



Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

August 2016

August 11, 2016

Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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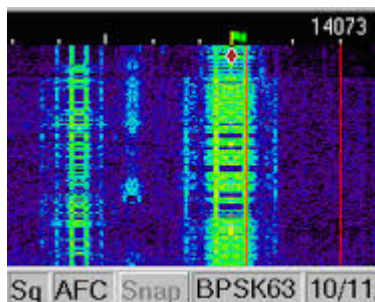
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Time: 7:00pm
Location: Simi Valley
Senior Center
3900 Avenida Simi
Simi Valley, CA 93063

August Program

Digital Modes 101 - Joe Partlow W6JWP

So you're tuning around the band and come across something that sounds like a series of disjointed musical notes or a chainsaw or a robotic songbird warbling the same thing over and over.

Maybe you recognize that its one of the multitude of digital modes that exist alongside the more familiar modes like CW and SSB.



Maybe you're even curious as just what it takes to decode those modes and maybe put out a few of your own.

Join us as Joe W6JWP attempts to demystify the world of digital modes and the hardware and software needed to add them to your Ham Radio toolbox.

I want to thank Jim Fortney K6IYK, ARRL Santa Barbara Section Manager, for his presentation on the SB Section leadership goals. The SB Section covers Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties. He encouraged anyone interested in any vacated section position to contact him.

I also want to thank Rick Slater AG6AY (N6R Field Day Chairman) for covering the highlights of the past Field Day event at the Reagan Library. The software he used allowed him to show all the contacts made by the 15 stations by band and much more. If you would like to see the statistics, contact Rick at rick.ag6ay@gmail.com.

I want to encourage our membership to participate in local or county wide events. Please read our newsletter for events, contact person, dates, and times.

Use your privilege or lose it.

73,

Frank KI6OQ

Nets of Interest

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LSB Net 8pm 3.908 MHz SSARC 2 Meter Net* 8:30 pm SMRA-ERN Repeater 146.805 - 0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 - 5.0MHz PL100.0	Condor Connection 7pm (Plays Newsline) Thousand Oaks 223.940-1.6 MHz PL156.7 Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	ACS Area 1 Simi Valley SMRA-ERN 7:05pm Repeater 146.805 -0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 -5.0MHz PL100.0 ATN-CA Net 7:30pm http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm LSB Net 8pm 3.908 MHz	Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM	LSB Net 8pm 3.908 MHz		SSARC SSB HF Net 8:30am 7.245 ** (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter CW-QRP 9am 7.032 MHz Quad Squad net 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. Sunday - 7 August 2016 - Simi Valley Half Marathon. We need about 12 volunteers to help man 5 stations for this event. The event runs from 0600 for the early stations to about 1400 for the late stations. If you can help out with this event contact Steve at ke6wez@gmail.com.
2. Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 August 2016 - Wings over Camarillo Air Show. Contact Ted ki6ptx@arrl.net.
3. Monday - 5 September 2016 - District Meeting.
4. Saturday & Sunday - 10 & 11 September 2016 - Ventura Bike Ride and Marathon. Saturday is the Bike Ride and Sunday is the Marathon. This will take many volunteers to man up the stations each day. If you can help out, contact Stewart Stone at kg6bov@arrl.net.



Thanks to a very generous donations from two of our members (way above what was requested) we have reached our goal and then some. If you have not sent anything, no need to at this time.

For those that donated to help cover the repair cost, MANY THANKS!

Special thanks goes out to Randy Shoemaker who is an event director and a non-ham for his very generous gift of \$50. I will give the additional funds (\$32) that we collected to the Simi Settlers at our next meeting.

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)

Events

Thursday, August 4, 2016, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

Thursday, August 11, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

Sunday, Aug 14, 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

Thursday, August 25, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

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

Saturday, August 27, 2016, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

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

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

FCC Proposes Rule Changes in Response to ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition, Seeks Comment

The FCC has proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL's so-called "Symbol Rate" Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708), filed in late 2013, and it has invited comments on its recommended changes. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239, released on July 28, had been making the rounds at the FCC since May. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in Part 97.307(f) and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

The NPRM can be found on the web in PDF format at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0728/FCC-16-96A1.pdf

"[W]e believe that the public interest may be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, to allow Amateur Service licensees to use modern digital emissions, thereby furthering the purposes of the Amateur Service and enhancing the usefulness of the service," the FCC said in its NPRM.

"We do not, however, propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations," the NPRM concluded, "because the rules' current approach for limiting bandwidth use by amateur stations using one of the specified digital codes to encode the signal being transmitted appears sufficient to ensure that general access to the band by licensees in the Amateur Service does not become unduly impaired."

