



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

May 2016

May 12, 2016

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

The months are flying by, just imagine, only 8 months until Christmas.

I want to thank Marty Woll for our March presentation on VHF and UHF Grid Square Contesting. The array of radios, antennas, and mobile setups was quite impressive. This is another example of the variety of Ham Radio activities that are available.

Also I want to thank Stewart Stone for his presentation on Red Cross communications in the Ventura Chapter. He presented information on the various radio equipment used to cover the VHF, UHF and HF bands. The HF antennas were wire dipoles covering 10m to 80m in X pattern on the roof of the building. All VHF and UHF were tri and dual band antennas. Emergency power is both a portable system and a 10KW generator for the facility. All vehicles had mobile radios and dual band antennas.

The upcoming Simi Valley Emergency Expo On May 14th is a good event for all SSARC members to participate. Bring your HT and come by the Club setup. This another way to check your equipment and see the Go Boxes used by ACS.

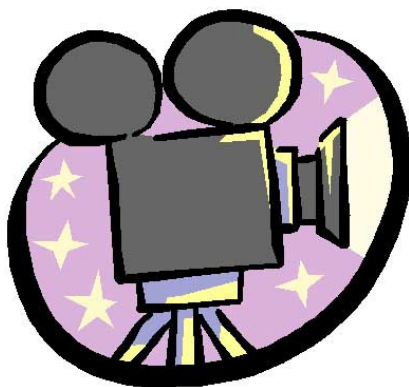
SSARC Club picnic takes place on May 21, 2016 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Rancho Madera Community Park in Wood Ranch. It's also a swap fest. Bring all your radio gear and also a display table. See you all there.

- Frank KI6OQ

## May Program

### Movie Night

This month we will be screening the latest in Ham Radio related videos.



If there is a particular video you've seen or you have one you'd like to share with the club bring it along on a flash drive or send the link to one of the board members.

- Joe W6JWP

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

## 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 Newslines) 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>ATN-CA Net</b> 7:30pm <a href="http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm">http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm</a>  <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 7.245 **(+ 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>

**\*Thanks to our fine Net Control Operators: Steve, KE6WEZ; Rick, W6DQE; Ray, KI6LKD; Jay, AG6JF and Dante, KK6JCQ.**

**\*\*We're trying a new frequency for at least a couple of weeks.**

### ACS/ARES Corner

1. Saturday 7 May 216 - Crusin' The Conejo. Contact CVARC or VCARS.
2. Saturday 14 May 2016 - Simi Valley Emergency Preparedness Expo. Contact Steve King at ke6wez@gmail.com.
3. Tuesday 17 May 2016 - Amgen Tour of California. Be prepared in case we are called on to assist.
4. Sunday, 29 May 2016: Mountains to the Beach Marathon and Half. Contact Rob at w6rh@hotmail.com., Rick at kq6no@arrl.net or Wayne at whfrancis@sbcglobal.net, to help.
5. Tuesday 7 June 2016 - ORT.



We are always looking for ACS members that would like to become Net Controllers. You will receive hands on training at the Simi Valley PD (where we normally conduct the Weekly Net). It is both fun and at times challenging. You will gain valuable experience in running a controlled Net as well as becoming more than just familiar with the equipment in the Radio Room at the PD. If you would like to volunteer for this, let me know - ke6wez@gmail.com

If anyone is interested in how to setup your own packet station, RMS Winlink station, or a Mesh Node, let me know and we can get you started in the proper direction. ke6wez@gmail.com

**NOTE:** Please be advised that we will now hold the Tue. countywide net at 19:30 on the Sulphur Mountain WD6EBY repeater 145.200, minus 600 KHz offset, CTCSS of 127.3. Until further notice, this will be our standard frequency for countywide communications.

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

## Events

### Thursday, May 5, 2016, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

### Thursday, May 12, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

### Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

At the home of Diane Rehaut, 2805 El Paso Av, Simi Valley, CA 93063

### Saturday, May 28, 2016, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

(7am) and Exam Session (10am) Redondo Beach, CA

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

### Sunday, June 12, 2016, 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



### SSARC Spring Picnic and Swap Meet

Saturday May 21st 9am to 1pm Rancho Madera Community Park, 556 Lake Park Drive Simi Valley, CA.93065.

