



Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

October 2016

October 13, 2016

Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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October Program

TBD?

Dinner with the Speaker
Where? TGIFriday's
When? 5:15pm

**Join your club board members and ?,
for dinner before the meeting.**

I want to thank Orv Beach W6BI for his presentation on the Mesh Network updates for Ventura County. The development of the back bone networks has awakened the VCACS as another means for emergency communications.

I urge all SSARC members to contact your U.S. Senator on H.R. 1301 bill heading to the Senate. I had the opportunity to sign a form letter from the ARRL contacting our two U.S. Senators from California. All instructions are on the website at www.arrl.org.



October 22, 2016 is our SSARC Fall picnic at Wood Ranch. All members are encouraged to attend. Please sign up at our October 13, 2016 meeting.

73,

Frank KI6OQ

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
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 Mesh Talk Net 7:30pm on the WB6EBY repeaters	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. Tuesday - 4 October 2016 - ORT.
2. Wednesday - 5 October 2016 - Mesh Chat Net. The meeting will be held every Wednesday at 1930 on the WD6EBY repeaters.
3. Saturday - 8 October 2016 - Share the Road Ride. Starting and ending in Area 1. Contact Steve King KE6WEZ at ke6wez@gmail.com
4. Saturday - 12 November 2016 - Oxnard High School Band Compition. Contact Hovan, KI6BQL at ki6bql@arrl.net
5. Saturday - 12 November 2016 - Red Cross Ride for the Red bike ride. Contact Stewart, KG6BOV AT kg6bov@arrl.net
6. December - Camarillo Christmas Parade. Contact Ted KI6PTX at ki6ptx@arrl.net
7. Sunday - 11 December 2016 - Santa to the Sea Run.



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, October 6, 2016, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

Sunday, October 9, 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, October 13, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

Saturday, October 22, 2016, SSARC Fall Picnic!

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 signup sheet at the next general meeting to help us coordinate.

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

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

Saturday, October 29, 2016, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

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

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

Saturday, December 17, 2016, SSARC Holiday Party!

At the home of Jim (WA6NXK) & Lea Veronica. Mark your calendar!

From WB6EBY

Good Morning Frank,

I want to thank you Frank and the Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club (SSARC) for your donation in supporting the Chatsworth Peak Repeater and MESH facility. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Additionally, I wish to thank the board and the SSARC of a donation container placed out at your meetings and events. This is very special and I am extremely grateful.

Thank you again for your support.

With great respect,

Paul Strauss
WD6EBY

Should U.S. ham tests be given abroad?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as "irregularities" in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/>).

I understand why foreign national go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That's the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some callsigns, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.

Digital Mesh News by Orv W6BI

The AREDN group continues to develop the next version of their digital mesh code. They've knocked out almost all of the outstanding issues, but no release date has been announced yet. The updated firmware version will support newer versions of the Ubiquiti product line and implement a new user interface that will allow more flexibility in configuring the equipment.

Farther south, Orange County has linked up with San Bernardino County via a 5 GHz link. From Joe, AE6XE: "Announcing a live link today from Orange County at Pleasants Pk with Yucaipa, CA in San Bernardino County. Everyone was excited to see the TxMbps readings show solid links of 26Mbps in both directions. KI6BX-Keith and AI6SW-Shane are making a big splash in SBD County " So the mesh backbone continues to grow and cover new areas.

Locally last weekend (10/1, specifically) Dave KM6FQ and I went to the old Simi Valley repeater site located on the north end of Sycamore. We cleaned trash out of the cabinet and removed the Hustler G6 antenna that had been used on the repeater when it was sited there. We replaced it with a Ubiquiti Nanostation loco M2 running AREDN code. It's on the local standard channel of -2 (2397 MHz), with the local SSID of "BroadbandHamnet", pointed at about 110 degrees.

Hooked to it is a camera pointing ESE. At the moment the camera is just sitting on top of the cabinet but we will put it on the top of the tower during our next maintenance visit. We may point it in a different direction, too.

