Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

The next **meeting** is at the
Simi Senior Center,
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley.
Thursday May 11 at 7:00 PM.

The next Simi Settlers Pizza Night is at
Toppers, 2408 Erringer Road, Simi Valley.
Thursday May 4 at 6:00 PM.

May 6th is the Simi Valley Street Fair. Ron, K6RIN is exploring the possibility of getting the Settlers a booth at the event.

May 21st is the Mountains to Beach Marathon in Ojai / Ventura. Lots of us will be doing support at this event.

DUES are coming due on June!

May 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 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 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 for the next few months:

Apr	2	Ron K6RIN
	9	Matt KN6SEC
	16	Brian KM6MIN
	23	Kevin KD6UTC
May	7	Ron K6RIN
	14	Matt KN6SEC
	21	Brian KM6MIN
	28	Kevin KD6UTC
Jun	4	Ron K6RIN
	11	Matt KN6SEC
	18	Brian KM6MIN
	25	Kevin KD6UTC

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.

Visit **vccomm.org** for more updates!

Ride to Defeat ALS scheduled **Saturday May 6**
Contact Stu Sheldodn, AG6AG stu@ag6ag.org

Mountains 2 Beach Marathon is scheduled for **Sunday May 21st**.
Contact Burt KA6BJA at bjauerbach@gmail.com

Member Updates

Changes coming to Chatsworth Peak By Orv W6BI

Chatsworth Peak is on the border between Los Angeles and Ventura counties, south of the peak of the Santa Susana Pass. Like most mountaintops in Southern California, it's littered with radio equipment – commercial, governmental and amateur radio.

CP also has a shortwave broadcast station, KVOH, which broadcasts religious content. You can see its two tall towers as you transit the pass. Those aren't antennas, but rather support a huge log periodic Yagi pointed at South America.

Recently the top 10-12 acres containing all the radio stations sold. For many years the previous owner hadn't allowed the county to come up and inspect his property, most likely because he'd never bothered to get a conditional use permit.

With the sale of the property the county was able to inspect the property, and the results weren't pretty. The only thing that has a permit to be there is the KVOH transmitter building. The county says everything not permitted has to go – all the towers, antennas (including the shortwave station's) and enclosures. Stuff can be put back after the ground is scraped clean and then permits applied for and approved.

We heard that the ministry that runs the radio station is strapped for cash; it's uncertain if they'll restore their antenna or abandon the site.

There's a large container up on the upper plateau that houses ham radio gear from several organizations (Cactus, for one), with a large tower on each side of the container. It all has to go.

There's a smaller lower plateau where the PVARC container is located. It houses the WE6EBY VHF & UHF repeaters, and AREDN network gear for coverage of the east end of Simi Valley, plus a link to the county network backbone.

The good news is, that container is under 100 square feet so the county doesn't care about it. The bad news is, the new owner wants a 300% rent increase. Other organizations up there likely got similar rent increases.

That amount of money is more than PVTAC (the non-profit that finances PVARC) can afford. So the PVTAC board of directors made the decision to vacate Chatsworth Peak, and PVARC has started planning that process.

By the time you read this the VHF repeater may already be off air. The network gear and possibly the UHF repeater will be removed probably the first week of May, and the remainder to follow within a couple of weeks. The container itself belongs to Ventura County and will remain behind.

PVARC is searching for a replacement location or locations for the displaced equipment. Plans will be announced when finalized.

The repeaters will probably stay off the air until they find a new home. In the meantime, the WD6EBY repeater on South Mountain (447.48, PL of 156.7) provides usable coverage of most of Simi Valley. We're also working to provide network coverage for Simi Valley during the transition with some temporary node placement.

The top of Chatsworth Peak has beautiful views of both the Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley. The new owner hopes to create a destination venue for weddings, etc. there, similar to the Odyssey restaurant in Granada Hills. Other areas on the peak are expected to be made available for filming TV shows and movies.

There's likely to be considerable expense involved with this unexpected and unplanned change. If you're inclined to donate towards the effort, there's a PayPal link on pvarc.club. And it's tax-deductible if that helps.

Stay tuned!

