

# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

## Short Circuit

***September 2008***

### Show and Tell

If you have something to share, please bring it to this meeting. If the opportunity presents, we shall also discuss emergency preparedness and of course welcome new potential amateur radio operators with cogent advice.

**September 11, 2008 7:00pm**

### Simi Settlers Breakfast

Simi Settlers and their family and friends are invited to the **Simi Settlers Breakfast** to be held at **8am September 28th**

We have enjoyed this restaurant in the past and will enjoy it again this month.. Please note this month's location:

Carriage Cafe  
2295 Tapo St  
Simi Valley CA 93063

We just get together, socialize and eat, without any formal club events or business. Family and friends are welcome. This will be our second time at this venue for breakfast.

Please RSVP at the Simi Settlers Meetup.com site

<http://hamradio.meetup.com/110/calendar/8649293/>

We hope to see all of you there ! **Talk-In: 147.930MHz** - Offset PL 127.3Hz

**REMINDER: 2008-2009 membership dues were due in July. The existing application form can be used for renewals, just by filling in the name/call sign and noting any changes. Or see our treasurer and give him a check or cash.**

**We need 51% of the voting (paid) members as ARRL members to maintain our association with the ARRL. ARRL members should make certain that their membership is correctly noted on the membership listing.**

**We receive many benefits as Amateur Radio Operators by being affiliated.**

See <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/benefits.html>

## Static and Sparks

Greetings Simi Settlers and other friends.

Have you become an ARRL VE? Please let me know. VE certification is free. More information is available here: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>

Technology changes and society changes. The advent of radio changed the world we live in. The advent of the internet and it's many services have further changed the world. There used to be a huge overhead to organizing and coordinating. With the advent of the internet and services like Yahoo groups and Meetup, those overhead costs have been largely eliminated.

As a club, do we still want to have meetings with a program topic? People presently are very busy and also do not want to travel far from their homes to make presentations. What's the club to do? We had a fine vice-president who put together a great series of programs for us last year. If we wish to continue to have general meetings with a presentation that is new and interesting, we need someone to organize that. We could, with an investment in some technology, show YouTube videos on amateur radio topics. However, that's something most of us could view at home.

I see the need for topics with a hands on component. Whichever way we go, we need someone to take charge of the clubs program and help us move the club forward, informing members and the public who is interested enough to visit our general meeting, and encouraging potential new members to join.

I would like to see a vibrant program for new hams including my young family which takes much of my time. Do you know someone who knows everyone out there or is willing to make those connections, is an amateur radio operator, and has a spirit of public service? Could you ask them to setup up to the club's vice-president job? Is it you ? Would you step up? The future of the club depends on it.

I foresee someone who can encourage speakers and organize the programs and help to publicize them. I see opportunities for someone to grow and learn. If you would like this opportunity, many of us can provide experience and advice.

We had a fine time on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Simi Valley Pioneer History Day at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum. The club fielded N6IWY and N6IFU with an Amateur Television Station which attracted a lot of attention from visitors. Many visitors were also interested with N6IWY's beautiful handmade crystal radio receivers. WI6O and AI6PG also setup and operated HF stations. WI6O operated from the WA6IYA Memorial Station.

The internet has certainly makes more things possible. As a club member or interested person, please join our new internet groups – a Yahoo group and Meetup group. Information is on the last page.

73 de Peter Grace AI6PG [pcg@acm.org](mailto:pcg@acm.org)  
President, Simi Valley Settlers ARC

# ARRL Club Newsletter August 28, 2008

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Editor

## **Amateur Radio And The Internet**

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the population but before the internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the internet, hams would use radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact some non-radio people when asked about ham radio will respond with "hasn't the internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary, if anything the internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the internet.

## **Radio Clubs**

Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-mail reflectors. Various users groups allow people to exchange ideas and information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual specialty clubs for people with a shared interest. Many clubs use the internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

## **The DX Game**

Some of you may remember two ringers, when your buddy would call your house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you would not dare answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpediton log information on line while the Dxpediton is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSOs and allows the Dxpediton work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted you will receive an e-mail alert on your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the two ringer DX alert.

## **Contesting and Awards**

ARRL's Logbook of The World would not be possible without internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSOs are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the world can be found on the ARRL website. < <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> >

Contest scores are now published on the internet allowing participants to quickly sort and analyze the data.

