

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

September 2005

**Meeting Program
September 8, 2005**

Digital and High Definition Television

Our September program is about digital television transmission standards. Dick Burden, a close friend of our late Jay Baker, will be our speaker. 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, rendering millions of our trusty analog TV sets useless for off-the-air reception?

Dick is a recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Broadcast Engineers for his long-term commitment (55 years) to the radio broadcast industry. Although not a licensed Ham, Dick does have a Class 1 FCC license, and he has built gear for use by hams. In addition, he has put many radio systems on the air, including the radio information system at LAX terminals.

Simi Valley Days Parade

The Settlers will return to the Simi Valley Days Parade September 16th with a float. The concept is Allen's (KA6WGO) trailer with a silhouette of the sinking Titanic. Our message is "Radio has been saving lives since 1912". We need this public exposure to recruit new members and raise community awareness.

We need volunteers to help with the building of the float. We have scheduled a 'work day' in Rick Galbraith's yard at 4790 Alamo Street for float construction on Saturday, September 10, beginning at 10 a.m. Please sign up to help.

We Need a New Treasurer

Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, our elected secretary, has tendered her resignation due in part to her evening/night work schedule. We understand the strains of trying to keep obligations to family and employer, especially when commuting to Inglewood. Thanks for the good try, Deanna.

That means we need a new Treasurer ASAP. The Treasurer's responsibilities include:

Collect dues

Keep the membership roster up to date

Sell raffle tickets and administer the perpetual membership raffle

Maintain the financial records of the club.

We MUST fill this position. Please step forward and lend a hand!

The Pres Sez

Donuts and Simi Settlers always go together on Field Day thanks to our friend Sun at the Spudnuts donut shop on Sycamore. This year we are showing our appreciation with an article about Sun and his donut donations in the Simi Acorn. We will frame a copy of the article, along with a picture of the Settlers.

Our Stockroom now has RG-59/U

We recently received a donation of a partial spool of Belden 8281 light blue double-shielded RG-59U cable. If you need any for a video project, call Dale Manquen.

Recognition for our outgoing Treasurer

Outgoing Treasurer Larry Pyle, AD6ST, received a plaque in recognition of his service to the club as Treasurer for two years. Larry kept a very clear and accurate set of books. Thanks, Larry, for all your help.

George McCarthy, W6SUN SK

W6SUN is listed in the latest QST as a silent key. George was a fellow CVARC and Simi Settler member in the 70's when he lived in this area and loved quad antenna's. He wrote a number of ham related articles and books. George will be missed.

One interesting true story about George was when he moved from Thousand Oaks, CA to Simi Valley, CA he purchased a home with CC&R's, but they were not well enforced. After he installed his tower and HF Quad, the Homeowners Assn. decided to enforce the "no outside antenna" rules to have him remove his ham antenna's. George drove thru the neighborhood and photographed all other antenna's CB, satellite, scanner, TV, FM, etc and recorded the addresses. There were quite a few, and frankly, at that time, not everyone was on cable TV. He asked the Assn. to set a date for everyone to remove their antenna's (which were all noncompliant with the CC&R's) at the

same time. The residents howled and after some discussion, he was allowed to keep his tower and Quad.

73,
Terry Graves, K7FE

Raffle and Auction for September

Since we didn't have any raffle tickets at the August meeting, the RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES roll over to September:

ARRL Repeater Directory 2005/2006

YAESU HAT from the Dayton Hamvention

Motorola HT leather case

Waterproof Cable splice

Assorted Cable clamps

AUCTION:

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

This month's auction will be:

KLM Tri Band beam antenna KT-34A 10M, 15M, 20M

See <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1415> for numerous reviews of this antenna. MSRP \$1100. Get a good bargain at the auction.

Club Project for this year

We would like to use the VHF/UHF equipment donated by Harry Hall (see story near top) to build one or two Grab and Go portable emergency stations that would be available for ARES/RACES activities. The club will contribute enough money to fill in any supplies that need to be purchased.

We are in the planning stages now, and work will begin after we complete our Simi Valley Days Parade project. We will probably gather for at least one Saturday Workfest to build the station(s). Any and all volunteers welcome.

RACES Renewals

For those of you that need to renew your **ARES/RACES** White Badge in the near future, Jackie is back on the job. Please call **805-654-5084** to renew your White Badge.

All you should have to do is give her a call, tell her that you want to renew your **RACES Disaster Service Workers White Badge**, and it should be done. You will receive your new badge in the mail, along with a return envelope to send back your old badge.

Last Month's Program

VP Spencer Smith, N6IWY, hosted a Show and Tell for members' projects. We also had a swap meet that helped clean out Spencer's garage.

Equipment Auctioned at August Meeting

Patrick Nelson, KF6RMI, took home the Radio Shack Rotor.