Alas, Chatsworth Peak, we were just getting to know you...

May 2023

An FT8 project by Kerwin N6YHS

Sounds like Kerwin is getting into the swing of things. He spotted this project on Hackaday.com, A simple FT8 Transceiver.

Note 1 - The original article was spotted on hackaday.com, and there IS some good reading there in the notes. The link is
https://hackaday.com/2021/09/25/the-simplest-ft8-transceiver-youll-ever-build/

Note 2 - A more current link is **https://github.com/Rotron/Pocket-FT8**

A pocket sized FT8 Transceiver utilizing Teensy 3.6, Si4735 and Si5351 technology.
Pocket FT8: A Palm Size FT 8 Transceiver Copyright (C) 2021, Charles Hill

Please use this software at your own risk. Project Features:
FT8 Message Transmit and Receive
Small Size, 3.5” X 2.75” X 1.125”

May 2023

100 mW power output @ 50 ohm load
1 uVolt Receiver Sensitivity
Single 5 volt power input, battery or wall wart
Silicon Labs Technology, Si4735 SSB Receiver & Si5351 Transmit FSK Clock
SD Card Contact Logging
320 X 480 Resistive Color Touch Screen

Attributions:
This project is based on two significant software projects:
Si4735 Library developed by Ricardo Caritti: https://github.com/pu2clr/SI4735
FT8 Decoding Library by Karlis Goba: https://github.com/kgoba/ft8_lib

DSP Audio Architecture Decoding FT8 requires significant data storage and processing speed.
In order to optimize both program storage and processing speed requirements so that the Teensy 3.6 is not over taxed, the Teensy Audio Library has been modified to allow Analog to Digital conversion to be run at the rate of 6400 samples per second. This allows audio data processing to be done at 3200 Hz. The 3200 Hz audio processing with a 2048 FTT to process the received audio for FT8 decoding yields a bin spacing of 3.125 Hz.

The algorithms developed by Karlis Goba use the 3.125 Hz spaced FFT bins to be screened in both frequency and time so that errors in symbol frequency and time reception can be overcome to provide really great FT8 decoding. The end spacing of the FT8 algorithms is 6.25 Hz.
The Teensy 3.6 source code and all other project documentation is packaged in the "Pocket_FT8_Publish.zip" archive.

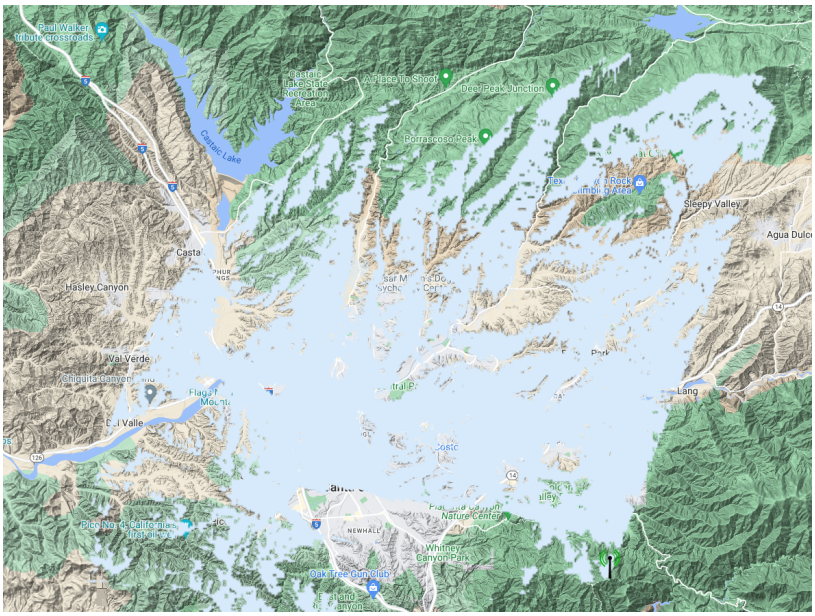
May 2023

Work Crew to Loop Canyon, April 8th By Orv W6BI

About four years ago, we put an AREDN network node on a 100 foot tower at a site in Loop Canyon north of the L.A. basin. If you're curious about its location, find LACOFD Fire Camp 9. It's a couple of hundred yards ENE of there.

