



Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

March 2021

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General Meetings
Time: 7:00pm on the 2nd
Thursday of every month.
Held via Zoom.

Programs

As we go to press, no speakers are lined up for March. Heard any good stories? How about a video tour of your shack?

Orv has created an email group at <https://groups.io> Post your favorite files, pictures, or ? for distribution to the club. You can sign up to receive (or not) emails each time a post is made. Will be a great way to send out this newsletter to everybody.

Thanks to past presenters:

February - Ron K6RIN gave a talk and slideshow about Quartzfest held in Arizona.

Meetings

The March general meeting is Thursday the 11th via Zoom.

The March board meeting will be on Thursday the 25th via Zoom.

If you did not get an invite for any meeting, send an email to our president, Brian at km6min_bh@yahoo.com. We are happy to have you!

Static & Sparks

President Brian - KM6MIN

As we go to press, we still have no monthly message from Brian.

Brian HAS has been abducted by aliens. Said he found them to be nice guys and is going back for a second visit!

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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 The Newbie net 7 pm, Bozo Repeater 147.885 (– 127.3)	Condor Connection 7pm (Plays Newsline) Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	LSB Net 8pm 3.908 MHz 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 ACS Area 1 Simplex net, 6:45 PM on 145.510MHz	Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM Mesh IRC Net. 6-10 PM Mesh VOIP Net* 8pm 2.4/5.8 GHz Mesh	LSB Net 8pm 3.908 MHz		SSARC SSB HF Net 8:30am 7.240 (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter CW-QRP 9am 7.032 MHz Quad Squad net 1PM on 21.365 MHz's

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

* For more information, see <http://www.pvarc.club/mesh/mesh-applications/>

Sunday Night Net Control Operators

Thanks to our fine Net Control Operators: Steve, KE6WEZ; Rick, W6DQE; Ray, KI6LKD; Jay, AG6JF, Brian KM6MIN and Dante, KK6JCQ.

ACS/ARES Corner

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 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)



Upcoming ACS/ARES Events:

1. New Winlink PO in VC - AG6AG-10 Packet Winlink
2. Mon. 03/01/2021 District Meeting
3. Saturday, May 8th, 2021 Red Cross Drill
4. Sat. 5/30/2021 Mountain to Beach Marathon

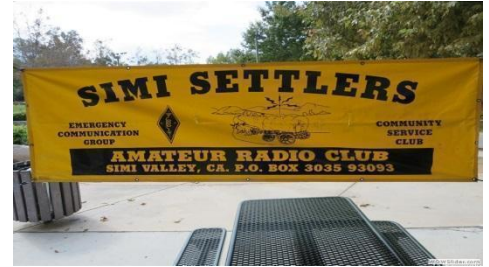
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Events

Thursday, March 4, 2021, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night
Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd, Simi Valley (even months)
Mod Pizza, 2941 Cochran St, Unit 1A, Simi Valley (odd months)

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting
Via Zoom

Thursday, March 25, 2021, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting
Via Zoom.



Projects

Projects listed here are intended to peak your interest. Ask questions or submit your entry for the next newsletter.

Repeater News from Orv W6BI

The new PVARC (Pleasant Valley ARC) repeater system was installed on **Saturday, March 6.**



As the path from the vehicle parking area to the building is sketchy, the safest approach will be to remove the majority of the equipment from the rack and reinstall it all once the rack is safely installed in the building. Moving the rack and its contents will take a team of at least six or seven people with strong backs. It will probably take the better part of the day to get it all moved into the building.

When completed, the new site will provide the following services:

- UHF Repeater 447.480 MHz, input and output PL 141.3 Hz.
- VHF Repeater 147.060 MHz. input and output PL 127.3 Hz.
- 420 MHz Link to Camarillo Hills site.
- 420 MHz Link to Chatsworth Peak site.
- 420 MHz Link to Sulphur Mountain site.
- 420 MHz Link to Santa Ynez Peak site.
- ROIP (Radio over IP) on-demand link to the Bozo Repeater and backup connection to 145.16 Santa Ynez Peak.
- Winlink server (Win10) with access available from the Mesh, 220 MHz packet and the Internet.

Keith W6KME will be the Winlink system manager.

- Mesh resource server (Debian Linux) – among other things, this will support the county Teamtalk server and a web server for the site.

Orv W6BI and Eric KG6WXC will be the system managers.

When this is done, all the PVARC repeaters will be linked again, save the old site repeaters.

On **Saturday, March 19** the upgrades and reconfiguration of the older site repeater system will be done. The plan for the day is:

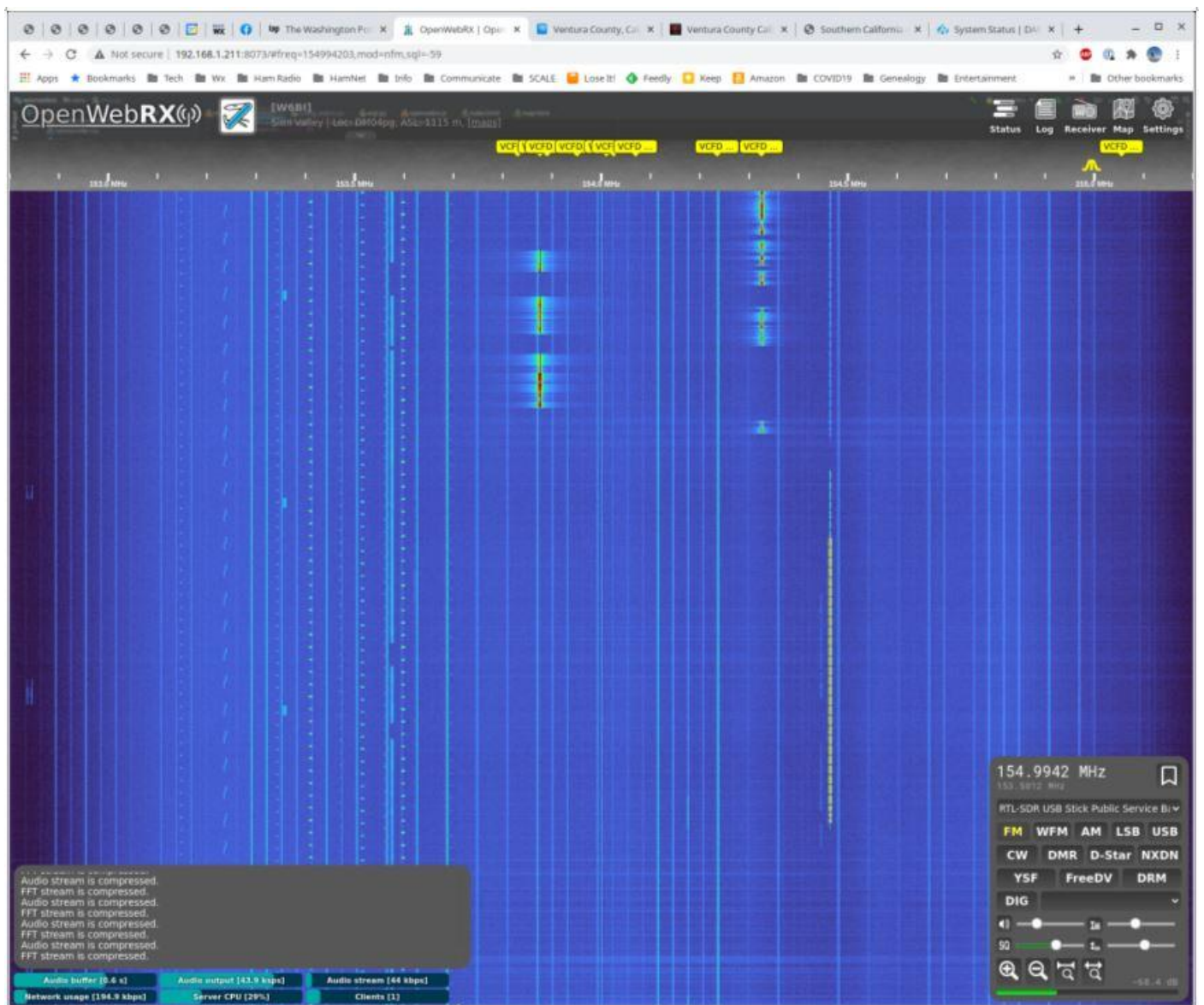
- Install a new model repeater controller and align the system audio.
- Tune and install new bandpass cavities for the UHF repeater receiver and for the 420 link receiver.
- Install the new 420 MHz link package to interconnect the new site. This will finish the relinking of all the PVARC repeaters.

