

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

March 2017

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General Meeting Time: 7:00pm Location: Simi Valley Senior Center 3900 Avenida Simi Simi Valley, CA 93063 March 9, 2017

March Program

Mesh Update

- Orv Beach W6BI



Orv W6BI will provide an update on digital mesh network activities in the local area (including adjacent counties).

He'll also cover enhancements and expansions planned after the rains stop and the mountaintops dry out.

With luck he'll also do a demo of mesh networking.

Dinner with the Speaker

Where? TGIFriday's When? 5:15pm

Join your club board members and Orv Beach, W6BI for dinner before the meeting.

Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

Frank has been out of town so no president's column this month.



Not really, but I bet he wishes he was.

Nets of Interest

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LSB Net	Condor	LSB Net	Channel	LSB Net	-	SSARC SSB
8pm 3.908 MHz	Connection	8pm 3.908 MHz	Islands chapter	8pm 3.908 MHz		HF Net
	7pm		10-10			8:30am
SSARC 2 Meter	(Plays	ACS Area 1	International			7.240 **(+ or -
Net*	Newsline)	Simi Valley	28.34 MHz			QRM/N) 40
8:30 pm	Thousand Oaks	SMRA-ERN	at 10AM and			meter
SMRA-ERN	223.940-1.6	7:05pm Repeater	6PM			
Repeater	MHz PL156.7	146.805 -0.6MHz				CW-QRP
146.805 -	Frazier	PL100.0 or	Mesh Talk Net			9am 7.032 MHz
0.6MHz	Mountain	445.580 -5.0MHz	1st & 3rd Wed.			
PL100.0 or	224.720-1.6	PL100.0	@ 7:30pm on			Quad Squad
445.580 -	MHz PL156.7		the WB6EBY			net
5.0MHz		ATN-CA Net	repeaters			1PM on 21.365
PL100.0		7:30pm				MHz.
		http://atn-				
		tv.org/netnight.htm				

Additional information on local nets can be found on the CVARC web site at: http://www.cvarc.org

ACS/ARES Corner

- 1. Monday, 6 March 2017, 7:00 meeting at Leasure Village, if you think you may be attending contact Rob w6rh@hotmail.com to be put on the access list.
- Saturday & Sunday 11 & 12 March is the Coyote Backbone Run. Contact Dan Dickie KE6NYT @KE6Nyt@arrl.net
- 3. Tuesday 4 April 2016, Next ORT
- 4. TUS 19 APL 2017, 0700 1100, 1130, SENOR CITISEN CENTER EXPO Contact Steven King at KE6WEZ@gmail.com

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.

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)



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

^{**} Take a half-hour out of your busy Saturday morning and join your fellow club members, no matter how far and wide they have strayed, for fun and invigorating conversation on the Simi-Settlers 40 meter net. We meet every <u>Saturday</u> <u>from 8:30 am</u> on a new and improved frequency: <u>7.240 MHz</u>.

Events

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

Sunday, March 14, 2017, 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, March 23, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

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

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

(7am) and Exam Session (10am) Redondo Beach, CA http://w6trw.com/swapmeet/swapmeet.htm

Stuff!

Big honkin' power supply - made from an IBM mainframe power supply with computer grade components. Was originally the battery charger for the old Simi Valley repeater. Looks to be capable of at least 25 amps at 13.8 VDC. Price - \$FREE. Contact orv.beach@gmail.com

Triband Yagi (20-15-10) from the estate of a silent key. Needs a few rusty bolts replaced but otherwise intact. Brand unknown. Price - \$FREE. Contact orv.beach@gmail.com

Netgear GS105E smart switch. Useful for configuring Internet access for a digital mesh node. Never driven over 100 Megabits per second, and then only on the weekends... works fine; just replaced it with an 8-port version. Price - make me an offer. Contact orv.beach@gmail.com

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels - one would be within the new band - as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice.