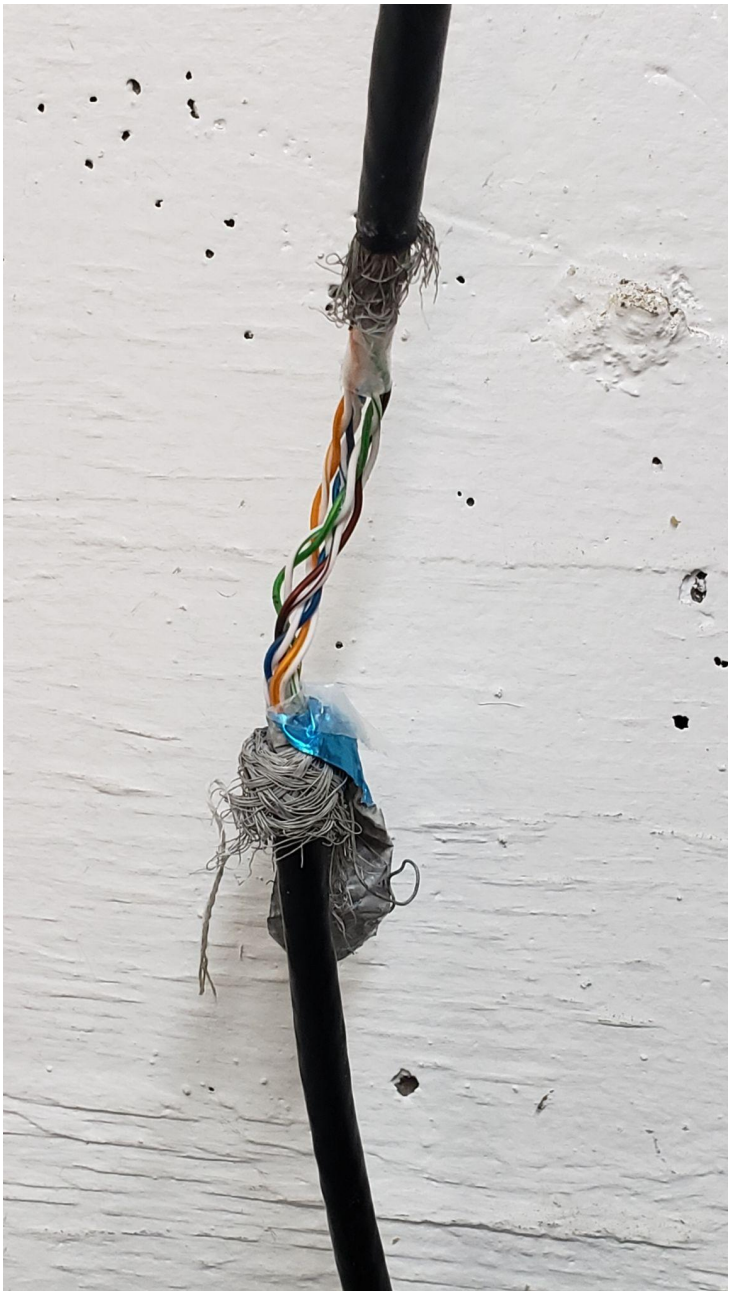
May 2023

The node covered the Santa Clarita Valley fairly well.



May 2023

About two years later, it stopped working. We made a trip up there and upon investigation, we found water was draining out of the bottom end of the cable and had filled up the surge suppressor (!). We replaced the surge suppressor, and as a temporary fix stripped the cover off of the Ethernet cable and made a "drip loop" so the water would find a place to drain.



It worked!

