



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

November 2014

November 13, 2014

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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General Meeting  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Simi Valley  
Senior Center  
3900 Avenida Simi  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

### November Program

#### Antenna Analyzers

Guest Speaker for the November 13, 2014 are Avi K6AVI and Rick Slater AG6AY. The program is on Analyzers of various manufactures. This is one of the important test instruments in the amateur toolbox. During the building of the SST antenna, the antenna analyzer was an important tool in finding the right frequency match on all three different frequencies on the SST antenna. I encourage members who have antennas to bring it the meeting. Rick Slater AG6AY started his career as a shortwave listener as a kid. He got his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class FCC license through his high school electronics program where he got a job repairing police/fire/taxi mobile rigs. He obtained an EE degree from Old Dominion U and work at David Taylor Navy R&D for 10-12years. During the down turn of navy contracts, with emphasis on hardware he switched to software, that prompted a move to California. He obtained ham license in one session from Technician, General and Amateur Extra. Rick is active member of the Ventura County Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) Area 8 Moorpark and resides in Moorpark with his XYL Diana. Avi Carmi K6AVI holds a General Class License. He is an active member in the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club, Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club and Ventura County Auxiliary Communication Service in Area 3 Camarillo and Somis. Avi resides in Somis with his XYL and son.

Taking the reigns as President of the SSARC, is a huge step in taking over from Rick W6DQE. I want to thank the new officers Glen WA6GNB Treasurer, Diane KJ6JEJ P.I.O. and the continuing Board Members in accepting another year in the leadership for the SSARC.

Another club picnic on October 25, 2014 was a successful event attended by 30 members. I want to thank you all for coming and the food was great.

During the upcoming year, I want to ask the membership to seek new programs, activities and projects and let the Board members know.

Without input, nothing happens.

- 73 Frank KI6OQ

### Feed the Speaker

**Everyone is invited to show up at TGIFridays at 5:15 on 11/13/14 to meet the speaker before the General meeting.**

And thank you to Electronic Expeditors, Inc. for making space for our newsletters in their retail store.



[Electronic Expeditors, Inc.](#)

3700 Via Pescador

Camarillo, CA 93012-5049 Telephone: 805-987-7171

## HT Programming

If you have a BAOFENG UV-5/UV-B5/UV-82, ICOM IC-T81, YAESU VX-5 or KENWOOD TH-F6 Ray, KI6LKD will have a computer, cable and software at the next general meeting to help you program it with some of our local repeater frequencies.



## A Tale of Two Hams Part 2

Last month, I talked about a new type of very sensitive circuit-breakers called Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters or AFCI. These breakers will become MANDATORY for the circuits in all sleeping and kitchen areas in new constructions throughout much of the US by next year (2015). They are designed to open the circuit when they detect an "arc" from a motor or other device. By virtue of how they read the "arc" causes RF energy as low as a few watts to be seen as a similar threat to the home. The most affected Ham radio band is 17 meters with 20 meters and 15 meters tripping the breaker when transmitting with as little as 50 watts!

Eaton, who manufactured the AFCI breakers in our newly constructed home, were very accommodating when I got in touch with the two engineers in Pennsylvania by phone. The replacement breakers arrived overnight the next day and an electrician installed them a few hours later! I have had no problems since then even with high RF power applications on these bands. They are Eaton: Type BR Combination AFCI #BRCAF116 15 amp breakers. Eaton is waiting for a new UL certification on the new design before they market these improved breakers that ignore high amounts of RF, so don't look for them till after the first quarter of next year.

If you have AFCI breakers in your new construction and they are Eaton manufactured.....contact Bob Handick (412-893-3746) or Joe Fello (412-893-3745) for assistance in getting replacements.

Frosty Oden,  
NQ1S

## Nets of Interest

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <b>SSARC 2 Meter Net</b> 8:30 pm SMRA-ERN Repeater 146.805 - 0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 - 5.0MHz PL100.0	<b>Condor Connection</b> 7pm (Plays Newline) Thousand Oaks 223.940-1.6 MHz PL156.7 Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	<b>ACS Area 1</b> Simi Valley SMRA-ERN 7:05pm Repeater 146.805 - 0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 - 5.0MHz PL100.0  <b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz	<b>Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International</b> 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.262 (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter  <b>CW-QRP</b> 9am 7.032 MHz  <b>Quad Squad net</b> 1PM on 21.365 MHz.