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

Comments in the proceeding will be due 60 days after the date that the NPRM appears in the Federal Register.

QST de W1AW

5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

-73

Dues!

Just a reminder, if you haven't already paid your dues for the new year see our treasurer Glen WA6GNB at one of our events or fill out the form at that back of the this newsletter and send it in.

Batteries for Repeaters

The SSARC Board of Directors received the following letter from Paul Strauss WD6EBY:

To: Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club Date: July 28, 2016
From: South Coast Radio Network Thursday
Subject: Request funding for site backup power

Dear SSARS Board of Directors,

I am seeking funding in the amount of \$400.00 dollars from the Simi Settlers to purchase four (4) each Sealed AGM batteries as backup power for the Chatsworth Peak Repeater site. These requested batteries would be exclusively used for the 145.240 and the 445.840 repeaters including the MESH nodes at the site. The batteries are 12 volt at 145AH each four (4) of which would provide a total of 580AH. Calculations show this battery system would provide for 4.5 days of uninterrupted operation. The repeater systems has a 85/15 duty cycle while the MESH equipment as it is a constant 5 amp draw 100 percent of the time.

For reference, I am looking to purchase four (4) additional batteries for the Laguna Peak site. Two have been funded by private donations and I have a request to the CVARC for the final two (2) batteries for Laguna Peak.

A little bit of history on these batteries. These batteries were part of a large project to construct telecommunications sites across Southern California. The batteries were purchased but project was canceled before the batteries were put into service. The supply was exhausted but through inquiries, I discovered several folks in the Valley that had purchased these batteries and themselves had never put them into service. The new price for a comparable battery is over \$350.00 dollars each.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the board and look forward to the board's decision whatever it may be.

Respectfully,
Paul Strauss
WD6EBY
5225 Felicia Street
Camarillo, CA 93012
805-484-2985 h



Deka Unigy I 12AVR145ET



At this time the board has decided to put the issue to a vote at the next general meeting with the recommendation that \$100 be donated from the club funds and that individuals and groups be encouraged to donate to a special fund to cover the balance.

For Sale

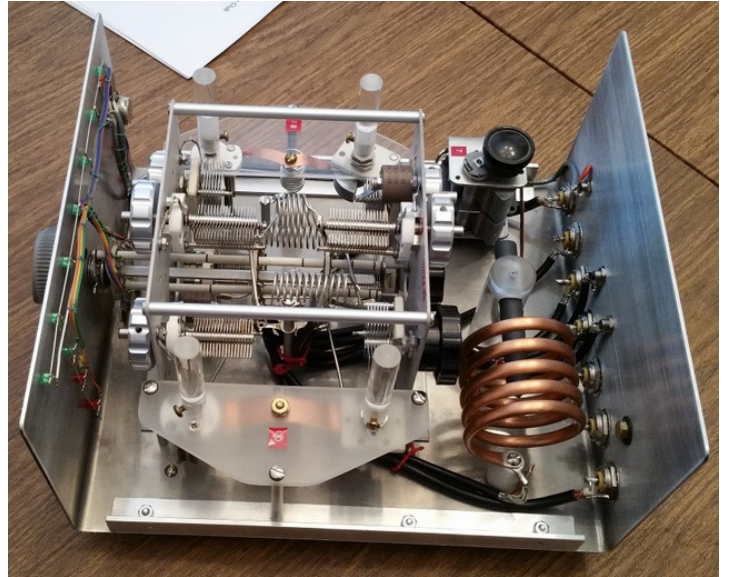
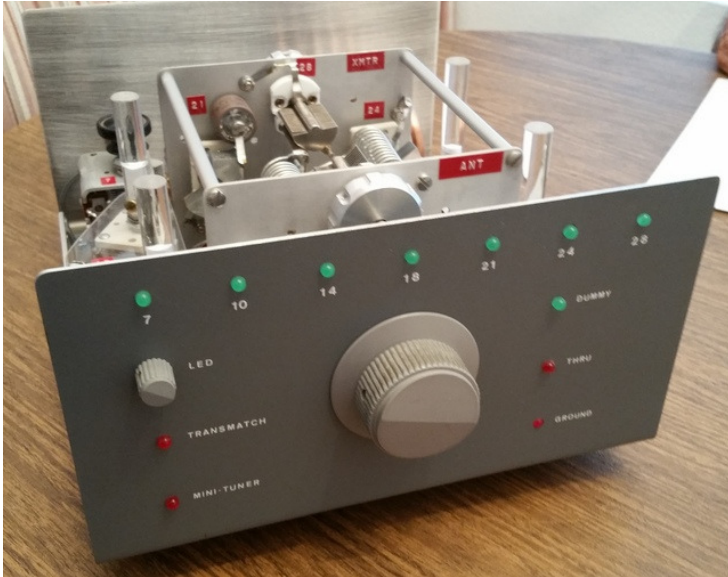
If you're interested in any of these items contact Spencer, N6IWY AT 805-358-0248 or email n6iwy@sbcglobal.net