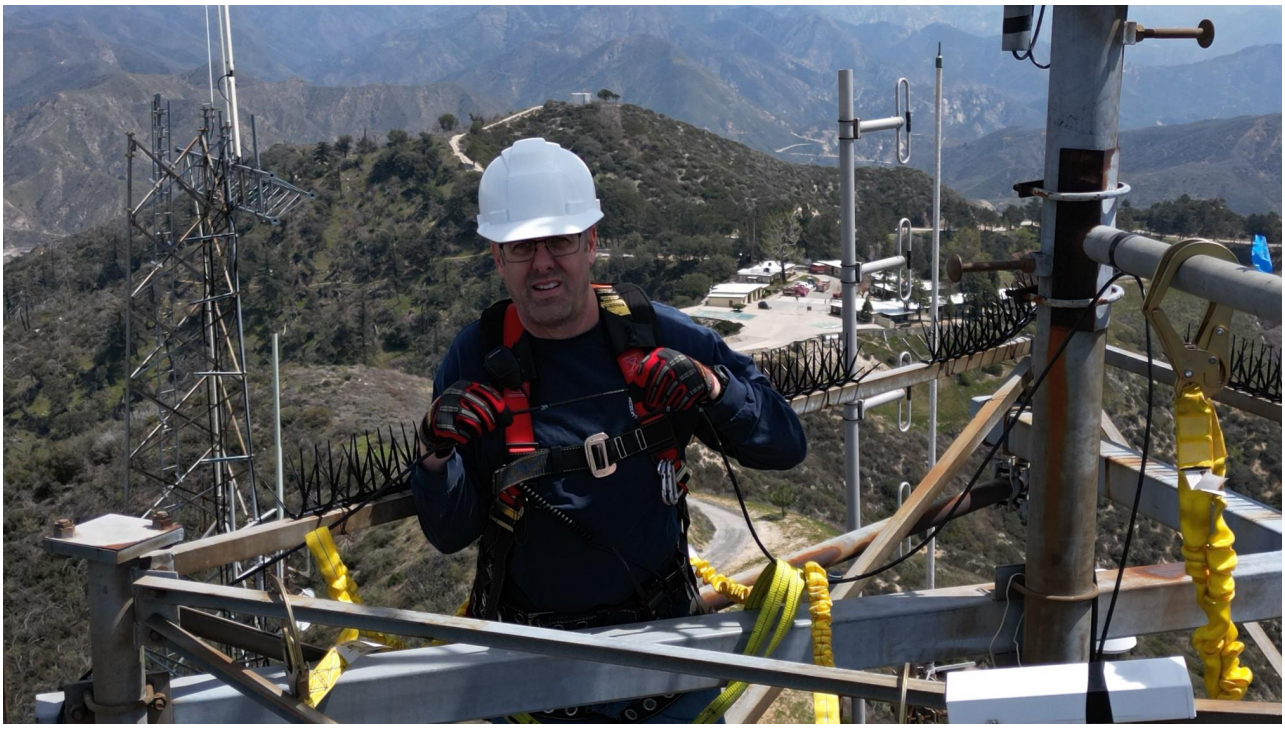
May 2023

The node stayed on the air for another year and a half, then it lost the ability to make DtD (intra-node) connections. A few months later it went off the air again.

On April 8th a work crew consisting of Eric KE6MLF, Eric KB6DYJ, Justin K6BFG, Joe N6BFG, Bill AB6BW and myself went to the site. KB6DYJ and K6BFG went up the tower, KE6MLF did ground support and cable management. AB6BW took videos with the drone. I worked in the building to confirm network connections were still intact and to verify the new node came onto the network when powered up. Joe, who's new to AREDN came along to watch, learn and help as needed

The guys ran two runs of Ethernet cable down the tower and into the building (~150 feet). One run replaced the defective cable, and the other is a spare for possible future network expansion.

When the climb crew brought down the old Ethernet cable we found a place where ice (apparently) had worn open the the cable and allowed water to enter.



May 2023

While we were there we also replaced the old Rocket 802.11n access point with a more modern Rocket r5 ac Lite. The new one has upgraded electronics and the receiver is a bit more sensitive.

Drone screenshots by Bill AB6BW !!