Come on out to our spring Picnic and join us for food, radio and good conversation. As usual the club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. Members and invited guests are asked to bring a side dish or desert. There will be a sign up sheet at the next general meeting to help us coordinate.

In addition, if you have any ham radio related items you would like to sell this might be a good time for them to find a new home. If you plan on bringing more than a couple of items it might be a good idea to bring a folding table to display them.

### Saturday, May 21, 9am to 1pm

At Rancho Madera Park in Wood Ranch, 556 Lake Park Drive Simi Valley, CA.93065

## I'm EXTRA Ignorant

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

## Antennas For Sale

### **Cushcraft A148-20T.**

This antenna is for 2 Meters. It has 10 vertical and 10 horizontal Elements mounted on the same boom. Gain is 11.1 dBi.

Antenna is in good condition.

Price is \$45.00

### **Stationmaster 21' 7" Vertical Fiberglass Collinear Antenna.**

This antenna was removed from commercial service and Could be rebuilt to cover the 2M amateur band. It currently Resonates at 150 – 155 MHz.

The base is an aluminum sleeve 2- 3/4" in diameter and is 27" Long. The 3 short radials are missing.

Price is \$40.00

Contact Spencer, N6IWY at [805 583-1127](tel:8055831127) or email at [n6iwy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6iwy@sbcglobal.net).

## FCC Invites Comments on Petition to Eliminate 15 dB Gain Limit on Amateur Amplifiers

The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. Expert Linears America LLC of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers, spelled out in Part 97.317(a)(2). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

RM-11767 can be found on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001536394>.

"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its Petition.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a minimum of 50 W of drive power and subsequently did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent Report and Order in the docket.

The R&O is in PDF format at, [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf).

"Although no party advocated retention of the 15 dB limit, it remains in place today," Expert pointed out in its filing. "In the intervening years, advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, Expert seeks to remove the 15 dB limit from Part 97.317 so that Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors will not be forced to needlessly cripple their amplifiers for sale in the United States."

Expert pointed to its Model 1.3K FA amplifier as an example of a linear "inherently capable of considerably more than 15 dB of amplification," which would make it a suitable match for low-power transceivers now on the market having output power on the order of 10 W. - ARRL

## RFinder - The World Wide Repeater Directory now has Jamming Reports!

In cooperation with ARRL by request of Mike Lisenco N2YBB, ARRL Hudson Division Director, RFinder now includes the ability to make jamming reports. This is already available in RFinder Android and should be available on iOS devices by Dayton. This ability is available worldwide. Those without a device or subscription can make reports at <http://jamming.rfinder.net>. The trial version on Android allows jamming reports to be submitted.

Those responsible for coordinating anti-jamming activities can request access at <http://jamcoordinator.rfinder.net> to view jamming reports for your area.

"Repeater jamming is a problem worldwide...we've created a way of organizing anti-jamming activities worldwide," says Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder. "We are evaluating some automated monitoring technology to integrate in the near future...This new feature just extends RFinder's social features even further."

"We came to the RFinder team with this idea and they had it in place within 2 weeks, " says Mike Lysenco N2YBB, ARRL Director for the Hudson Division, "

RFinder is a great tool to have in the fight against malicious interference on our repeaters..."

RFinder is the World Wide Repeater Directory and includes over 60,000 repeaters worldwide in over 170 countries. RFinder is integrated directly with EchoLink on both Android and iPhone and provides the ability to share repeater checkins on Facebook, Twitter and APRS. RFinder is integrated with RT Systems and CHIRP radio programmers and has a routing feature at <http://routes.rfinder.net> where you can find repeaters over a route worldwide. Video demos of RFinder can be found at <http://youtube.rfinder.net>.

**Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, April 14, 2016**

Call to Order: President, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 10 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 31, with 7 visitors.

