

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

OCTOBER 2006

**Meeting Program
October 12, 2006**

October Topic – A 3D View of Coronal Mass Ejections AND Equipment for Sale

Our understanding of how the Sun affects radio communications continues to grow as we increase the number of observatories monitoring the Sun. October 16th is the scheduled launch date for a pair of new space probes that will view the sun from separated positions in space to yield a 3D view of the Sun. Dale Manquen, KO6VO, will describe the mission and review the other spacecraft that are monitoring the Sun.

We will also have available for sale the remaining items from Silent Key Lewis Curry's, WD6CAM, workshop.

November – Open House and Reunion

Our November meeting will feature an Open House for members who haven't attended a meeting at our new room at the Senior Center. We also will be inviting all inactive members who haven't been to a meeting for a while to join us for a reunion of the Old Timers.

Special refreshments will be served.

Last Month – ECHOLINK

Steve Champion, AE6NX / G8LOF discussed the aspects of "ECHOLINK" as related to amateur radio. Thanks, Steve, for a very informative and entertaining presentation.

NEW MEETING PLACE!!!!!!

Don't forget that we have moved ! Our new meeting place is at the Simi Senior Center at 3900 Avenida Simi, between the Simi Library and Lemon Park. Go north on Tapo Canyon one block past Alamo, turn left on Avenida Simi, pass the Library then turn into the west parking lot entrance at the Senior Center. Park and enter through the WEST parking lot (not the North lot.)

We have a beautiful new room with built-in video monitor, powered projection screen and adjoining kitchen facilities. And it is air conditioned (hurrah!!)

See you at 7:30 on October 12th. Or come a few minutes early and socialize a bit before we start.

New Meeting Procedures

The Senior Center's paid attendant must hang around to close up our meeting room after we finish. If we run overtime, the Senior Center must pay extra. To help speed up our meeting, we will hold the "introduction & what's new with me" time to a maximum of 2 minutes per attendee. Anyone taking too much time will be given the old radio "cutoff" signal of the finger slicing across the throat. Please don't feel offended if you get that signal – we just need to keep the meeting moving along.

If you have announcements, please make arrangements with the President to place the item on the agenda after the guest speaker.

The Simi Valley Days Parade was FUN!!

The Simi Settlers float depicted a Field Day station out in the boonies. We also had the "Grab and Go" kit set up in the bed of the tow vehicle. We didn't win a trophy this year, but we did meet a lot of hams and people interested in ham radio.

Special thanks to our "Work Crew":

Allen Pettebone, KA6WGO, for furnishing the trailer, antenna, various bits and pieces that made up the display, and some fine cutting with his welding torch, Spencer Smith, N6IWY, for the tow vehicle and the beautiful tumble weeds, and the grunt workers John Mendez, Jim Schmidt, John Percival and Dale Manquen.

Our goal was to bolster community awareness for our club, and we certainly succeeded!

From Our Treasurer

Gee, we don't have a Treasurer!! We need a volunteer to assume this position until the next election.

The Pres Sez

Activities like the parade float are certainly a lot of fun. We had many problems to solve, but as a group we tackled each one and came up with a solution. The result of this team effort was a very presentable float to represent our Club.

Working together toward a common goal is important in all our Club activities. We are fortunate to have two members who have stepped up to fill vacant position, and I encourage you to assist these members with their new jobs.

John Mendez is our new Membership Chairman. Our goal is to bring some of the inactive members back to our meetings and activities. If you are in contact with one of the inactive members, or a Simi ham that has never been a part of our Club, please work with John to bring that person to at least one meeting – maybe the Open House and Reunion next month.

Al Febraro has stepped in as Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is our spokesman to the community, publicizing our events to attract new members and bolster community support for our activities.

Thanks to John and Al for answering the call for help. We still have an opening for Treasurer....

CVARC October Program

Now that CVARC has changed its meeting to the third Thursday of the month at the West Valley Sheriff's Station on Madera/Olsen road, our members can attend their meetings without any conflict. Their September Program is Steve Jensen talking about EMI.

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

October Raffle Prizes

We didn't get around to the raffle next month, which means the prizes are still:

12 volt cooling fan (4")

Terminal blocks with 15 amp fuses

2.1-6 GHz pc board beam antenna

ICOM Hat

Simple Green Cleaner

AND the perpetual membership drawing prize of \$10!

ATV NEWS by Bryon Foster

The Oat Mt. Special ATV meeting on Sept. 16th was a huge success. Everyone currently on the Oat ATN repeater attended except one. And we had visitors and newcomers from as far south as Mission Viejo and out to Nuevo and Crestline.

The demos of antennas and downconverters was very insightful as well as eye opening when compared to the expected norm.

K6UUZ showed his corner reflector and downconverter could produce a great picture setting on the ground and looking through a brick wall and a tree.

W6KGE showed his 900 MHz Yagi antenna that measures only about 18" long could deliver a P5 picture. And everyone was impressed with his downconverter.

W6DQE brought his 2.4 GHz FM equipment. In fact it was decided at the meeting that the 2.4 receiver on Oat would be updated and a new antenna would be installed. Rick is also receiving ATV from Oat now.