May 2023

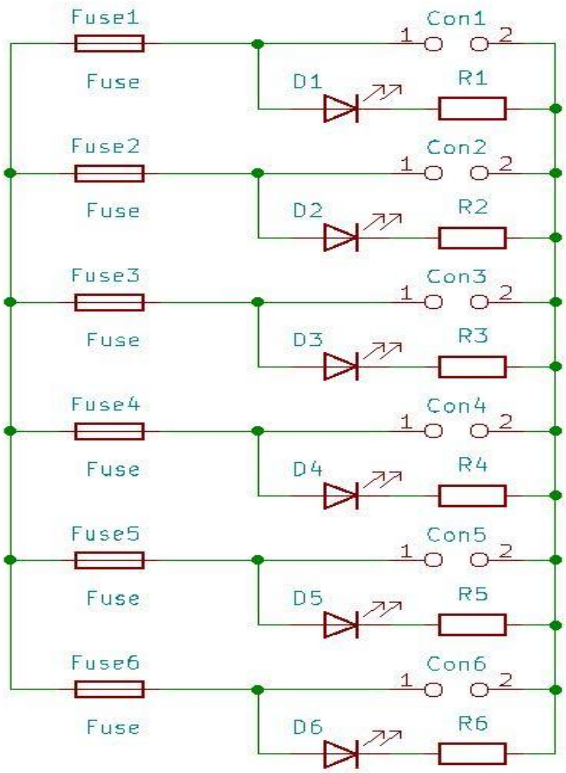
Next project - Power Pole Distribution Block

by Eric KE6MLF

Or “PPDB” with ideas and guidance from Joe W6JWP

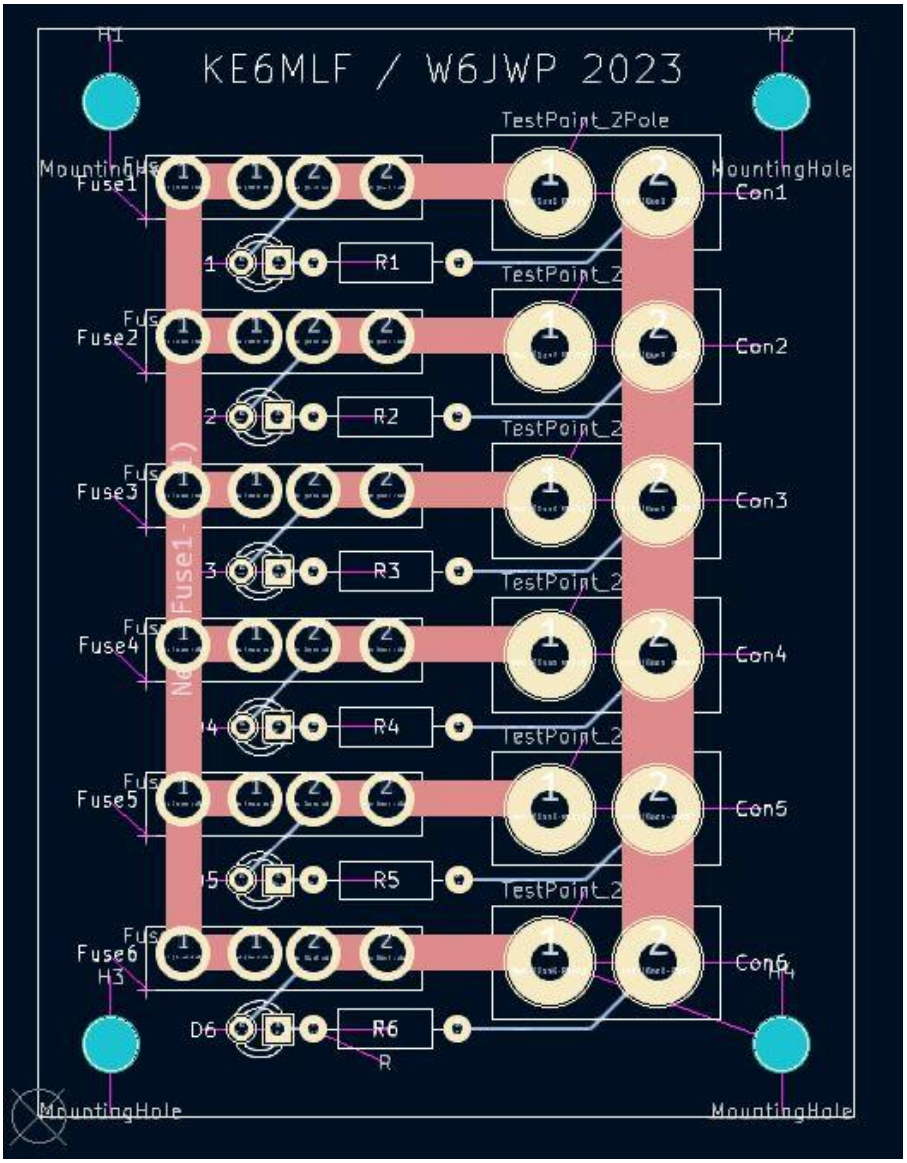
The schematic. Looks simple, but the PCB footprints are defined here.