Additional information on local nets can be found on the CVARC web site at:  
[http://www.cvarc.org/new-wp/?page\\_id=470](http://www.cvarc.org/new-wp/?page_id=470)

## ACS Corner

1. 3 November 2014 - Monday - District meeting at the Camarillo EOC
2. 8 November 2014 - Saturday - Oxnard Band Competition, Contact Stuart at KG6BOV@arrl.net
3. 2 December 2014 - Tuesday - ORT
4. 6 December 2014 - Saturday - National Weather Service Skywatch
5. 13 December 2014 - Saturday - Camarillo Christmas Parade
6. 14 December 2014 - Sunday - Santa to Sea Half-Marathon

- Steve King KE6WEZ ([ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com))

## Handheld Cautions

### Deanna Smitha-W6DWS SSARC Club Elmer

Recently one of our very active members Avi Carmi K6AVI came to me with a very interesting dilemma. When operating his handheld, a Baofeng UV-B5 model, he found that he was getting burned by his radio. He advised that he had been using it a lot at the time this occurred, and the radio itself had become quite warm to the touch. Yet he was getting a burn which was not a thermal type of injury.



Among the HTs that I own, I have the Baofeng models UV-5R and the UV-B6, neither of which I've experienced that particular situation. I have also owned and used other handhelds which have developed problems in handling them—getting too hot to handle! Concentrated use of my Icom IC-91AD creates a radio which literally becomes too hot to handle—break out the oven mitts! I've also had the experience (and so have my officers) with some Motorola brand commercial HTs of the radio heating up from use, creating a situation where the user's hand perspires, and then comes into contact with the battery charge points on the back of the radio. One would think that these contacts on the battery would be diode protected, not allowing possible discharge, but in fact some are not. We were able to solve my Moto HT problems with a piece of cellophane tape across the battery terminals when the radio was in use. However—this turned out NOT to be the case with Avi's radio, and with the kind assistance of Norm Goodkin K6YXH, we were able to run this to ground (so to speak) and wanted to pass this info on to others who may have this experience.

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My experience had pointed me towards the conclusion that there may be a DC problem involved. Motorola high powered battery packs can carry multiple amperage capable of a bit of a sting. Norm believed that the problem might likely be an RF type of burn, and was able to experiment to show that this was indeed in play in this instance. Norm's experiment involved using a resistive element (in this case a light bulb) in proximity of the battery charge terminal (on this radio—only one terminal was necessary to induce the complaint), and showed us that the radio itself was backfeeding RF through the battery positive terminal due to ---and get this, very high VSWR. The extremely resistive antenna element (rubber duck) was so bad that it was creating a very high VSWR, the reflective power being concentrated on the chassis of the radio—being the counterpoise to the antenna. The minimal filter circuitry of the radio allowed this reflective power to be deflected through the battery pack to the positive charging terminal, inducing an RF charge and subsequent possibility to create RF burns on the operator's hand when the radio was held in such a manner to contact that positive charging terminal. WOW! Not a good thing, but something which can be counteracted and the radio used safely with a few easy modifications.

Suggested helps for this condition include—use of a more efficient, better radiating portable antenna. Most original equipment rubber ducks SUCK! They work better as dummy loads (resistive loads) and nothing more. Comet, Diamond, Larsen and other manufacturers have very good replacement/upgrade antennas for most HTs and connectors. (Please remember my advice on adapting your SMA-type HT to BNC and using those terminated antennas to assist your radio and the longevity of your connectors.) Also it is of large assistance to introduce a “tiger-tail” type counterpoise at the ground point on the antenna connector to create a real counterpoise for your antenna, making it both more efficient and safer (the radio chassis will not have to absorb the counterpoise duties). You can either buy or even easily make a tiger-tail for your radio. Please see me for details.

My thanks to both Avi K6AVI and Norm K6YXH for bringing this situation to light and for the excellent assistance in exploring the causes and solutions to this situation which YOU may encounter in your use and enjoyment of equipment in our hobby of amateur radio.

Best 73----Deanna W6DWS

## Events

### **Thursday, November 6, 2014, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night**

Round Table Pizza, 2345 Erringer Road, Ste. 100, Simi Valley

### **Thursday, November 13, 2014, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting**

Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

### **Saturday, November 29, 2014, 7:00am W6TRW Swap meet (7am) and Exam Session (10am) Redondo Beach, CA**

<http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/swapmeet.htm>

### **Sunday, December 14, 2014, 8:30am Ham Radio License Exam Session**

Ventura County Sheriff's E County Station  
2101 E Olsen Rd (Between 23 Hwy & Reagan Library);  
Community Room, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Walk-ins-Allowed.

