

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

The next **meeting** is at the **Simi Senior Center**, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley. **Thursday September 14** at 7:00 PM.

The next Simi Settlers Pizza Night is at **Toppers**, 2408 Erringer Road, Simi Valley. **Thursday September 7** at 6:00 PM.

Picnic at Rancho Madera Community Park on September 17.

We have Pavillion C at Rancho Madera community park in Wood Ranch on September 17th - **9am to 1pm**.

Save the date, we hope to see everybody!

Discussions will occur at the September 14th meeting about what to bring. We are trying to **cut down** on the huge amount of leftovers and extra food. We will send out an email early next week, but count on NOT bring huge amounts of food. **A head count would be great**, **as in an RSVP to Brian km6min_bh@yahoo.com or a YES at pizza night!**

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)	224.720-1.6 MHz	ACS Area 1	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

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

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

Here are our 8:30 PM Sunday night net controllers for the next month:

- Sep 3 Matt KN6SEC
 - 10 Brian KM6MIN
 - 17 Kevin KD6UTC
 - 24 Ron K6RIN
- Oct 1 Matt KN6SEC
 - 8 Brian KM6MIN
 - 15 Kevin KD6UTC
 - 22 Ron K6RIN
 - 29 Matt KN6SEC

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.



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.

Member Updates

Did you know you can sign up to other clubs feeds at Groups.io?

K6MEP - Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

CVARC - Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

Turns out these guys are having activities and fun without our knowledge. Sign up to their group and get emails about more radio stuff! More newsletters is good!

Simi Settlers, CVARC, and VCARC also have Facebook pages with varying levels of activity.

Street Fair

The Settlers are having a booth at the Simi Valley Street Fair to be held at Town Center, October 28th. Contact Donnie KJ6TTN for more info at <u>donniewilliams@gmail.com</u>

Jamboree on the Air

BSA Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event where Scouts use radio to get contacts from other troops or individuals. JOTA 2023 is to be held on October 21 and 22. The least you can do is keep a radio on and answer if a Scout calls.

For more information, visit <u>https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/</u>

APRS.fi Website

Have you checked out **aprs.fi** for the Simi Valley area? Shows all the Automatic Position Reporting System activity nearby. Too many weather stations for my liking.

Keeping Track of our Resources

Aside from getting on the actual radio, there are bunches of other ways to communicate. So many, I need a cheat sheet to keep them all straight. Not that you have to use or keep track of all these paths, but just so you know...

This list is not really who "owns" or "is in charge of", but they did the paperwork to get it started, and then "who do I talk to about" this stuff

Simisettlers.org website - Jim KJ6LXJ and Matt KN6SEC

Slack - Donnie KJ6TTN - Board of Directors chat (new as of August 2023)

W6SVS FCC license - Mike KV6I, trustee (good to 2028, thanks MIke!)

Groups.io - Orv W6BI

Membership list - Jim KJ6LXJ

Newsletter source - Eric KE6MLF

146.805 repeater - George K6ERN

DSW repeater(s) - West Greg W6GRG, East Paul K6PVR (WD6EBY)

Taskaid - Orv W6BI - an online list of tasks for the Simi area Mesh network

Chamber of Commerce - Ron Nelson - So Ron and Brian can get breakfast

Simisettlers@gmail.com - Eric KE6MLF (ed, I grabbed this account name for future use.)

Tried to register for a <u>W6SVS@gmail.com</u> email address, but "w6svs" by itself is too short. Suggestions? Maybe one of the following? Who is going to remember or use any of these?

W6SVS_RADIO@gmail.com

W6SVS_SETTLERS@gmail.com

W6SVS_hammey@gmail.com

Simi_W6SVS_settlers@gmail.com

Simi_settlers_W6SVS@gmail.com

W6SVS_simi_settlers@gmail.com

W6SVS_i_am_a_radio_geek@gmail.com

Simi Valley Ham Radio Network News by Orv W6BI

The SimiNorth site at the north end of Sycamore Road has been used for ham radio mostly continuously since 1988. We put ham radio network gear up there in about 2015.



Mrs. Gaines passed away several months ago and her children have put the property up for sale. Assuming we'll have to vacate the site after the sale, we had to find an alternative radio site to cover the central part of our valley. Fortunately we've gotten permission to put some ham radio network gear on top of the Simi Valley Hospital patient tower (approximately here: 34.2888, -118.7445). It will sit right next to an existing radio installation and looks very similar to this.