	<p>MFJ-260 Dry Dummy Load. \$20</p>		<p>Swan FS-2 Miniature Combination Field Strength Meter and FWD/REF Power Meter (up to 25 Watts). \$15</p>
	<p>Kenwood External Speaker, SP-930. \$45</p>		<p>TEN-TEC KR-50 Automatic Keyer. This unit has been modified, i.e., the paddles have been removed and replaced by a jack installed on the rear of the unit. \$25</p>
	<p>Grove Mini Tuner 3. This unit is for Receive-only use. \$20</p>		<p>Daiwa CN-620 SWR/Power Meter. Meters work, but LED's don't light. \$35</p>
	<p>Custom Antenna Tuner for the 7,10,14,18,21,24 and 28mhz bands. \$40</p> <p>See more pictures on page 6.</p>		<p>Kenwood TS 930S Transceiver. This radio is non-operational. It can be repaired or used for parts. Included are the AC power cord, Instruction Manual and Service Manual. \$75</p>

Homebrew Antenna Tuner?

Spencer N6IWY brought this to our last board meeting and I thought it interesting enough to share. At first glance it appears to be factory made with a very businesslike layout and construction. But on closer examination there are indications that this is homebrew. The first clue is the lack of any model number or manufacturers sticker. In fact we could find no identification at all. The workmanship is excellent better than I've seen on a lot of manufactured equipment, the soldering is outstanding and some of the cable bundles are hand laced. If anyone recognizes this equipment or design please contact me so that we can share the information in a future issue of the newsletter.

- Joe W6JWP



Benjamin Kuo - KK6FUT Appointed to the position of ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Specialist

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Benjamin Kuo - KK6FUT to the position of ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Specialist. Please help me in welcoming Ben to the Success through Teamwork team.

Ben has an extensive technical background and actively serves as a mentor to young people. His participation will help make the Section a Success.

As with all my new Appointments, I have asked Ben to provide information on his background. He provided the following:

My background:

- Amateur Extra license
- Prior professional background in embedded software design; BS in Electrical Engineering
- Regular author and contributor to QRP Quarterly
 - "The Simple SI5351 Beacon on 10 Meters" QRP Quarterly, March 2016
 - "OCF on a Stick: A Multi-Band Portable Antenna" QRP Quarterly, January 2016
 - "Tips for New Homebrewers (From a New Homebrewer)" October 2015
 - "The Arduinopeater: A Simplex Voice Repeater in an Altoids Tin" July 2015
 - "Let's Build Something, Part II" with N6QW, April 2015
 - "Let's Build Something, Part I" with N6QW, January 2015
 - "CW Sender" Series, Spring 2014 through January 2015
 - "The \$20 Arduino SWR Analyzer", with N6QW, Fall 2014
- Co-author of the "Let's Build Something" progressive transceiver project, with N6QW - very widely built project originally published in QRP Quarterly.
- Previously sat on non-Ham related standard committees, chairing a number of industry standards for T11.5 NCITS, serving as Chairman and technical lead
- Published technical author in non-ham radio areas.

Technical areas of expertise and interest (widely interested across all ham areas!):

- Antenna design and analysis, including computer modeling
- Homebrew receiver/transmitter/transceiver design
- Embedded software development with Arduino and Raspberry Pi
- Repair/restoration of vintage and not-so-vintage equipment (including both solid state and tube equipment).
- Digital mode interfacing and software (PSK31, JT65, APRS, packet, etc.)
- Mesh networking (AREDN, etc.) 2.4Ghz and beyond
- etc.!

Willing and able to present in industry and to other amateurs.

