 13th at Rancho Simi Community Park (Lemon Park).

**Auction:** An auction was held with items donated to the club by Richard Johnson.

**Member Drawing:** The progressive membership prize drawing was not held this month. The prize fund will therefore remain at \$45 for our next meeting on November 8th.

**Prize Drawings:** The regular prize drawing was not held this month.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## ATV NEWS

If you would like to subscribe to the ATV Newsletter send me an e-mail and I will add you to my mailing list.

bryonfoster@hotmail.com

If you are currently receiving the newsletter and would like it stopped, please send me an e-mail as well.

My Mailing List is not shared or sold.

The "ATV Newsletter" is not part of the ATN network.

**See you on ATV,**

**N6IFU Bryon Foster**  
**Editor and Publisher of the "ATV Newsletter"**

## Events

### **Holiday Party**

Mike Tweedy KV6I and his XYL have graciously offered to host our holiday party again this year. Bring a main dish and at least one side dish. Date is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1800. Stay tuned for more info.

## For Sale

- **Yaesu YO-100** Monitor scope & Instruction Manual \$100.00 or best offer



John Beckers w6jon  
805-527-3989

Alinco DJ-S11 2m VHF FM handheld transceiver / Anita 805-987-6078

## CVARC Program

CVARC monthly club general meetings start at 7:30 P.M. the third Thursday of each month and are held at:

[East County Sheriff's Station \(ECSS\)](#)  
2101 East Olsen Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Visit the CVARC website <http://www.cvarc.org/> for details.

## Santa Clarita Club June Program

Our club meets at: Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

***Take I-5N exit at Valencia Blvd keep right and stay on Valencia Blvd until you hit Citrus Street city hall will be on your right.***

***Club Web site [www.w6jw.org](http://www.w6jw.org)***

## ACS ARES/RACES News

Information about Ventura County ACS ARES/RACES is available at <http://home1.gte.net/res19999/> .

Please participate in the ARES/RACES net Tuesday nights beginning at 7:10 on our local repeater 147.930 – pl 127.3, and then continuing at 7:30 on the county repeater at 146.880.

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.

## 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. If you have updates to this information, please inform Peter KB1CVH, kb1cvh@arrl.net

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 (try to contact WK7ED Ed Meyer in New Mexico)

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

### SkyWarn - Weatherspotters

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	Peter Grace KB1CVH	(805) 223-0729 cell	KB1CVH@ARRL.NET
Vice President	Deanna Smitha W6DWS		W6DWS@ARRL.NET
Secretary	John Percival WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	John Mendez AE6YA		
	mendez3545@sbcglobal.net		
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI		
	Committee Chairpersons		
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Repeater	Spencer Smith N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	N6IWY@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Float Entry	Dale Manquen KO6VO		
	dmanquen@email.msn.com		
Membership	open		
PIO	open		
Newsletter	we need you !		

## Monthly Meetings

Our normal meetings begin at 19:30 (7:30 p.m) every second Thursday of the month except December at the Simi Senior Center at 3900 Avenida Simi one block north of Alamo and a half block west of Tapo Canyon (next to the Simi Library). Park and enter from the West parking lot, not the North lot.

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

We meet at the Hometown Buffet at 1815 (6:15pm) before the meeting for dinner.

### Next General Meeting

Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT,

- PSK31

Thursday November 8 2007

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz

3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley