



Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

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The next **meeting** is at the

Simi Senior Center,

3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley.

Thursday January 12 at 7:00 PM.

The next Simi Settlers Pizza Night is at

Toppers, 2408 Erringer Road, Simi Valley.

Thursday January 5 at 6:00 PM.



What Excitement Awaits Us for this Year?

January 2023

Timely Information and Assorted Tidbits:

No meetings were held in December, and the **January** meeting has some important business:

We are going to **VOTE** to increase the dues.

We are going to **VOTE** on the “Eyeball QSO” card. We have two entries by Ron, K6RIN, and I, KE6MLF.

Glenn, WA6GNB is retiring from the **Treasurer** position after 12 years. We need a **new** volunteer by February. Anybody know how to run a spreadsheet?

The RF bar graph **PCB project** will continue where it left off. The schematic and board layout are DONE. We will go over finishing details and prepare to send the board off for fabrication. Left is buying parts and programming the Arduino.

Here is an image of the finished board:

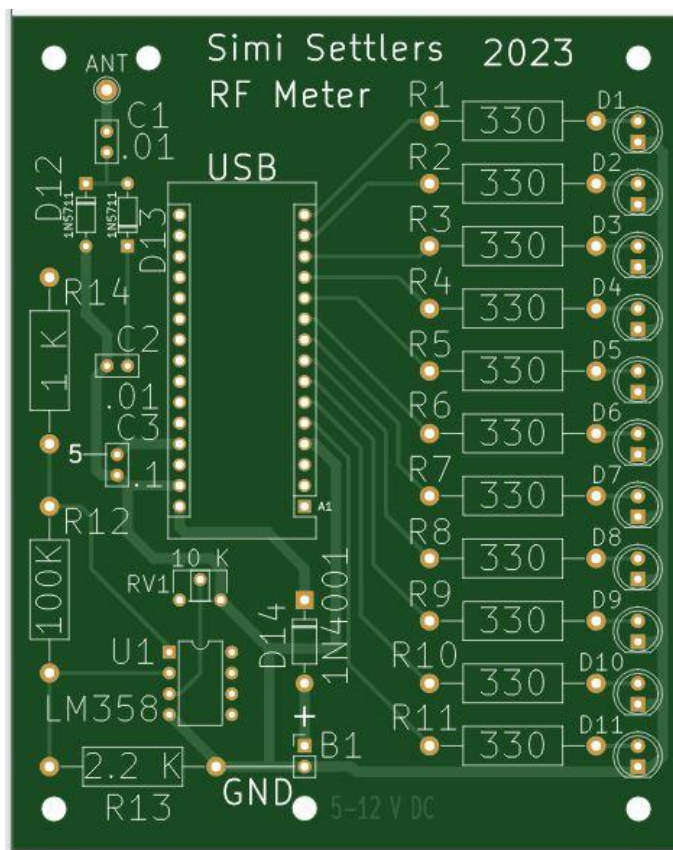
It is 3.2 inches wide and 4 inches high.

Cost is about \$54 for a quantity of 10.

Cost is \$64 for a quantity of 20.

#4 mounting holes in the corners, wire strain relief holes for the antenna and power leads.

Board thickness is .032 inches. We can choose colors other than green!



January 2023

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 Newslane) 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 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/>

Our repeaters are too quiet!

If you are sitting around evenings or on the weekend, turn on your radio and listen in. Sometimes there is local activity on 146.520, the simplex channel.

Here are our 8:30 PM Sunday night net controllers:

Dec	4	Ron K6RIN
	11	Matt KN6SEC
	18	Brian KM6MIN
	25	Rick W6DQE
Jan	1	Kevin KD6UTC

January 2023

ACS/ARES Corner

Frank Valdez KI6OQ is the Area 1 Emergency Coordinator

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, just message Frank Valdez at frankki6oq@gmail.com.



Be sure to check www.vccomm.org for the latest !