Here's a screenshot of the camera, taken at dusk:



Here's a nighttime shot:



Eventually we'd like to upgrade the link from 2 GHZ with a 10 MHz bandwidth to a 5 GHz node with a 20 MHz bandwidth, which will allow us to get better video quality.

Speaking of video, we hope to eventually upgrade the current camera to a PTZ camera so we can direct it at any brushfires that might be threatening the area. (Funding is an issue at the moment).

In other local news Simi Valley Hospital expects to see some progress in their commitment to provide network cables and nodes to go along with the existing ham presence there in the next couple of weeks.

We've established a new net to discuss digital mesh stuff - it's on the WD6EBY linked repeaters, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions about digital mesh or are just interested, feel free to check in!

73 - Orv W6BI

Blast from the Past

SSARC 1980 Field Day courtesy of Orv W6BI



59th JOTA: October 14-16, 2016

Jamboree on the Air provides the opportunity for millions of Scouts around the world to meet on the air via Amateur Radio. Get ready for the 59th year of this annual on-the-air event!

So far, 219 US stations have registered to take part in Scouting's 2016 Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)), which will take place October 14-16. [Registration](#) remains open for the 59th annual event. Last year, 400 US stations signed up. JOTA officials are asking JOTA 2016 participants not only to register for this year's event, but to follow up with a post-JOTA report.



Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting, September 8, 2016

- Call to Order: Standing in for President, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, Newsletter Editor Joe Partlow, W6JWP, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 9 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 28, with 5 visitors.
- Introductions: A brief round of introductions was made. Guests included: Kyle Evans, KK6IES, Randy Phillips, W6OKK, Ron Nelson, KM6ETM, Steve Hudson, KI6BSQ and Greg Hardynas.
- Announcements: Spencer Smith, N6IWY, mentioned that he has two remaining items available from the estate sale that was shown in the August Newsletter. Steve King, KE6WEZ, said volunteers are needed for the "Share the Road Ride" on Saturday, October 8. Steve mentioned that Lisa Trent and Chris are supporting research efforts for a cure for leukemia at a triathlon event in Hawaii. Bill Everett said there will be an Emergency Expo at LA Fire Station #87 in the San Fernando Valley. Joe said that our next Club picnic will be planned for some time in October.
- Program: Joe Partlow, W6JWP, introduced Orv Beach, W6BI, who made a presentation to bring us up to date with "What's new in Mesh Networking". He began by showing a map indicating the locations of active Mesh stations in our region of Southern California. There is a plan to have a "backbone" system of stations to extend coverage for SoCal. He showed pictures of how his own antenna setup has changed over time. Orv described the projects for the immediate 6 to 12 month time frame and then longer term over the next 2 years. Plans include getting Mesh equipment into more emergency agency locations and getting backup power for Chatsworth Peak, Laguna Peak and the backbone sites. He hopes that more hams will become active Mesh users. To help build interest, a voice net is being planned to cover digital topics and Mesh networking. Orv mentioned that they hope to put up a mesh node at the old Simi Valley Repeater Association repeater site. After the presentation ended with a question and answer session, Joe thanked Orv 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 Richard Carter, KJ6NXC, who was not present to win the \$30 prize. Therefore, the amount will be increased to \$40 for our next regular meeting on October 13, 2016. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.
- Prize Raffle: After the prize raffle, the Grand Prize, a power screwdriver, was won by Bill Costello, AG6XK. (Secretary's note: The "Grand Prize" at the August 11 meeting raffle was a large flashlight won by Jim Veronica, WA6NXX).
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

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

I know it's been said before but where has the year gone? October?! I had all this stuff I was planning on getting done this year and I've only done about 10% of it. OK, maybe 20%. Part of the problem is I keep getting distracted by other stuff. There's work and family and friends and all the little tasks that chew up your time like a puppy gnawing on a drip irrigation system. Your time ends up leaking out everywhere but where you want it.

And then there's all the shiny things that hypnotize you until realize that you've just spent 2 hours reading something or watching a series of YouTube videos when you could have been making contacts in the current contest or working on rebuilding that HW-16 that you bought off Ebay.

I guess I just need better time management skills. Maybe there's video on YouTube...

- 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 \$18.00 = \$ _____

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: _____