



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

December 2016

December 17, 2016

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

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### December Program

#### Ho, Ho, Ho!

As is our tradition there will be no general meeting this month. Instead Jim and Lea Veronica will be hosting our annual holiday party on December 17th. There is more information elsewhere in this newsletter.



Happy Holidays to all!

Join us at our January meeting where our speaker will be Marty Woll, N6VI, Vice-Director for the ARRL's Southwestern Division.

I want to thank Kevin Zanjani KI6DHQ for his excellent presentation on Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) battery technology from a Southern California Company called Bioenno Power.

In a CQ magazine article (July 2016), Gordon West states that the manufacture of LiFePO4 batteries provides a lightweight battery pack with more amp hours, more charging cycles and safety from explosive gases in contrast to lead acid type batteries. I also want to thank Kevin for his raffle donation of a 12v 12Ah battery kit with an ac to dc charging adapter. He also offered a 15% discount code for any battery purchase until the end of the year. The discount code will be sent to members via the email distribution list.

December 17, 2016 at 6:00pm is the Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club annual Christmas Party. Our hosts will be Lea and Jim Veronica WA6NXX (see more information in this newsletter). All our raffle prizes are bought so purchase your tickets at our pizza night or at the party.

I urge all SSARC members to write a letter to your Senator recommending that they support the HR-1301 bill. You can obtain all information at the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

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
<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>Mesh Talk Net</b> 7:30pm on the WB6EBY repeaters (on the first and third Wednesday)	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.245 (if the broadcast station is too loud check 7.240)  <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.**

### ACS/ARES Corner

1. Saturday - 3 December - Skywarn Day. Contact Rob W6RH at [w6rh@arrl.net](mailto:w6rh@arrl.net).
2. Saturday - 10 December - Camarillo Christmas Parade. Contact Ted KI6PTX at [ki6ptx@arrl.net](mailto:ki6ptx@arrl.net)
3. Sunday - 11 December 2016 - Santa to the Sea Run. Contact Stewart, KG6BOV AT [kg6bov@arrl.net](mailto:kg6bov@arrl.net)

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](mailto: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.

**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, December 1, 2016, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

### Sunday, December 11, 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

### Saturday, December 31, 2016, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

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

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

# 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 17th 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.

This year's raffle prizes include 3 Ark III personal-sized survival packages, 3 Baofeng UV-5R HT's and a Grand Prize of a LUITON LT-588UV 60watts Dual Band VHF 45watts UHF Mobile Transceiver with Free Programming Cable\*! And we will be giving away another Baofeng UV-5R and other prizes just for attending.

### 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

You can purchase tickets at 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.**



## Is There a Market for a \$400 “Prepper” Radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of days ago, a reader wrote:

"I would like to know if it would be feasible to build a radio with the following features:

- \* SSB operation (only SSB is required, CW would be an additional benefit)
- \* 20 – 50W of power
- \* Portable-friendly (lightweight, capable of operating at lower voltages from small portable batteries)
- \* Low receiver current drain
- \* Coverage of 40m and 80m bands. Very limited coverage is acceptable. Even channelized coverage of a few select frequencies would be acceptable.
- \* S-meter

"It strikes me that there is a large market for ham radio products for “preppers,” and there has been a lot of interest in the Baofeng line of radios from that market. I think there would be a LOT of interest in a radio that could go far beyond line-of-sight and contact friends or family hundreds of miles away. Preppers would have little interest in contacts more than a state or two away, and no interest at all in novel operating modes. I wonder if a radio that trims away excess features (all-mode operation, wide frequency coverage, high power output, sophisticated audio filtering) could be produced for a lot less cost than currently available HF rigs. If so, and it was paired with a decent NVIS dipole and some General-class study materials and sold as a package deal, it could be a huge hit – Something you could tuck in a bug-out-bag, set up in the field, and use to make contacts in a reasonably local area, or set up in your backyard at home and use minimal power to operate.

"Is there a reason why I don't see radios like this on the market, some kind of technological limitation that would make this sort of thing impractical? If something like this was built, what kind of cost and performance would you expect? I'm certainly not expecting any kind of detailed analysis, but even just a speculation about if such a project could be feasible would be appreciated."