## **Public Service**

A variety of public service groups such as ARES use the internet to call up volunteers, maintain databases of people and equipment available for disasters and to inform the public of their services.

Being able to transmit digital information via radio and then inject it into the internet electronic mail system has allowed radio amateurs to move messages much faster than was possible using the voice and cw relay system.

## **Licensing and Education**

Today many people will prepare for their Amateur Radio license exam by using one of the many practice exam websites. These sites will randomly quiz the user from the VEC question pools and score the results. This undoubtedly eases some of the test jitters and exposes areas of strength and weakness.

ARRL offers an on-line license class for those applicants who may have scheduling conflicts with traditional classes or just enjoy doing things at their own pace.  
<<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html> >

In addition to licensing courses ARRL offers a series of Emergency Communications courses (EmComm Level I, II, III) and other subjects such as Antenna Modeling, Radio Frequency Interference and HF Digital Communications. < <http://www.arrl.org/cep/> >

## **On The Air**

The Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP), Echolink and remote base stations could not exist without the internet. These technologies have opened the world of Amateur radio to a whole new group of users as well as offered areas of experimentation to seasoned radio amateurs.

## **Adaptability**

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950s, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960s or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.

# From the Secretary

*Our Club Secretary kindly submitted these Minutes from our August General Meeting*

## *Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club* **General Membership Meeting, August 14, 2008**

Call to Order: President Peter Grace, AI6PG, called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Simi Valley Senior Center, and then led our recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. This is our first meeting with the new starting time of 7pm. The Senior Center has requested that we be out of our meeting room by 9:00pm or change our meeting night. Four Board Members were present. The total attendance was 14, with 1 guest, Dick Wolford, WD6AIP. A new member joining us at this meeting is Chetly Skinner, KI6OMO.

Announcements: Our Club Breakfast this month will be held on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am, at the Carriage Cafe on Tapo Street. Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be Pioneer History Day at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum from 10am to 4pm. Our Club will be setting up H.F. and ATV stations to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public. President Peter reminded everyone to renew their membership if they have not yet done so. Secretary John Percival, WI6O, mentioned that the names in the monthly membership prize drawing will be pared down to only those who have renewed, starting at the September meeting. Spencer Smith, N6IWY, pointed out some electronic items that were donated by Richard Johnson, N6HJD, for sale to benefit the Club. Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, announced two upcoming events: an ACS demonstration of the "Outpost" system at Simi P.D. on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 to 9:30pm, and, an Open House with the Disaster Service Workers C.E.R.T. team also at Simi P.D. on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Frank also reminded members to check the expiration date on their ACS white card.

Break: A 15-minute break was taken, with refreshments supplied by Frank Valdez.

Member Drawing: The progressive membership prize drawing was held this month. The winning name was Joyce Grace, KI6HUV, who was not present to win the \$20 prize. The prize fund will increase to \$25 for our September meeting.

Program: Club member Jim Hutchinson, KI6MZ, gave a "show-and-tell" presentation about his recent and ongoing construction projects. He first described how he developed an interest in radio and antennas as a youth. Jim showed us a 16-element beam antenna for 432 MHz and described the materials and construction methods that he used. He explained how the antenna was optimized for front-to-back ratio with the help of the NEC antenna modeling software and an interface program that he wrote for it. Jim showed a second antenna, a "magnetic loop" that is tunable over the range of 6 to 36 MHz. It is constructed with 1-1/2" copper pipe and uses a 10kV vacuum variable capacitor to tune the resonant frequency. He said the input impedance of this loop is only 0.005 ohms on 40M and has very narrow bandwidth. Jim explained the critical aspects of its construction. At the end of the program, Peter thanked Jim for the very interesting presentation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

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"**

## ACS ARES/RACES News

Information about Ventura County ACS ARES/RACES is available at <http://www.vcacs.org>

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.

# Events

**Tuesday 7:10pm , Every Tuesday ACS Net** (ARES/RACES) beginning at 7:10pm on our local repeater 147.930 – pl 127.3, and then continuing at 7:30pm on the county repeater at 146.880. Every Tuesday.

Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 7:30pm VCARS General Meeting  
The Cameron Center 288 Greenmeadow Dr. Newbury Park, CA 91320  
<http://www.vcars.org>

Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 7:30pm **ACS Meeting**  
Simi Valley Police Station EOC

**Thursday September 11<sup>h</sup> 2008 7:00pm Simi Settlers General Meeting**  
**Simi Valley Senior Center**

- note new start time – must be out by 2055 local

Friday September 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 7:30pm VCARC / K6MEP club meeting  
The American Red Cross of Ventura County Chapter House  
2355 Portola Road , Ventura CA.

**September 12-14, 2008 ARRL SW Division Convention, Meza AZ**  
<http://www.azhamcom.org/>

**Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00am** Ham Radio License exam session at  
DENNY'S RESTAURANT 117590 JEFFERSON BLVD TCULVER CITY, CA 90230  
RSVP Required: NORMAN M GOODKIN (818)222-7893 [K6YXH@ARRL.NET](mailto:K6YXH@ARRL.NET)

Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 7pm Santa Clarita Club General Meeting  
Santa Clarita City Hall <http://www.w6jw.org/>

Thursday September 18<sup>st</sup>, 2008 7:30pm CVARC General Meeting  
East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS) 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
<http://www.cvarc.org/>

**Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 7:30pm SVARC Board Meeting**  
AI6PG's residence

Saturday Septmber 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 7am W6TRW Swapmeet and Exam Session (10am)  
Redondo Beach, CA [http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/w6trw\\_arc\\_swapmeet.htm](http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/w6trw_arc_swapmeet.htm)

**Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 8:00am Simi Settlers Breakfast, Carriage Cafe**  
2295 Tapo St Simi Valley, CA 93063

**Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 8:30am** Ham Radio License exam session at  
East County Sheriff's Station (ECSS) 2101 East Olsen Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** October 18-19, 2008  
We are looking into operating at the Ventura County Council Camp Three Falls in Frazier Park during Merit Badge University. Contact Peter Grace [p cg@acm.org](mailto:p cg@acm.org) for more info.

**Earthquake Drill**, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 <http://www.shakeout.org>

**ARRL Field Day 2009**, June 27-28, 2009

# 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.

### **Times are local (Pacific Time) unless otherwise stated.**

147.930 – pl127.3 Tuesday ACS Net (ARES/RACES) beginning at 7:10pm and then 7:30pm on the county repeater at 146.880. Every Tuesday.

1.925 MHz AM Tuesday, Thursday nights at 8 pm

3.908 MHz LSB Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday nights at 8 pm

7.040+/- 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

### **NTS Net**

147.000 Mhz + 131.8 FM Daily 9 pm **(temporarily on 145.180 Mhz - 131.8)**

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 AI6PG	(805) 223-0729 cell	pcg@acm.org
Vice President	open		
Secretary	John Percival WI6O		<a href="mailto:percivaljohns@cs.com">percivaljohns@cs.com</a>
Treasurer	Norbert Rehaut, W9YPM		<a href="mailto:nrehaut@dslextreme.com">nrehaut@dslextreme.com</a>

### Committee Chairpersons

Webmaster	Doug Dubrall WA6RJN		<a href="mailto:wa6rjn@arrl.net">wa6rjn@arrl.net</a>
Repeater	Spencer Smith N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	<a href="mailto:N6IWY@SBCGLOBAL.NET">N6IWY@SBCGLOBAL.NET</a>
ex-President	Dale Manquen KO6VO		<a href="mailto:dmanquen@email.msn.com">dmanquen@email.msn.com</a>
Membership	open		
PIO	open		
Newsletter	open	It's not hard. I use Open Office which is free.	
Field Day	open	It was great. How about 2009?	
Youth Coordinator	open		
Logistics	open		

**Yahoo Group:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC/>

**Meetup Group:** <http://hamradio.meetup.com/110/>

## Monthly Meetings

Our normal meetings begin at **19:00 (7:00 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

**The September 2008 meeting will be at the Simi Valley Senior Center 3900 Avenida Simi. Note meeting start time is now 7pm**

### Next General Meeting Show and Tell

– Simi Valley Senior Center  
Thursday September 11, 2008

**7:00 p.m.**

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

3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

Simi Settlers ARC Yahoo Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimiSettlersARC/>

Simi Settlers ARC Meetup Group <http://hamradio.meetup.com/110/>

The Yahoo group is for discussion and non-calendar specific information discussion. The Meetup group is used to schedule and distribute information about meetings and events. Please join both to help our club be visible to those that might be interested in learning more about our club and amateur radio.