If anyone is interested in how to set up your own packet station, RMS Winlink station, or a Mesh Node, contact Frank, he will point you in the right direction.

Barry K6ZA wants to remind everybody that they have options to check in with something other than a 2 meter handheld. The **80 meter net is Tuesday nights at 18:30 (6:30 PM) on 3.987 MHz.**

The **Area 1** (Simi Valley) net occurs Tuesdays. Generally it is just a brief check in, but usually some news about upcoming events is passed on.

The simplex net is on 145.510 at **6:45 PM**. The regular net is on the 146.805 (-, PL100) repeater at **7:00 PM. Stop by and say Hi.** You do not have to do anything other than check in to test out your simplex or repeater connection.

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.

Nothing on the calendar for January 2023.

Visit vccomm.org for more updates!

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Member Updates

Mike Tweedy got these great pictures of the Holiday party at Jim and Lea's home.



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From Paul WD6EBY via Eric KE6MLF,

Paul WD6EBY, Eric KG6WXC and I went to the South Mountain repeater site and continued on making a place for the back up batteries. There is not much room left in the shack, so the batteries are going to live in a “dog house”. In a few weeks, we will go back up and lift the (very heavy) batteries into place, and devise a roof for the containment. Cold temperatures, howling winds, and the rocky ground made for challenging work.



January 2023

And also from Mike K6VI:

A Low-Cost Dipole Antenna System for Motorhomes By Mike Tweedy, KV6I

A couple of years ago, I bought a previously owned 32-foot Class-A motorhome for camping since my XYL and I love to go camping. The only problem was I wasn't sure how to install a HF antenna system since my earlier (and much smaller) Class-C motorhome had an aluminum roof where I mounted a vertical antenna on top where the roof acted as a counterpoise element for the antenna. The "newer" motorhome that I had now bought had a non-metallic roof where I was unable to utilize the previous type of antenna configuration so I tried to determine whether I would be successful in using an elevated dipole type of antenna instead.

It turns out that MFJ Enterprises offers a small dipole-type antenna system utilizing a mini-dipole mount and a pair of matching hamstick-type antennas for about \$53 (e.g. MFJ-2220). As for a mast, you can join together several 5-foot 1.25" O.D. steel mast sections or use cheaper PVC pipe which I chose to use. For my project I bought two 10-ft. lengths of 1-1/2" Schedule 40 PVC pipe (SKU# 70011N) from Home Depot for less than \$7 each. I took one of the 10-ft. lengths and sawed it in half to make two 5-ft. sections. I then used a 1-1/2" PVC coupler to glue together one of the 5-ft. sections to the remaining 10-ft. section to create a 15-ft. mast. I used a series of PVC pipe reducers to neck down the end of the mast to terminate with a short section of 3/4" PVC pipe that the dipole mount assembly can clamp to (see Fig. 1). If you cannot find the required type of PVC pipe reducers at your local plumbing store, they can be purchased directly online from McMaster-Carr (www.mcmaster.com).

To install the antenna and mast assembly to the motorhome, you need some way to easily attach it to a support structure such as the ladder that most motorhomes or RVs have at the rear of the vehicle. Since I am not as young and limber as I used to be to climb the ladder and mechanically attach it to the ladder itself, I was looking for quick and easy way to install it from the ground with minimal hassle. It turns out that Flag Pole Buddy (www.flagpolebuddy.com) makes a system that allows you to quickly mount the antenna and mast assembly to the ladder in only a few minutes. They offer two sizes of mast mounts; a 1-1/2" diameter and a 2" diameter. For my project I chose to use the larger 2" size (P/N 106020-M) since the outer diameter of a 1-1/2" PVC pipe is nearly 2" in diameter. The key feature of the Flag Pole Buddy system is a slotted upper mast mount that allows you to slide the antenna mast into the diagonal slot and then rotate it vertically to lock the upper section of the mast in place (see Fig. 2). The bottom end of the mast can then be lowered into a cup mount that attaches to the bottom half of the ladder (see Fig. 3). The Flag Pole Buddy is also offered at a discount price of less than \$60 from the DX Store (www.dxstore.com/rv_ladder_antenna_mount.html) under P/N 106201 for the 2" diameter mount that I used.