Introductions: A brief round of introductions was made. Guests included, Vern Potter, W6NCT, Peter Leonhardt, AE6PL, Liz Leonhardt, K6LIZ, Stewart Stone, KG6BOV, Chuck Dixon, WA6FGK, David Lang, AG6AH, and Joyce Grace, KI6HUV.

Announcements: Vern Potter, W6NCT, spoke about plans for the VCARS-Simi Settlers Field Day at the Reagan Presidential Library. It will be June 25-26, with setup on Friday June 24. Vern had a sign-up sheet for those who are interested in participating. Frank mentioned that we are planning our Spring Picnic at the Rancho Madera Park. Frank asked for member preferences between dates of May 14 and 21 that have been proposed. The date of Saturday May 21 was selected.  
Chuck Dixon, WA6FGK, spoke about the Rabbit Radio Network and invited Simi Settlers members to attend an Open House on Saturday, June 4 from 1 to 3pm at the Chatsworth Peak repeater site.  
Frank introduced Joyce Grace, KI6HUV, who spoke to the Club about Peter Grace, AI6PG, who has been diagnosed with a form of dementia and has been on medications.

Program: Frank introduced our guest speaker for this month, Stewart Stone, KG6BOV, who gave a presentation on "Red Cross Communications". Stewart is the Emergency Coordinator for Ventura County ARES/ACS Area 4 (Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, and he is the Response Technology Lead for the American Red Cross of Ventura County. Stewart began by describing the recent reorganization of Red Cross regions among counties in California. The "Central California" region now includes down to Ventura County. He said that the Santa Barbara, Ojai and Ventura/Camarillo Red Cross chapters all have close relationships with local radio clubs. Stewart showed pictures of the equipment and antennas set up at the Camarillo office. There is a national VHF coordinating frequency 47.420MHz. He described attempts to establish a region wide radio net on low VHF, ham repeaters or on 20M/40M HF. Stewart spoke about Red Cross activities in Katrina and other hurricanes. There has been cooperation between the US and Cuba and a Hurricane Watch network is set up when needed. At the conclusion of the program Frank thanked Stewart and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Simi Settlers.

Break: Following the program a 25-minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing: The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Club Treasurer, Glenn Daly, WA6GNB, who was present to win the \$60 prize. Therefore, the amount will start over with \$10 for our next regular meeting on May 12, 2016. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.

Prize Raffle: Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, won the "Grand Prize" at this month's raffle, a food gift basket.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Simi Settlers' Leadership

<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:ffvaldez@dslextreme.com">ffvaldez@dslextreme.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	VACANT			
<b>Secretary</b>	John Percival	WI6O		<a href="mailto:percivaljohns@cs.com">percivaljohns@cs.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn 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>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>	VACANT			
<b>Field Day</b>	<i>What will <u>you</u> do?</i>			
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Dante Smith	KK6JCQ		<a href="mailto:danterusso1999@gmail.com">danterusso1999@gmail.com</a>
<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:ki6ksv@gmail.com">ki6ksv@gmail.com</a>
<b>Room Coordinator</b>	Linda Parker			<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Elmers and Members at Large</b>				
<b>Past-President</b>	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	<a href="mailto:Rick@keymaterial.com">Rick@keymaterial.com</a>
<b>Past-Treasurer</b>	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
<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.simissettlers.org/index.htm>

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

Mail: P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, CA 93062-2125

### Letter From The Editor

Well here it is, May already. And you know what that means. In addition to the spring picnic and getting ready for Field Day, it's time to start thinking about club elections.

We'll be looking for nominations at the next club meeting and you're encouraged to consider throwing your hat in the ring. You needn't be concerned about any lack of experience or being thrown into the deep end without a life preserver. There will be plenty of support and resources to help you settle into any position you'd like to try your hand at.

Feel free to contact any of the current board members if you have any questions about the duties and responsibilities of their position. Serving the club as one of its officers and having a hand in charting the direction of the club can be very rewarding and you might even find yourself enjoying it.

- 73

- Joe W6JWP

# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

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

## Membership Application



**Type of Application:**

New Member   
 Renewal

**Type of Membership:**

Individual (\$18/yr)   
 Family (\$20/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 \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_