SDR-based RF Scanner from Orv W6BI

I've been playing with scanner software that uses an RTL-SDR (software-defined radio) USB dongle. They look like this:



This particular one is considered higher quality than most, and as a result is a bit more expensive: \$25 :-)
Most of them have a connector for an external antenna but this particular one has an SMA connector. It also has a metal enclosure, which provides better shielding than a plastic enclosure, which many of them use.



There are all sorts of software packages for both Windows and Linux supporting these SDRs. The one I chose is called “openwebrx”. It’s one of the few that’s web based and the only one that supports multiple users.

It’s currently running on a Raspberry Pi 4 (small computer) in my shack, hooked to a mag mount antenna on an outside air conditioner. With that setup, it hears pretty well.

I plan to move it to the Simi North radio site soon (north of the north end of Sycamore Road). There it will be sitting on the ham radio mesh network and available to all users on the network (not just in Simi Valley).

The radio cabinet at Simi North was put up there in 1988 for the Simi Valley 2 meter and 220 repeaters. The repeaters are long gone, but fortuitously there’s an NMO mount and whip on the top of the enclosure. It was connected to a 220 MHz receiver for “out of band” repeater management (a legal requirement back then).

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It'll be an excellent antenna for the scanner. And because the Simi North site is elevated a few hundred feet above the surrounding terrain it will hear radio signals very well.

PVARC (the Pleasant Valley ARC) has a similar setup at the Reeves Road site, but it's an older RTL-SDR and its Raspberry Pi is a Model 3, which is a bit underpowered for the SDR software. So both will be getting upgrades. That particular site's SDR monitor is available over the Internet, if you know the secret URL :-)

(It will be made less secret after it's fully functional!)

Other news from Orv:

I've added an HF Gateway to my Winlink setup in my shack. It's scanning 40 and 20 meters waiting for connections, using both ARDOP ("Amateur Radio Digital Open Protocol") and "VARA HF". VARA HF is a newer protocol for transmitting data. While not nearly as fast as the mesh network, it's considerably faster than the old 300 baud HF packet radio. I'll be adding VARA FM soon on 2 meters. A number of hams in Ventura County have adopted it for use with Winlink.

Do it yourself Boom Microphone

I had an old "Luxo" lamp that took incandescent bulbs. Always ran hot with a 60 or 100 watt bulb in it, so not much fun. Took off the lamp head, removed some of the springs, and put a small metal can on it.



Here is the electret microphone element. Same thing as in almost every hand microphone, so no changes to the radio. The blue foam disk is a 3M scrubbie pad, and some white packing foam inside to dampen out echos. Peeking out from behind the foam is a tiny orange capacitor required by the microphone.



Eric / ke6mlf

Letter From The Editor

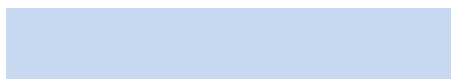


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Please submit articles, pictures, etc. on things of interest to our SSARC community for publication to me at ericoberg1@gmail.com. Such items may discuss your recent antenna project, shack modifications, new operating modes, anecdotes from portable field operations, and so forth. A picture with a caption works. A few sentences strung together works. A few paragraphs, a few pages with detailed illustrations.... It's all good.