Comments are due Monday, March 20. ARRL plans to file comments in support of its petition.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 KHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in its petition.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its petition. NTIA - the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which regulates federal spectrum - initially proposed the five channels for Amateur Radio use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises. The League said in its petition that while the Amateur Radio community is grateful to the FCC and NTIA for providing some access to the 5-MHz band, "the five channels are, simply stated, completely inadequate to accommodate the emergency preparedness needs of the Amateur Service in this HF frequency range," ARRL said. Access even to the tiny 15-kHz wide band adopted at WRC-15 would "radically improve the current, very limited capacity of the Amateur Service in the United States to address emergencies and disaster relief," ARRL said.

The WRC-15 Final Acts stipulated a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), which the League said "completely defeats the entire premise for the allocation in the first place." ARRL said the FCC should permit a power level of 100 W PEP ERP, assuming use of a 0 dBd gain antenna, in the contiguous 60-meter band. "To impose the power limit adopted at WRC-15 for the contiguous band would render the band unsuitable for emergency and public service communications," the League said.

The ITU Radio Regulations permit assignments at variance with the International Table of Allocations, provided a non-interference condition is attached.

Interested parties may comment on RM-11785 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at, https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/ .

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 7 ARLB007
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 21, 2017
To all radio amateurs

Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General
 Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of
 work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (http://www.arrl.org/license-1) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

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Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (http://www.arrl.org/divisions).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Terry Graves (K7FE/SK)

For any of you who hadn't heard, Terry passed unexpectedly on **2/18/2017**. As a long-term member of the Conejo Valley ARC, a skilled engineer, loving husband and father, and avid Ham Radio operator and Elmer, his absence is already having an impact on the many individuals he knew and interacted with over the years.

Mark your calendar for 3/18/2017.

Although the exact time and specific details are still to follow, services are expected to be held on March 18th, 2017 at <u>St. Paschal Baylon</u> <u>Church</u> (Address: 155 E Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, Phone: (805) 496-0222), with a Memorial get-together location to be named later, as well.

Specific questions, comments, and sentiments may be directed to Alana Graves [mailto:alana.l.m.graves@gmail.com], on behalf of the Graves' family.



Feel free to forward this information to others who may have known Terry; but who may have not, as yet, heard the sad news of his passing.

--- Vern Potter (W6NCT)

Southern California Linux Expo

The 15th annual <u>Southern California Linux Expo</u> will be held March 2-5, 2017 at the Pasadena Convention Center. What does that have to do with ham radio? More and more every year, actually.

SCALE is unique among computer shows; they give a booth to any Open Source software group that has a good story to tell. As a result of the 100+ booths on the Expo floor, about a third aren't try to sell you anything - not for money, anyway :-)

And starting last year, SCALE hosted:

An event station, N6S, operating HF from PCC.

A license exam session - SCALE tested over 35 hams

And AREDN, the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network, had a booth on the Expo floor. AREDN writes firmware to move Ubiquiti and TP-Link wireless access points down into the Part-97 only portions of the 2.4 and 5 GHZ bands. Users of the AREDN code are creating local networks and providing resources (web sites, VOP phone switches, webcams, etc) for hams and emergency responders to use.

For this year's SCALE, all the events of the previous year will be reprised plus a BOF (Birds of a Feather) session will be hosted by AREDN.

BOFs are meetings among small groups that want to get together and discuss their project. SCALE provides meeting rooms in the evenings free of charge. The AREDN (ham digital networking) group will meet on the evening of the 4th (Saturday). It will be a free-wheeling discussion covering whatever topics the group likes. It could be

Meet & Greet / Face to Face / Introductions
AREDN firmware overview
Firmware installation demo
Application discussion / presentation
Local network backfill discussion
Q & A - a few of the AREDN developers will be there to take your questions (well, at least one :-) and whatever else the group decides on.

For those interested in getting started with Linux, SCALE holds training sessions on Saturday and Sunday. In the morning an installfest is held - bring a machine and the SCALE training proctors will help you get Linux installed on it. In the afternoon a trainer from the Linux Foundation will cover basic system administration skills.

The classes are first come, first served so if you're interested, come early to get a seat. Hardware requirements are posted on the SCALE web site.

As an organizer of SCALE I have some free admissions to hand out. Ping me separately if you're interested.