Please remember, I am going to design the PCB, and YOU are going to have to get together and make the PCB and parts purchase.



May 2023

The PCB layout is DONE. The fuse holders are on the left, the LED and resistors are in, the Anderson Power Pole are on the right.



Joe and I will buy a few boards and stuff them. After things are working, I will release the artwork and parts list.

May 2023

There's a new repeater in town by Orv W6BI

Besides the two SMRA repeaters at the Mellow Lane site (VHF & UHF), there's also a VHF repeater on 146.940 MHz. It's used by the city's Disaster Service Workers, who are licensed ham radio volunteers, and is known as the "DSW repeater".

Partly because of the topography of Simi Valley and partly because of a big honkin' water tank in the way, the southeast quadrant of the valley isn't covered by the current DSW repeater. That would be a real problem for the DSW workers in case of a genuine disaster.

Working in concert with Simi Valley's Emergency Services and Communications Managers, PVARC has placed a VHF repeater at the city's "Stow Site" (the water tank site above McDonald's on Yosemite. This will provide excellent coverage of The Knolls, etc.

While two repeaters on different VHF pairs, linked with a UHF channel would have been the best solution, a simpler, less expensive, but still effective solution was decided upon.

Both repeaters are on the same pair, but utilize different input PLs. In that way workers can just shift channels and work the 'other' part of the valley.

Here's the info on the repeaters, existing and new:

Name	Location	Call	Input Freq.	Output Freq.	Input PL
DSW West	Mellow Lane	W6GRG	146.34	146.94	127.3
DSW East	Stow Site	K6PVR	146.34	146.94	100

While these are intended to be used by city Emergency Services, they're open repeaters, free to use for any ham.

Who? by Jim KJ6LXJ

Jim snapped this picture after our club president, Brian KM6MIN, received a haircut. Any and All comments are appreciated, and the best ones will be featured in next month's newsletter. Send your critiques and comments to the editor at ericoberg1@gmail.com.

And in some less disturbing news, **Kerwyn N6YHX** has passed the Extra exam, 49 out of 50 questions correct!

How about we create a Library? by Eric / KE6MLF

To start with, the following books are available for loan:

Hints & Kinks for the Radio Amateur 15th Edition

The ARRL RFI Book 1st Edition

The ARRL Antenna Book 16th Edition. Fat, 2 inches thick…

W1FB's Design Notebook

And from Jim, The ARRL Antenna Compendium Volumes 2,3,5,6, and 7

A tool lending library by Eric / KE6MLF

Again in keeping with the Jim KI6MZ school of thought - build some stuff and try things out! Here are tools for **LOAN**. Rules are if you break it, you replace it. I will loan them out for a month or three, then back to me, no passing around.

Forstner drill bit set - for making flat bottom holes in wood.

Electrical conduit punches - 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1-1/4". These are for electrical boxes, a bit heavier build.

Deep throat hole punch (like Whitney), for thin sheet metal.

MFJ frequency counter

I am throwing my own round chassis punches in to the fray, inch sizes 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 7/8, 15/16, 1-1/16, 1-1/8, 1-1/4, 1-5/32, 1-1/2, and 2, all for thin sheet metal.
I also have a 1" square punch.

