



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

June 2017

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

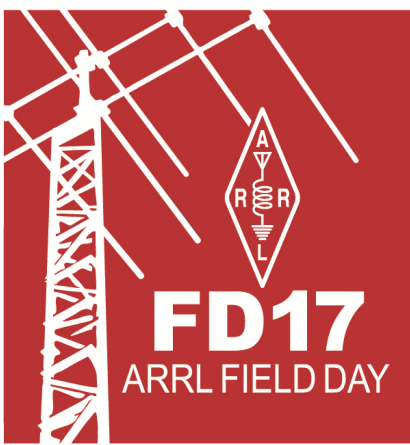
June 8, 2017

## June Program

### Field Day 2017

- Frank KI6OQ

Frank will give a run down on this year's Field Day plans.



[WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG)

## Static & Sparks

By President Frank Valdez KI6OQ

I want to thank Dick Norton N6AA for his presentation on the ARRL organization. He took a survey to see how many Settlers belonged to the ARRL. I'm happy to say at least half of the membership is enrolled. He explained how ARRL membership dues are used and about the services available. He also gave an update about the antenna issue for home owners with CCR's and HOA's. He recommended that we all contact our state representatives in regards to the new hands-free driving law.

Thank you Lea & Jim Veronica WA6NXK, for hosting the Club Picnic at their home. The attendance was low maybe due to members on vacation or forgetting to look at their email.

I urge the membership to participate in the Field Day event at the Reagan Library. The event will be a joint club effort by SSARC and VCARS. We will be operating 8 stations under the call of N6R. If you can spare the time, you should come and help set up and operate the stations.

I will speak at our June 8, 2017 meeting and talk about Field Day. I will be taking a list of member's participation for field day as well having dinner Saturday evening. Dinner will be from RED's BBQ. The menu will be the Ranch Style BBQ consisting of; Chicken Breast, Tri Tip Beef, Green Salad, Au Gratin Potatoes, Baked Beans for \$15.00 ea. Each club will provide shared soft drinks and dessert. Payment for dinner can be by check or cash with a deadline for payment June 21, 2017.

We will be holding our election at the next meeting. Also club dues are due. Again 73, Frank KI6OQ

## 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) Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <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>Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International</b> 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM  <b>Mesh Talk Net</b> 1st & 3rd Wed. @ 7:30pm on the WB6EBY repeaters	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.240 (+ 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.

### ACS/ARES Corner

- Sunday - 4 June 2017 - Love Run. Zak needs a few more volunteers. To help out, contact Zak at [n6pk@arrl.net](mailto:n6pk@arrl.net).
- Tuesday - 6 June 2017 - ORT night. We need volunteers to help man the Simi Hospital, Simi PD, and a remote site. If you want to help out, let me know ASAP at [ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com).
- Saturday/Sunday - 24/25 June 2017 - ARRL Field Day.



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 (7:30PM) 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, June 1, 2017, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

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

### Thursday, June 8, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

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

### Sunday, June 11, 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

### Saturday, June 17, 2017, Santa Maria Swapfest 2017

Newlove Picnic Grounds, Orcutt Hill, South of Santa Maria, CA

<http://www.mrwoolever.us/swapfest/>

### Thursday, June 22, 2017, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

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

### Saturday, June 24, 2017, 7:00am W6TRW Swap Meet

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

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

### Saturday & Sunday, June 24th & 25th 2017, ARRL Field Day

## Elections are Here!

Election time is here and will be held at the June meeting.

President - Will be vacant

Vice-President - Is vacant

Newsletter Editor - Will be vacant

PIO - Is vacant

Elmers - You can never have enough Elmers

You are, of course, encouraged to throw your hat into the ring for any of the board positions regardless of whether it's currently occupied or not.

## Raffle Prize!

Once again we will be raffling off another HT at the general meeting in June!

This time a Baofeng UV5RA!



# Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, May 11, 2017

- 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. 7 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 24, with 4 visitors.
- Introductions: A brief round of introductions was made. Visitors Roger Gale, KB6HDN, Dick Norton, N6AA, Rick Roome, WA6QGG, and John Seybold, KG6VK, were welcomed.
- Announcements: Frank said that our Treasurer, Glenn Daly, WA6GNB was ill today, so Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ, is substituting for Glenn at this meeting. Frank said that Diane Rehaut is doing better after an illness. Steve King, KE6WEZ, said we will have a joint ACS and SSARC booth this Saturday at the Simi Valley Street Fair and Emergency Expo, on Cochran Street. The Spring Picnic will be held at the home of Jim and Lea Veronica on Saturday, May 20. Jim said it would be best to start the Picnic at 11:00am since there is no shade in his back yard before that time.
- Election: Frank reminded members that our Election will be held at the June meeting, and we still need volunteer candidates for President, Vice President, P.I.O. and News Letter Editor.
- Mesh Update: Orv Beach, W6BI, spoke about the recent improvements to the Simi Valley Mesh Network. Orv sketched a map of the valley to show how new additions to the three nodes; Chatsworth Peak, Mellow Lane, and the north end of Sycamore, will improve coverage and the flow of traffic. The use of 3 and 5GHz frequencies will help spread out the passing of traffic.
- Program: Frank introduced Dick Norton, N6AA, Director of the ARRL South Western Division, who spoke about the ARRL and recent matters of interest to Radio Amateurs. He began with some of his history with 62 years as a licensed Ham and travels to many parts of the world for DX operation. Dick briefly spoke about the ARRL's new Code of Conduct for its Board of Directors. Regarding the new "Distracted Driving" law that California enacted in January 2017, Dick said it is being looked to determine the effects for mobile Ham operating. He said that radios with corded microphones seem to be OK, but use of handheld radios like "HTs" while driving may be cited. Concerning antenna restrictions, the League has been meeting and negotiating with the national association of HOAs. Dick said that he feels the new Amateur Radio Parity Act, HR 555, now in the Senate, has both plusses and minuses. Another issue the ARRL has been looking at is the population imbalance that has developed among the Divisions and Sections of the ARRL organization. Dick said that for now no changes have been made. Noting a slight decrease in ARRL membership since the dues increase, Dick mentioned many of the benefits of League membership. After questions, Frank thanked Dick and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Simi Settlers.
- Break: At 8:05pm, a 12-minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.
- Field Day: Rick Slater, AG6AY, gave an update on planning for the VCARS-SSARC Field Day at the Reagan Presidential Library. There are openings for operators for the 10Meter, 15Meter and 80Meter Phone bands. At this point it looks like we will have a smaller operation, perhaps as an "8A" class. Rick said the station layout will be about the same as those used last year. Frank, KI6OQ, said the SSARC will again organize the Saturday night dinner. We are planning to have Red's Barbecue, Tri-Tip and Chicken, and the cost per person will be \$15.
- Member Drawing: The winning name in the progressive Membership drawing was Jussi Eloranta, AA6KJ, who was not present to win the \$40 prize. The prize amount will be increased to \$50 for our next regular meeting on June 8, 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 winner of a Baofeng UV-B6 Dual Band HT was Steve Noll, WA6EJO.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.
- Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

# Growing the Ranks vs. Growing the Enjoyment

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/)), I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio."

People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of *Radio Waves*, the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- Soldering 101
- Multimeter 101
- Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- Foxhunts
- Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- Remote Operation
- Software-Defined Radios
- Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- Chasing Awards
- Learn CW
- Contesting

Tim writes, "Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home."

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- Power Supplies 101
- Mobile Operation 101
- ARRL 101
- RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just "growing the ranks." It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

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When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com). If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



## State of the Digital Mesh Network – Simi Valley and Surrounds

We continue to expand and make improvements on the still-young digital mesh network in the area. Here are some highlights:

The 3 GHz local backbone has been installed. It links Chatsworth Peak to the Mellow Lane repeater site, then from there to the Sycamore Road radio site. It has good performance – the links run at least 6 Megabits/second in both directions – but we have plans to make it run even faster!

We've added one new mesh station that I'm aware of: Rusty, K1GGS in Wood Ranch.

Jay AG6JF, Steve KE6WEZ, Rusty K1GGS and I spent some time at Mellow Lane on Memorial Day. We made the following changes:

- Upgraded the Nanostation M3 pointing at CP to a Rocket M3 + 120 degree sector antenna to try to improve the link (it helped some).
- Swapped out the Ethernet switch hooking the four nodes up there together for a Ubiquiti Toughswitch, which can be managed remotely.
- Turned the TP-Link 2 GHz node to a bearing between Jay AG6JF and Rusty K1GGS (approximately 285 degrees).
- Added an Ubiquiti Nanostation M5 (5 Gigahertz) pointing 270 degrees as Rusty has purchased both an NSM2 and NSM5.

We've started a weekly net using "Teamtalk" which allows us to chat via voice over the digital mesh network. We meet at 8 p.m. every Sunday night, a half-hour before the Simi Settlers FM voice net. We've had as many as half a dozen users join the net on the w6bi-vc-mesh-info Teamtalk server. Callsigns seen have been: W6BI, KE6WEZ, KM6FQ, N6OOR, AG6JF, K6NE and KG6WXC. If your digital mesh station has a good signal into the network the audio voice quality is excellent, far better than "communications grade". Teamtalk supports video too, and we've had several webcams going at the same time with reasonably good results.

Future plans for Simi Valley include better user coverage from the Sycamore and Mellow Lane sites, emergency power for those two sites and a camera at Mellow Lane.

Other plans include extending the network into the San Fernando Valley this summer, with a 2 GHz user access point on Verdugo Peak.

Orv W6BI

Photo: Orv W6BI and Jay, AG6JF installing a 3 GHz node at Mellow Lane.



## Simi Settlers' Leadership

<b>President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:frankki6oq@gmail.com">frankki6oq@gmail.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:gmb.2112@yahoo.com">gmb.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>	VACANT			
<b>Field Day</b>	<i>What will you do?</i>			
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Dante Smith	W6JCQ		<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>	VACANT			
<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>

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club Web Page: <http://www.simisetters.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

This will be my last entry as your newsletter editor. I has been a pleasure serving the membership and contributing in a small way to the activities that make our club what it is. I wish my successor all the best and look forward to reading and maybe occasionally contributing to future issues.

73, Joe DE W6JWP SK

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_