K6RGW brought his downconverters and he demoed his 919.25 MHz notch filter.

KF6GJH joined the ATN club on the spot and then went out and bought a state-of-the-art transceiver from PC Electronics and a 434 antenna. In fact he is already on the air with his ATV station and putting out P5 pictures.

WA6SVT (Mike Collis) owner of the ATN repeaters and KE6BXT (Don Hill) Pres. of ATN spoke about what is in the future for Oat Mt. and the network, as well as the benefits of joining ATN.

Condition of the repeater:

Oat Mt. now has its new amp installed for the 900 MHz output and is delivering 100 watts as apposed to the old amp's output of 14 watts.

434 MHz ATV Transmitter:

MFJ has just released a new item model # mfj-8709 an ATV transmitter. You can see a small picture in the Oct. issue of QST or go to MFJ's web site

www.mfjenterprises.com and check it out. It sells for \$199.95. W6KGE and K6UUZ have already purchased one each. I have seen W6KGE's transmitter on the air simplex and it looks fantastic.

Other new comers to ATV:

WA6FGK (Chuck) has dusted off some old ATV equipment and is about to do some testing before putting his station on the air.

K6LDK (Mike of Valencia) expressed interest in ATV after seeing a demo by K6HXX at a WARFA get together out by Magic Mt..

KA6WGO even pulled his old ATV antennas out and brought them to the meeting for testing.

It's time to get into ATV.

**See you on ATV,
N6IFU**

ARES/RACES News

The latest edition of the Ventura County ARES/RACES Newsletter 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, and then continuing at 7:30 on the county repeater at 146.880.

Visit http://www.emcomm.org/gear_list.htm for a comprehensive list of supplies for your emergency kit.

For Sale

By John Beckers [w6jon@adelphia.net]

I have a All mode 2meter 220 and 440 band radio for sale Yaesu FT736r

Great for Satellite, ATV, Repeaters CW Digi modes SSB DXing too. Asking \$400.00

Reason for selling - just got an all mode HF 6 meters VHF UHF radio

Minutes for the September 14th Meeting

Call to Order: Vice President Spencer Smith, N6IWY, called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. Spencer welcomed members and guests to our meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. Spencer said that President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, would be delayed in his arrival at the meeting. Four Board Members were present. The total attendance was 17.

Introductions: After Spencer welcomed members to the meeting, a round of introductions was held. The Club welcomed new member Bill Unger, W6VDK, who joined at this meeting.

Program: Vice President Spencer introduced our speaker for this meeting, Steve Champion, AE6NX, who is President of the Conejo Valley ARC, (CVARC). Steve gave a presentation on EchoLink. EchoLink is a system for sending voice over internet (VoIP) to allow licensed Amateurs to communicate between repeaters or radios in widely separated locations. Steve used overhead projected slides to illustrate how the system works. He gave two good references for information: a QST article in February 2003 and the "EchoLink.org" website. EchoLink software is available for download at the website, and the minimum

computer requirements are a 200MHz computer with Windows 98 or later. To use the system a verification of license is required.

At the conclusion of the program, Spencer presented Steve with a certificate of appreciation from the Club. Steve thanked our Club and mentioned that our members are welcome to attend the CVARC meetings, which are now on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Announcements: Allen Pettebone said that he attended a memorial interment ceremony for our former member and good friend now a silent key, Dave Timoshik, WA6AYI. Allen said Dave was very well known in the Surfing community and there was a large gathering at the ceremony held at Carrillo St. Beach.

Dale announced that we have had two Club officer resignations. Ed Richards, K6UUZ resigned as Treasurer, and Randy Strader, KE6JQT, resigned as our PIO and membership chairman. We need to find replacements as soon as possible.

The Simi Valley Days parade will be this Saturday, September 16th. We will participate with a float depicting the amateur radio "Field Day". A work party is set for 10:00am, Friday at Allen's home to complete the float. A tow vehicle needs to be arranged.

Orv Beach, W6BI, gave an update report on the repeater. He said the equipment has checked out OK, but the antenna pole needs to be replaced. It was found that the 220 repeater was interfering with the 2M signal. With the 220 machine turned off, the 2M repeater is working better, but coverage sensitivity is lower now with temporary antennas.

Dale reported the proceeds from the equipment sales from the estate of Lewis Curry, WD6CAM, and said there are still items available.

Break: A twenty-minute refreshment break was taken at 9:23pm.

Member Drawing: The winner in the monthly progressive membership drawing was Mike Tweedy, KV6I, who was not present to win the \$5 prize. For the drawing in October, the amount will therefore increase to \$10.

Prize Drawings: The monthly prize drawing was not held at this meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 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

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	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	Open		
Historian	Patrick Nelson KF6RMI		
		Committee Chairpersons	
Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		wa6rjn@arrl.net
Membership	John Mendez		
PIO	Al Febraro		
Newsletter	Vacant (Dale Manquen acting Editor)		

Monthly Meetings

Our normal meetings begin at 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

Next General Meeting

Thursday October 12, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

Offset PL 127.3Hz