May 2023

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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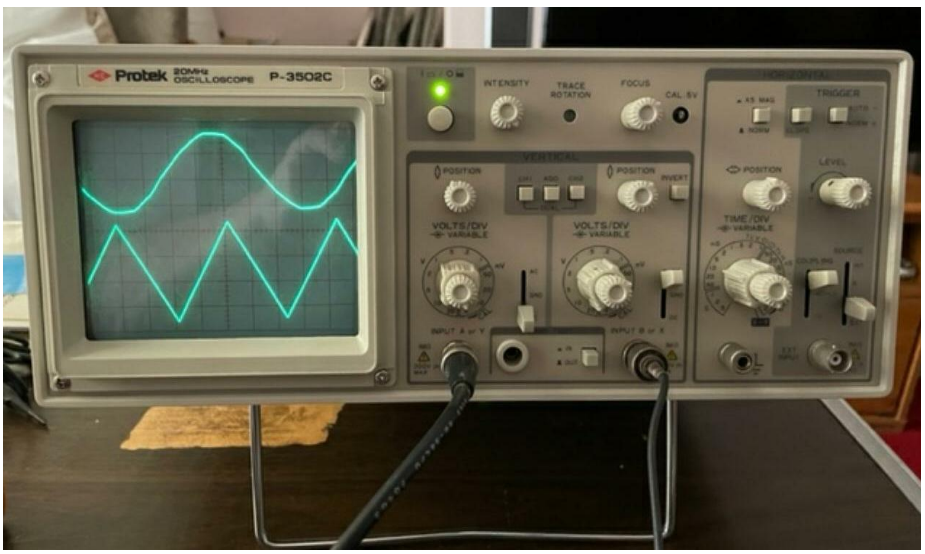
<u>PROTEK 3502C OSCILLOSCOPE</u>



This dual channel oscilloscope ranges from DC to 20 MHz. Input impedance is 1 MΩ shunted with 20 pF. Vertical deflection ranges from 5 mV to 20 V/Div over 12 ranges. Time base ranges from 0.2 μsec 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.

<u>Condition</u>: Excellent   <u>Price</u>: $25 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

EICO 390 FUNCTION GENERATOR

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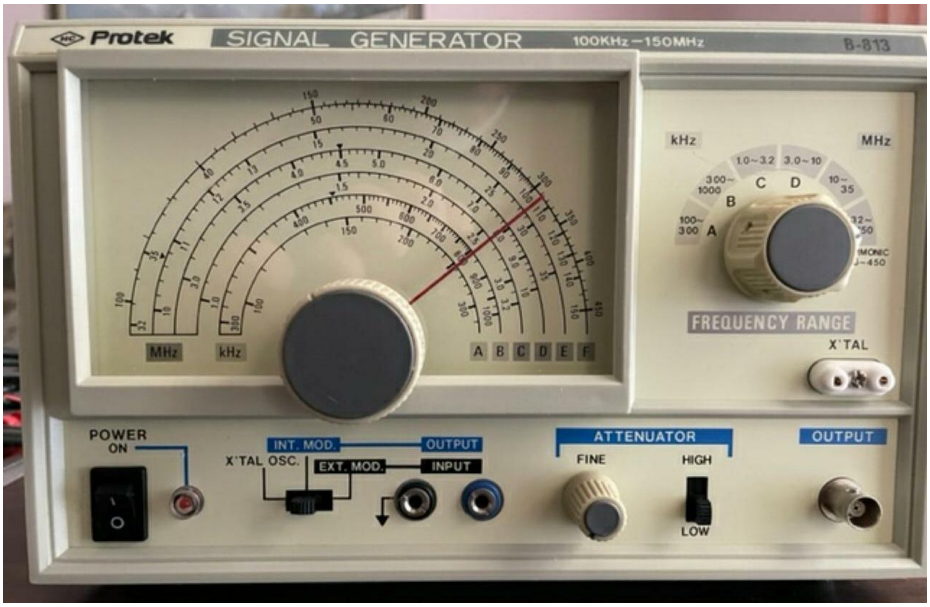
This function generator can provide sine wave, triangular wave or square wave outputs with a frequency range of 0.2 Hz to 200 KHz selectable over 4 ranges. Output waveforms can be selected to perform a wide variety for testing of electronic equipment. Output up to 10 v p-p is provided which may be attenuated 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: $15 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