Ben
KK6FUT

- 73,
James T. Fortney, K6IYK
Section Manager, ARRL Santa Barbara Section
K6IYK@ARRL.org

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

- Call to Order:** President, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 11 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 30, with 7 visitors.
- Introductions:** A brief round of introductions was made. Guests included: Jim Fortney, K6IYK, Randy Phillips, W6OKK, Bob Paull, KK6UE, Arthur Burgos, Lea Veronica, Roger Armstrong, WD6EVT, and former member Bob Yonce, N6FFU. Also visiting from Alpine, CA was member Dick Hoolihan, W6AAF, a past President of the Simi Settlers ARC, who served in 1981 and 1988 to 1991.
- Election:** Frank mentioned that it is Club Election time, saying that our present officers are willing to continue for another term. With no additional candidates for the offices, Frank asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers and elect them for the new Club year 2016-2017. A motion was so made and by unanimous vote the officers will be: President Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, Treasurer Glenn Daly, WA6GNB, Secretary John Percival, WI6O, Historian Mike Tweedy, KV6I, Newsletter Editor Joe Partlow, W6JWP, and Membership Chairman and Webmaster Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ. The office of Vice President and the positions PIO and Elmer are Vacant at this time.
- Announcements:** Orv Beach, W6BI, spoke about recent activity with Mesh Networking. EC Steve King, KE6WEZ, spoke about upcoming activities; Simi Half Marathon on August 7, Wings over Camarillo August 20 and 21, and a "Share the Road" ride later in the year. Deanna Smitha, W6DWS, spoke about her plans to move to Alturas. She will leave her post as Club Elmer, having served since 2013. Deanna asked that our technically knowledgeable members consider taking over the role as Elmer.
- Field Day:** Frank mentioned the good turnout we had for Field Day and thanked those who participated. Our operation this year was as a "15A" group. Stuart Sheldon, AG6AG, gave a short presentation of our operating results shown in a Log analysis program. It showed our contact totals broken down by band, mode and time.
- Program:** Frank introduced Jim Fortney, K6IYK, ARRL Section Manager for the Santa Barbara Section, within the Southwestern Division. Jim He began by describing the national ARRL Organization which has 15 Divisions and 71 Sections. The Santa Barbara Section includes SLO, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, with a total of 5,569 Amateurs. Jim listed the positions appointed to support the activities and goals for our Section as well as achievements this year. To enhance communication and provide information about the SB Section, Jim has set up a new website: arrlsb.org, as well a presence on Facebook (@arrlsb) and on Twitter (#arrlsb). Jim wants to see more clubs actively reporting to and staying updated with ARRL. He welcomes ideas and feedback by email to: K6IYK@arrl.org. At the conclusion of the program Frank thanked Jim and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Simi Settlers.
- Break:** Following the program a 10-minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.
- Member Drawing:** The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Jussi Eloranta, AA6KJ, who was not present to win the \$10 prize. Therefore, the amount will be increased to \$20 for our next regular meeting on August 11, 2016. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.
- Prize Raffle:** Steve King, KE6WEZ, won the "Grand Prize" at this month's raffle, a Brother "P-Touch" Label printer.
- Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

Simi Settlers' Leadership				
President	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	frankki6oq@gmail.com
Vice President	VACANT			
Secretary	John Percival	WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com
Treasurer	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		gw.daly@yahoo.com
Committee Chairpersons				
Webmaster	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com
Newsletter	Joe Partlow	W6JWP	(805) 428-7907 cell	joe.w6jwp@gmail.com
Membership	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	KJ6LXJ@gmail.com
PIO	VACANT			
Field Day	<i>What will <u>you</u> do?</i>			
Youth Coordinator	Dante Smith	KK6JCQ		danterusso1999@gmail.com
Historian	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		mtweedy@roadrunner.com
Net Coordinator	Ray Campbell	KI6LKD	(805) 404-3246	ki6lkd@yahoo.com
Net Coordinator	Steve King	KE6WEZ		ke6wez@gmail.com
Food Services	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		ki6ksv@gmail.com
Room Coordinator	Linda Parker			kj6lxj@gmail.com
Elmers and Members at Large				
Past-President	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	Rick@keymaterial.com
Past-Treasurer	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
Elmer	VACANT			
Advisor	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		wildpoky45@earthlink.net
Advisor	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		jhutch17@adelphia.net
Advisor	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		speedy@earthlink.net
Advisor	Spencer Smith	N6IWY	(805) 583-1127	n6iwy@sbcglobal.net

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

"Ham Radio? They still do That?" How do you answer that question? I think it depends on your area of interest within Ham Radio. 'Cause, let's face it, Ham Radio isn't just about talking to someone on the other side of the world from your garage. It's about new radios, old radios, home built radios, radios that are computers, computers that talk to computers over radios, radios for fun, radios for emergencies, radios for events, radios that used to be something else and so on. And then there are antennas... but at this point the eyes of the person who asked the question are starting to glaze over, so I suppose the short answer is "Yes we still do that. Would you like to come to a meeting?"

- 73

- Joe W6JWP

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, Ca 93062-2125 --- (www.simisettlers.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: _____