**Contact:** Jeffrey M Reinhardt (818) 706-3853

See: <http://www.cvarc.org/> for more information

# The SSARC Holiday Party is Coming!



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Hello Settlers,

It is time for our annual Holiday Party! You are invited to join us on Saturday, December 13 at 6pm (0200 Z), at the home of our hosts Jim (WA6NXK) & Lea Veronica. The address is 442 Peter Place, Simi Valley.

For the Pot-Luck dinner, please bring a main course, a side dish or dessert to share. The Club will provide soft drinks.

We will have a great selection of prizes for the main raffle\*.

## Raffle Tickets Are:

- 1-4 tickets for a \$2 donation each
- 6 tickets for a \$10 donation
- 9 tickets for a \$15 donation
- 12 tickets for a \$20 donation

In addition to the main raffle, we have additional door prizes for members and spouses.

Licensed club members in attendance will be given a free ticket to be put in a drawing for Baofeng Hand-held Radio.

Spouses will be given a free ticket to be put in a drawing for Gift Cards and Gift Baskets.

You can purchase tickets at the November Pizza Night, the general meeting, the December Pizza Night or at the party.

And remember to make your check out to Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club (SSARC).

**\*The raffle is open to all paid club members. You need not be present to win the Grand Prize.**

## Simi Settlers' Leadership

<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ		<a href="mailto:ffvaldez@dslextreme.com">ffvaldez@dslextreme.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Secretary</b>	John Percival	WI6O		<a href="mailto:percivaljohns@cs.com">percivaljohns@cs.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glen Daly	WA6GNB		<a href="mailto:gw.daly@yahoo.com">gw.daly@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>				
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ex-President</b>	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	<a href="mailto:Rick@keymaterial.com">Rick@keymaterial.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Joe Partlow	W6JWP	(805) 428-7907 cell	<a href="mailto:joe.w6jwp@gmail.com">joe.w6jwp@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:KJ6LXJ@gmail.com">KJ6LXJ@gmail.com</a>
<b>PIO</b>	Diane Wainwood	KJ6JEJ		<a href="mailto:kj6jej@yahoo.com">kj6jej@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Field Day</b>	<b><i>What will <u>you</u> do?</i></b>			
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		<a href="mailto:mtweedy@roadrunner.com">mtweedy@roadrunner.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Ray Campbell	KI6LKD	(805) 404-3246	<a href="mailto:ki6lkd@yahoo.com">ki6lkd@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Steve King	KE6WEZ		<a href="mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com">ke6wez@gmail.com</a>
<b>Food Services</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:wildpoky45@earthlink.net">wildpoky45@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Elmers and Members at Large</b>				
<b>Elmer</b>	Deanna Smitha	W6DWS		<a href="mailto:W6DWS@arrl.net">W6DWS@arrl.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:wildpoky45@earthlink.net">wildpoky45@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		<a href="mailto:jhutch17@adelphia.net">jhutch17@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		<a href="mailto:speedy@earthlink.net">speedy@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Spencer Smith	N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	<a href="mailto:n6iwy@sbcglobal.net">n6iwy@sbcglobal.net</a>

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club Web Page: <http://www.simisetters.org/index.htm>

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

Mail: P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, CA 93063-2125

### Letter From The Editor

Many thanks to Frank Valdez for stepping up and taking over the leadership of the club. Of course this leaves the position of Vice-President vacant, or should I say available for someone to fill. The duties of the Vice-President are to locate a speaker or subject for the monthly program and to fill in for the President when he's unavailable.

There are a number of resources that can be drawn on for coming up with a program, such as the ARRL, the Los Angeles Area Council of Amateur Radio Clubs ([laacarc](http://www.laacarc.org)) and let's not forget our fellow club members. In any case, if anyone has a possible speaker or subject feel free to bring it to Frank's attention or the attention of any of the board members.

73's to all,

Joe W6JWP

# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, Ca 93062 --- (www.simissettlers.org)

## Membership Application

*(Membership Year is counted from July 1st of the current year to June 30th of the following year. New Member fees will be prorated accordingly.)*



### Type of Application:

New Member   
Renewal

### Type of Membership:

Individual (\$12/yr)   
Family (\$18/yr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family Members:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day & Month of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Omit year)

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL: Yes  No

Badges requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Shirts requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s) Size(s) (Sm, Med, L, XL, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Jackets Requested: Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_ X \$88.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) Call(s) Size(s) (Sm, Med, L, XL, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Application type: New  Renewal  Membership type: Individual  Family

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Database completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Badges and Shirts ordered: \_\_\_\_\_