SCALE is a fun event. You'll enjoy yourself more than you think!

73 Orv W6BI

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: Anyone interested in participating in this year's SCaLE event, its "N6S" Radio Station support and/or operation, whether as a core team member or as a FREE Pass recipient, should contact Vern Potter (W6NCT, <u>w6nct@arrl.net</u>) *as soon as possible*, indicating interest level and availability.

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, February 9, 2017

Call to Order:

President, Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 8 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 18, with no guests.

Introductions:

A brief round of introductions was made. Frank thanked those who attended the memorial service for Spencer Smith, N6IWY. Frank asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence to remember our Silent Keys, Spencer and also Dale Manquen, KO6VO, who recently passed away. Both Spencer and Dale had served as Officers in the Club. In recent years, Spencer served as Vice President from 2005 to 2007. Dale Manquen served as President from 2002 through 2007 and as Treasurer from 2001 to 2003.

Program:

Frank Valdez announced that Steve King, KE6WEZ, is sick and would not be able to speak at this meeting. Frank is filling in for Steve to speak on the subject of Ventura County ACS which is under the County OES. Frank began with an Organization Chart showing the eight areas of the county ACS. He described the geographic areas and cities and the leadership in each one. Frank showed his three band portable station setup that he uses with the Tri-Band "SST" antenna, AGM lead acid batteries and solar panels. For each of the 8 ACS Areas, Frank mentioned the Emergency Stations that are activated during the "ORT" (Operational Readiness Test) that is held every other month, (Feb. April, June, etc.). The regular weekly ACS net is held on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm in each of the 8 areas on local repeaters. The local nets are followed by a county-wide district net is held at 7:30pm on the Sulphur Mountain repeater with links on the WD6EBY repeater system. These nets are held on VHF-UHF repeaters, but Frank mentioned that Oxnard takes check-ins on 40meter HF on Tuesdays and there is a Wednesday night 40meter net on 7.214MHz SSB from 7pm to 8pm. At the end of his talk, Frank and others told about past real emergencies such as fires and the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Frank told stories of how they coped and provided communications in different and difficult conditions.

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<u>Break</u>: A 20 minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing:

The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Steve Noll, WA6EJO, who was not present to win the \$10 prize. The prize amount will be increased to \$20 for our next regular meeting on March 9, 2017. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.

Prize Raffle:

After the prize raffle drawing, the Grand Prize, a Baofeng UV-B6 Dual Band HT, was won by Jay Harland, AG6JF.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

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		gnb.2112@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	What will <u>you</u> do?						
Youth Coordinator	Dante Smith	W6JCQ		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 Member	s 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.simisettlers.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

Including pictures in the newsletter really enhances its appeal. We all like to see pictures about antennas, radios, projects and events. But pictures take up a lot of room in a newsletter and I don't mean page space. Depending on the resolution of the images, one or two pictures can take the file size of the newsletter from 500k to 5megs in no time flat. But if you try to keep the file size down you end up with grainy fuzzy images where you can't tell what you're looking at. All I can tell you is to use your best judgment and be aware that there are mail servers out there with size limits on attachments to emails.

So where do you get these pictures? From yourself and other members, of course, but also various places on the web. There's lots of free clipart out there just steer clear of the sites that want you to sign up for access. If you see a picture on a web site that you think might look good in the newsletter be sure to get the OK from the site's owner to use it. I have yet to have someone turn me down. Just remember to give credit where credit is due.

- 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:	: Type of Membership:	Simi Valley, Ca.					
New Member □ Renewal □	Individual (\$18/yr) □ Family (\$20/yr) □	Wesvs Con Radio					
Name:							
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □					
Address:	City:	State: Zip:					
Phone: ()	Alt. Phone: ()					
E-Mail Address:							
Additional Family Mer	mbers:						
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:					
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □					
Name:							
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □					
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:					
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □					
Badges requested: Y	∕es □ No □ How many?	X \$18.00 = \$					
Name (s) Call(s):							
Shirts requested: Yes	s \square No \square 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	e(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 or	dered:						
10							