When threading the antenna elements to the mount assembly, I found it helpful to apply a little wax to the hamstick threads to allow easy assembly and removal without binding. The total height of the antenna with the 15-ft. mast is about 20 feet since the bottom cup mount is about 5 feet off the ground. This height may be adequate for the 10 and 15 meter operation but ideally the antenna should be placed a bit higher for 20 meters. To accomplish this, I made a 5-ft. extender pole using the remaining 5 foot length of the 1-1/2" diameter pipe to push the antenna assembly to about 25 feet high which is about the max limit the Flag Pole Buddy system can handle. As shown in Fig. 4, the extender pole is terminated with a short section of 2.0" PVC pipe approximately a foot long designed to provide a slip-fit engagement to the bottom end of the 15-ft. mast while maintaining rigidity of the entire structure when elevated in place. If you prefer to tighten the clearance fit even further, you can wrap several layers of adhesive-backed Teflon tape (McMaster Carr P/N 76475A34) to the mast prior to inserting into the extender pole cup to make a more snug fit but without risk of binding.

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For coax, I chose readily available and inexpensive RG-58 cable which has relatively low loss on HF bands for a short 50-ft. length. Because coax cable is considered an unbalanced feedline compared to a balanced feedline such as ladder line or twin-lead, there may be undesirable RF common-mode currents flowing on the shield side of the coax. To ameliorate this condition it is frequently recommended to create a coax balun choke using several loops of the coax close to the antenna feedpoint. Since I didn't want to make the antenna any more top-heavy than normal, I chose the alternate method of installing ferrite snap-on chokes to the coax near the antenna feedpoint. A kit of five snap-on RF chokes can be purchased for about \$15 from Palomar Engineers (www.palomar-engineers.com) as P/N SNO-1/4 -5. A picture of the ferrite choke string installed and taped in place on the coax is shown in Fig. 5.

The hamsticks I chose to use for checkout and testing were for the 20m band since that is the HF band I generally work the most. After mounting the mast and antenna to the desired 25-ft. height, I used an antenna analyzer such as a MFJ-259C or Comet CAA500 unit to tune the antenna for minimum SWR. After loosening the setscrew and adjusting the antenna length by either extending or retracting the elements before tightening, I was able to achieve a reasonable SWR of 1.7:1. This can easily be tolerated by most modern day HF rigs but as an added precaution I also used an LDG AT-100Pro antenna tuner with my Yaesu FT-100D radio as part of my mobile setup (See Fig. 6). A picture taken of the fully assembled mini-dipole antenna raised to the maximum 25 ft. high is shown in Fig. 7.

Every Wednesday at noon, I normally operate my base station at home and participate in the Northrop Grumman Family Net on 14.270 MHz which is an open net for active and retired Northrop Grumman employees of which I am one. On 4/10/19, I operated from my motorhome parked in my driveway which admittedly was not the best location considering I was parked between a pair of 2-story houses. I was successful, however, in joining the HF net and received an S-5 signal report from the K3NEM net control operator in Linthicum, Maryland which I consider quite acceptable under the circumstances. For comparison purposes, I do generally get a signal report of S-7 or better when operating from my home QTH but in those instances I am aided by using a 500 watt linear amplifier and a roof-mounted Inverted-Vee antenna extending some 20 feet above my two-story house.

For traveling in my motorhome, I found I could easily stow the longer 15-ft. section of the mast underneath the RV by sliding it between the gas tank mounting straps and over the rear axle and securing it in place with a pair of heavy-duty bungee cords. A picture of the stowed configuration is shown in Figures 8 and 9. Similarly, the 5 ft. extender pole and the two dipole elements can easily be stored inside the motorhome.

Wishing everyone Happy Camping and good DX hunting!