May 2023

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: $15 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

May 2023

RADIO SHACK 3-1/2 DIGIT DMM w/ PC INTERFACE

Radio Shack's Model 22-168A DMM is a top-of -the line portable test instrument ideally suited for use in the field, lab, shop and home. It is a multi-function instrument that covers 38 total ranges covering full scale measurements of voltage (200mV-1000 V), current (200 µA - 20 A), resistance (200 ohms – 2000 MΩ), capacitance (200 pF – 200 µF), frequency (2 kHz – 20 MHz), transistor gain (hFE) and diode polarity check. It also features a dual measurement mode where, for example, both the AC RMS voltage and frequency can be shown simultaneously on the meter LCD display. The unit also features auto-ranging capability and overload protection including an auto-shutoff feature to preserve battery life.

This unit can also double as portable data acquisition device incorporating a RS-232 serial interface that allows your computer to directly capture data through a standard computer COM port using the interface cable and software provided.

Condition: Excellent Price: $10 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

May 2023

The following items are from a gracious donation by

Patrick O'Bryan, WB6USZ.

Make your bids **THIS MONTH** to our treasurer, Matt KN6SEC at **mgriffi79@yahoo.com**.
All proceeds will go in to the Simi Settlers treasury.

They might not have been plugged in for a while, BEWARE!

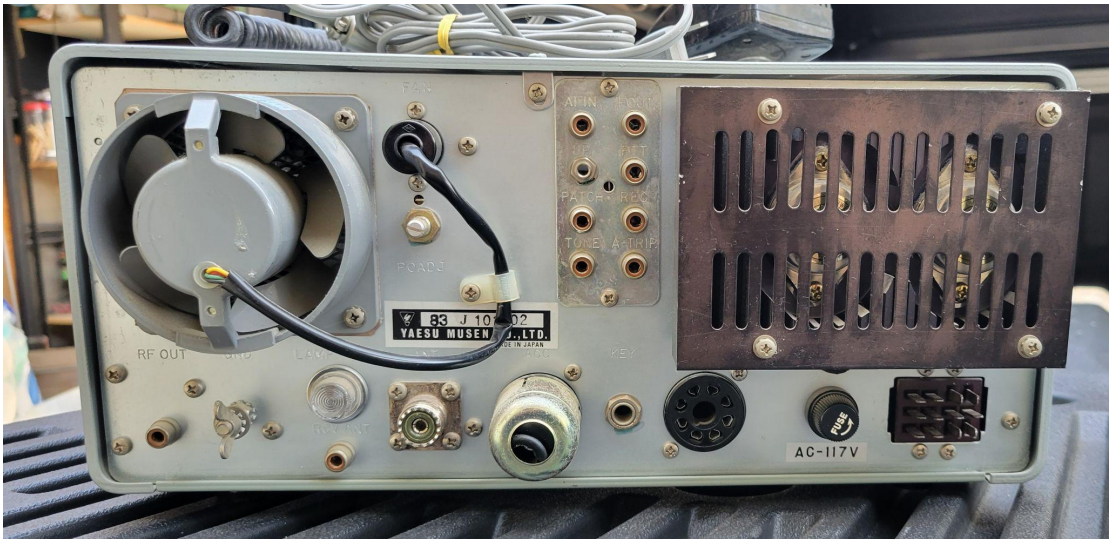
Yaesu FT-101, B model. Looks clean!

Looks like the microphone and power cord on top.

May 2023

Matching speaker / phone patch for the FT-101.

Backside of the FT-101B.



May 2023

Lafayette HA-230 shortwave receiver

Atlas 180 Solid State SSB Transceiver

May 2023

SST T-6 Tuner

Micronta field strength SWR meter

May 2023

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

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	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC		mgriffi79@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	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(805) 433-4513 cell	mgriffi79@yahoo.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				

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:**

New Member ☐ Individual ($25/yr) ☐
Renewal ☐ 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: _____

May 2023