I replied:

"I think one of the reasons you don't see radios with the feature set you describe is that more full-featured radios are already pretty inexpensive. The Yaesu FT-450D, for example, costs less than \$800 and offers 100W output. The FT-817ND, which is designed for portable operation, costs less than \$700. Is that too much for preppers?"

"While it might seem like you could sell a radio with fewer features for less, I think that you hit the law of diminishing returns. At some point, removing features, doesn't reduce the cost all that much. For example, removing the CW capabilities from a transceiver capable of SSB operation really doesn't save that much because in a way CW operation is really just a subset of SSB operation. You'll save the cost of a key jack, but how much is that? Maybe a buck or two. Having said that, it could be that the big amateur radio manufacturers are overlooking an opportunity here."

We swapped a couple more e-mails about this. He noted, “Most preppers would probably rather buy a high-end AR-15 or several months worth of storage food for \$800 than a radio.” I suggested, “If there was a catastrophic event, and you really needed to communicate, wouldn't it seem silly to have not spent the extra \$400 on a really decent radio?”

What do you think? Is my analysis a little too simplistic perhaps? Are amateur radio manufacturers ignoring a potential market?

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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. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, November 10, 2016**

Call to Order: President, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. Frank 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 31, with 7 visitors.

Introductions: A brief round of introductions was made. Guests included: Bill Woods, N6YOX, Yoshio Nakamura, KE6ACH, Clay Mierop, K4PTN, Julie Mierop, KM6FWF, Pete Mierop, KM6FWG, Westin Mierop, WE5TIN, and Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ.

Program: Frank Valdez introduced Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, who gave a presentation about the Bioenno Power company based in Santa Ana, CA. The company, which makes Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries, was founded in 2010 and now has customers worldwide. Kevin gave examples of the customers and their special applications. Kevin described the special benefits of the LiFePO<sub>4</sub> batteries, such as 60% weight savings and about twice the useable power capacity for a given amp-hour rating, compared to Lead Acid batteries. The new battery chemistry is capable of over 2000 charge/discharge cycles vs. 200-300 for lead acid. Also, the Bioenno battery packs incorporate a protective circuit module to protect against overcharging, excessive discharge or short circuit. These batteries have chemical and thermal stability that make them safer than lithium ion batteries. These new batteries are generating growing interest in Ham radio applications such as portable and solar power use. For radio power source applications Kevin gave examples to show how to calculate operating time vs transmitting power and transmit-receive ratio during use. Kevin said they are now distributed by HRO and soon will be with PowerWorx also. Their website is: [www.bioennopower.com](http://www.bioennopower.com) .  
At the end of the program, after a question-answer period, Frank thanked Kevin and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Simi Settlers.

Break: Following the program, a 20-minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing: The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Mark Lassman, KB6KGX, who was present to win the \$50 prize. Therefore, the amount will start over at \$10 for our next regular meeting on January 12, 2017. 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 "Magna Cart" folding hand truck, was won by Rick Galbraith, W6DQE. An additional special prize, a Bioenno model BLF-1209A, 12V, 9AH LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery, was donated by our guest Kevin Zanjani.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

<b>Simi Settlers' Leadership</b>				
<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:frankki6oq@gmail.com">frankki6oq@gmail.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>	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		<a href="mailto:gnb.2112@yahoo.com">gnb.2112@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>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Field Day</b>	<b><i>What will you do?</i></b>			
<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>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<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

Another year come and gone. I'm pretty sure they didn't go by so fast when I was a kid. Summer vacation felt like it lasted a year all by itself. Or maybe I'm just looking at it through the lens of age. That's like rose colored glasses that have yellowed with age.

Well I'm going to make it official, I plan on turning over the mantle of newsletter editor at the end of this term. So now seems like a good time to start looking for a replacement.

The job isn't difficult and only takes 2-3 hours a month including attending the board meeting. There are lots of resources you can draw on. I have a template that I use but that doesn't mean it's chiseled in stone. Contact me if you're interested in giving it a try.

- 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 \$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: \_\_\_\_\_