73's de Mike KV6I



Fig. 1- Top End of Mast Construction



Fig. 2- Detail of Upper Slotted Mount



Fig. 3- Bottom Mast Mount



Fig. 4- Mast Extender



Fig. 5- Ferrite Chokes Installed on Coax



Fig. 6- Motorhome Rig w/ Optional Tuner



Fig. 7- Erected 25-ft. Dipole Antenna



Fig. 8- Secured Mast Assembly for Travel



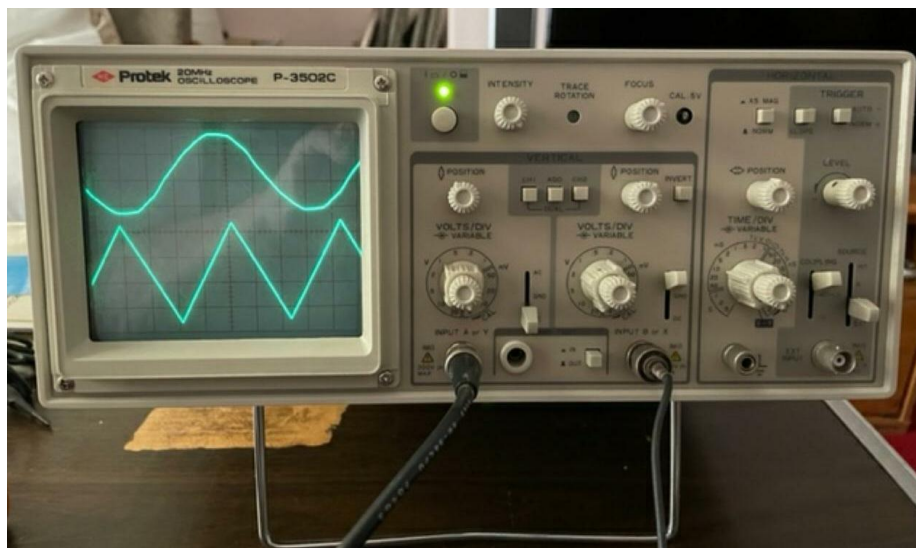
Fig. 9- Stowed Mast Location under RV

SSARC Marketplace

This section of the newsletter is for Simi Settler club members to post various used or previously owned items for sale that they may no longer have a need or use of. Please submit a brief description of the sale items (along with a photo if possible) and suggested price to Eric Oberg KE6MLF, the newsletter editor, at least two days before newsletter publication. It is suggested that a portion of each sale be donated to the SSARC treasury to help support the club's several activities. The term "OBO" means "Or Best Offer" and serves only as a starting point in negotiating a fair price.

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PROTEK 3502C OSCILLOSCOPE



This dual channel oscilloscope ranges from DC to 20 MHz. Input impedance is 1 M Ω shunted with 20 pF. Vertical deflection ranges from 5 mV to 20 V/Div over 12 ranges. Time base ranges from 0.2 μ sec to 0.5 sec/DIV on 20 ranges. Channel inputs can be selected for either Channel A or Channel B separately, Channel A and B displayed together, or a display of Channel A signal summed with Channel B. X-Y operation can be selected as well to display various lissajous patterns as desired. Two scope probes are provided with the unit. Perfect for testing applications and/or general experimental use.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$60 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