73, Eric KE6MLF



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**Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club
General Membership Meeting, February 11, 2021**

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm by President, Brian Hernandez, KM6MIN. Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting, held over the internet using Zoom. 8 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was approx. 20.
- President: Brian gave an update on the remodeling work at his home.
- Secretary: Minutes from the January General Meeting are in the February newsletter
- Treasurer: Treasurer Glenn Daly, WA6GNB, reported the account balance now stands at \$2002.87, with \$41 of it being petty cash. He said there have been no new memberships or renewals since last month. It was MSP to approve the Treasurer's Report.
- Membership: Membership chairman Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ, said he has updated the Club membership roster.
- Publicity: PIO, Linda Parker, said there was nothing new to report.
- Newsletter: Editor Eric Oberg, KE6MLF, said the February newsletter has been posted on the webpage and it has been posted on the new 'groups.io' page that Orv Beach has set up for the Club. Eric welcomes any contributions for publication in future issues.
- Member news: Lisa Trent, KK6AKR, announced that she has a Grandson born today. Frank Valdez, KI6OQ, said that he and his wife have had their first Covid-19 vaccine shot. Frank also asked if anyone had operated on Winter Field Day. Rick Galbraith, W6DQE, spoke about his project rebuilding his ham station and antenna system.
- Program: President Brian turned the zoom meeting over to Ron Nelson, K6RIN, who gave a presentation on "How I spent my Winter Vacation", the story of his trip to Quartzfest 2021. He also attended Quartzfest 2020 and his talk included pictures and descriptions of the activities at this ham fest and how different this year's event was compared to 2020. Due to the Covid-19 situation it was called "QuartzPause" this year. It was much smaller this year with about 155 registered to attend versus over 1,000 last year. The event was held during the week of Jan. 17 through Jan 23, in the Arizona desert. It is a one-week free event, but the organization takes donations. There would normally be three areas with seminar presentations for large groups, but only one was set up this year with outdoor seating. There would normally be a special event radio station set up in a trailer. Other highlight activities include: A Potluck dinner, nighttime campfire social gatherings, "hootenanny" music, and Ham license testing. After his presentation, Ron answered questions. He recommends Quartzfest as a "must-do" event. (The website is Quartzfest.org)
- Member Drawing: Brian made the drawing for the progressive Membership drawing and reported the winning name was Michael Parker, KN6MSP. Michael was not logged into this Zoom meeting, so he did not win the \$20 prize. The prize amount will now increase to \$30.00 for our March meeting. While the Club continues to hold meetings on Zoom, members must be logged into the meeting to win. The prize amount grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.
- Adjournment: The Zoom meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

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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

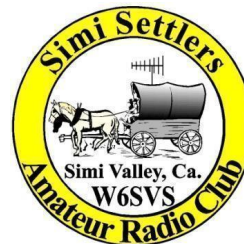
Simi Settlers' Leadership				
President	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595	km6min_bh@yahoo.com
Vice President	VACANT			
Secretary	John Percival	WI6O		johnspercival1@gmail.com
Treasurer	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		gnb.2112@yahoo.com
Committee Chairpersons				
Webmaster	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com
Newsletter	Eric Oberg	KE6MLF	(805) 791-0745 cell	ericoberg1@gmail.com
Membership	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com
PIO	Linda Parker		(805) 558-1731 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com
Raffle Prizes	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	rick@keymaterial.com
Youth Coordinator	VACANT			
Historian	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		mtweedy@roadrunner.com
Net Coordinator	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595	
Net Coordinator	Steve King	KE6WEZ		ke6wez@gmail.com
Food Services	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		ki6ksv@gmail.com
Room Coordinator	Linda Parker		(805) 558-1731 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com
Elmers and Members at Large				
Past-President	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019cell	AB6BW1@gmail.com
Elmer	VACANT			
Advisor	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		wildpoky45@earthlink.net
Advisor	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		jhutch17@adelphia.net
Advisor	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		speedy@earthlink.net

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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: _____

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