The Crystal Ball

Upcoming guest speakers:

Lyle Henry, K7OO, volunteered to present a program in October on the new Digital Broadcast Radio methods. Don't confuse this with satellite transmission. This is stereo In Band On Channel (IBOC) transmission right along with the conventional AM and FM signals. Lyle has recently been involved with the installation of many FM station upgrades to support MSN Direct, an FM digital subcarrier that sends digital data for sports, stocks, etc. to wristwatches. Dick Tracy move over!!

December is the annual Holiday Party at Mike Tweedy's house.

In January we will start the year with a visit to the Simi Valley Police Department to learn about their new radio system. We will meet at the EOC.

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting August 11, 2005

Call to Order

President Dale Manquen, KO6VO, called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Dale then led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. This month's meeting was held in our usual meeting place in the Youth Room. Four Board Members were present. The total attendance was 13. Dale presented a plaque to Larry Pyle, AD6ST, in appreciation for Larry's two years service to the Club as Treasurer.

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:

Our program was a "Show and Tell" night. Four of our members each spoke about projects they have worked on. First Ed Richards, K6UUZ,

showed items he built for working with old radio equipment. A Voltage reducer that will lower the AC line voltage by about five or ten percent for equipment not designed to work at higher than 110VAC or 115VAC. He also showed how a simple switching box could put a 60-Watt or larger light bulb in series with a radio or other equipment that has not been powered for many years. The lamp will protect the equipment if there is a short in the equipment. Dale then told about a project he is working on to restore a 1978 Bultaco 350 motorbike that he bought from Harry Hall, KJ6AG. He tore down the engine and found trouble with the pistons and rings. When he gets the bike running again, he plans to equip it with a 2-meter radio. Next, Spencer Smith, N6IWY, showed crystal set radios that he has built. A classic crystal set included a galena crystal and a homemade "cat's whisker". He also showed a breadboard style antenna tuner that can be connected in different ways to suit different types of antennas. Spencer stressed the fun of building these projects. John Percival, WI6O, then showed and described several of the small CW transceiver kits he has built for QRP HF operation.

Break: A thirty-minute refreshment break was taken at 8:55 pm. During this time members examined the swap meet items available for sale or trade.

Announcements: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, said there is a statewide hospital emergency drill that will be held in November. A countywide drill will be held in September or October. Frank also reminded RACES members that they could call Jackie Hall to renew expired RACES identification card. Spencer Smith asked members for suggestions of meeting program topics or guest speakers.

Simi Valley Days: Dale reported our project to participate in Simi Valley Days parade is moving along. Allen Pettebone, KA6WGO, has offered the use of his flat bed trailer. Dale showed a sketch of his idea for a float with the Titanic and asked for volunteers to help build the float. Simi Valley Days will be September 14th to the 18th. (Secretary's note, it is planned to have a work-party to build the float on the Saturday following our September meeting.)

Auction: Patrick Nelson, KF6RMI, was the winning bidder for the Antenna Rotor donated by Harry Hall. The KLM Tri-Band antenna, donated by Jay Baker's family will be held for auction at a future meeting.

Member Drawing: The monthly membership drawing was not held. The fund for this prize will therefore remain at \$10 for the meeting in September.

Prize Drawings: As with the membership drawing, the monthly prize drawing could not be held due to lack of the drawing tickets. Our regular drawings will resume at the September meeting.

September Meeting: President Dale mentioned that our meeting on Sept 8th would feature guest speaker Dick Burden who will speak about Digital TV. Dale said the phaseout of analog TV broadcasting has now been delayed until 2009.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

Information from Our Treasurer

The club is still solvent, thanks in part to the several auction items over the last year. **It is now time to pay dues for 2005-2006.**

Amateur Television (ATV)

If any club members are interested in experimenting with ATV, the Club recently acquired a 23-element ATV beam antenna (for 900 MHz?) that is available for experimentation. This unit technically belongs to the City of Simi Valley, and is therefore not for sale, but it can certainly be loaned out.

For additional ATV information, contact Bryon Foster, N6IFU.

RACES NET ON TUESDAY NIGHTS

Everyone is invited to check in to the RACES NET every Tuesday night at 7:10 p.m. on the Simi Valley Repeater (147.93 – PL 127.3). The local 7:10 net is followed by the county-wide RACES NET at 7:30 on the SMRA Repeater (146.880 – PL 127.3)

The latest issue of the Ventura County RACES newsletter is available at <http://home1.gte.net/res19999/index.htm>.

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

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

If you would like to attend a Weather Spotter training session, please note:

October 18 6-8 p.m. Maibu Public Library

October 24 7-9 p.m. Santa Clarita City Hall

October 25 7-9 p.m. Oxnard National Weather Service Oxnard

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	Vacant		
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

Next General Meeting

Thursday September 8, 2005

7:30 p.m.

Talk-in Frequency: 147.93MHz

- Offset PL 127.3Hz

Seventh Day Adventist Church