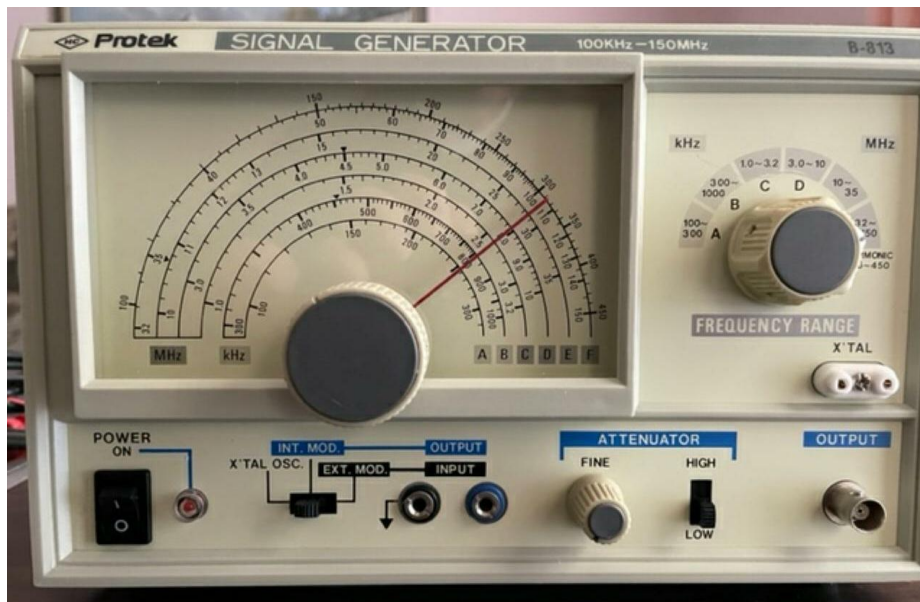
EICO 390 FUNCTION GENERATOR



This function generator can provide sine wave, triangular wave or square wave outputs with a frequency range of 0.2 Hz to 200 KHz selectable over 4 ranges. Output waveforms can be selected to perform a wide variety for testing of electronic equipment. Output up to 10 v p-p is provided which may be attenuated from 0 to -50 dB. This unit also provides a sweep generator which can provide linear or logarithmic sweep modes of up to 1000:1 sweep range with a choice of three different sweep speeds.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$25 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

PROTEK B-813 SIGNAL GENERATOR



This signal generator provides an RF sine wave signal from 100 kHz to 150 MHz over 6 different frequency ranges. The output level can be adjusted from 30 mV to 250 mV RMS Max via the attenuator control. The unit also allows a 1 MHz to 15 MHz external crystal to be used for operation on a fixed frequency in lieu of VFO operation. Output is modulated at a 1 kHz signal at a 1V RMS level.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$25 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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MOBILE HAMSTICK ANTENNAS



I have five MFJ 1/4 wave hamstick-type antennas for sale, ranging from 75m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m plus a 5/8 wave Hustler CG-144 for operation on 2m. All of them feature a standard 3/8-24 threaded mount with a Hustler QD-2 quick disconnect adapter installed for quick R&R when operating on different bands. Typically the MFJ hamsticks sell for around \$30 new, the Hustler 2m antenna currently lists for \$73 while the Hustler QD-2 quick disconnect adapters sell for \$35 per set.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$100 for all or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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ASTRON SS-30M SWITCHING POWER SUPPLY



This DC power supply is a switching type unit that weighs less than 5.5 lbs. Output voltage is 13.8 VDC. This supply is capable of outputting 25 Amps continuously or up to 30 Amps intermittently with less than a 33% duty cycle. This unit has been lightly used and is in near-mint condition. Included are all cables and leads necessary to hook up to your rig.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$30 OBO. Please contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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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 cell	km6min_bh@yahoo.com
Vice President	VACANT			
Secretary	Ron Nelson	K6RIN		rnelson759@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		gnb.2112@yahoo.com
Committee Chairpersons				
Webmaster	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(661) 361-5955 cell	mgriffi79@yahoo.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	(805) 231-9683 cell	mtweedy@roadrunner.com
Net Coordinator	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595 cell	km6min_bh@yahoo.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) 694-9019 cell	AB6BW1@gmail.com
Advisor	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		ki6ksv@gmail.com
Advisor				

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2022 - 2023

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 (\$25/yr) ☐
Family (\$30/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): _____

Shirt Printing: Yes ☐ No ☐ How many? _____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____

Name (s) Call(s): _____ (Self Supplied Polo Shirt, no emblem or pocket)

Hats Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐ How many? _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Name (s) Call(s): _____

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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