I had an old ballast mount that was donated from K7AZ in Lompoc. It's badly rusted and Ron K6RIN has kindly offered to refurbish it prior to us placing it on the patient tower. The first phase of the installation will be to put the mount up there and shlep a dozen or so very heavy cinder blocks up there to hold it down. We'll need a few folks for a work party for this effort!*

The second phase will consist of adding the network gear: an east-facing sector antenna, a south facing sector antenna, a (TBD) RF link to the rest of the network, and cabling down to the hospital network facility on the floor below (along an existing cable path). The sector antennas look like this. Their radios are clipped on the back of the antenna:



(ed: After that, we just have to wait for a suitable layer of bird doo to collect and things to start crapping out before we add this site to our list of regular haunts.)

Forwarded by Joe W6JWP

Hack the ARRL?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I attended <u>DEFCON</u>, which is arguably the premiere hacking conference in the world. DEFCON hosts a number of <u>special interest groups they call "villages</u>," which organize their own sub-conferences on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to voting. One of those villages is the Ham Radio Village, and as I did in 2022, I taught a <u>one-day Tech class in the Ham Radio Village on Thursday</u>, <u>August 10</u>.

So, what does this have to do with the ARRL? Well, one of the more popular amateur radio sub-hobbies is to complain about the ARRL. I won't list all the complaints here, but I think that most of you will agree that there are more than a few complaints out there.

Well, part of the hacker ethos is to not just complain about things, but to do something about it. The <u>Wikipedia entry on hacker culture</u> puts it this way, "[hackers enjoy] the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming the limitations of software systems or electronic hardware (mostly digital electronics), to achieve novel and clever outcomes." It seems to me that we could creatively overcome some of the limitations of the ARRL, i.e. hack the ARRL, if we put our minds to it.

I think that <u>Parks on the Air (POTA)</u> is a good example of this. The ARRL actually gave birth to POTA with their year-long <u>National Parks on the Air</u> program in 2016, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park System. It was a very popular activity, but the ARRL dropped it like a hot potato once the year was over.

Fortunately for ham radio, a dedicated group of ham hackers stepped up and created the current POTA program. POTA is wildly popular and has been a real boon to amateur radio.

Get your hacking hats on

So, what else can be hacked? One thing that I can think of off the top of my head is <u>Logbook of the World</u>. At one time, there was talk about making it a more real-time system. I'm not sure whatever happened to that project, but my guess is that the programming was a lot more complicated than originally anticipated, and it got put on the back burner.

Another possible ARRL hack would be to do something about the ARRL's digital magazines. This hack is particularly needed now that fewer and fewer members are going to be getting the print versions of QST, QEX, and the National Contest Journal. Making the information more easily accessible I think would end up being beneficial for the ARRL as well as ham radio in general.

Can you hack a hamfest?

This isn't strictly an ARRL thing, but one aspect of ham radio that I would love to see hacked is hamfests. Recently, on the social media platform Mastodon, someone wrote:



"Researching local hamfests, and they're still such an old man thing. 7 am open gates. Grange fair. Fire house. Greasy breakfast cart. Noon close.

"Can we get like a 3 pm start time at a farmer's market with snacks, kombucha, and chiptune DJ?"

My reply was, "There's nothing that I know of that stopping anyone from starting something new." I would love to see someone come up with something like a hamfest that's more relevant for younger hams and easier for them to attend. It wouldn't be easy to do, but life's not easy, is it?

Ham radio needs the hacker ethos now more than ever. Hackers take on difficult challenges because they are difficult, don't they? So, let's get to it.

13 Souls by Eric KE6MLF

The 13 souls run event was held August 26, 2023

This event was held to honor and remember the 13 fallen U.S. service members, killed when a suicide bomber detonated an explosion at the Karzai International Airport on Aug. 26, 2021 in Kabul, Afghanistan. This is the second time for this fund raiser event. Last year had some 400 participants who ran and walked along the Arroyo Bike Path. This year we saw at least that many people who ran, walked, hiked, and rolled.

Brian KM6MIN was net control, Dave KM6FQ was tracking by APRS (or trying too...) from the start / finish line. Here are some pictures from the event.



The Metrolink station on Los Angeles Ave with a bit of the view.



Dave FM6FQ at Mission (out of) Control. Where the heck did Brian KM6MIN wander off to?



From left to right: Greg W6GRG,Ron K6RIN, Donnie KJ6TTN, Richard KN6RCC, Dave KM6FQ (seated), Kerwin N6YHX, and Eric KE6MLF.



Eric KB6DJY with three ROTC students from Royal High School at the furthest turn around point, Madera Avenue.

Not pictured (cause somebody had their hands full of bicycle AND left their cell phone at home) **Tim KN6YSH, and Brian KM6MIN.**

Matt's Baofeng by Eric KE6MLF

Matt KN6SEC had a UV5R that got cranky. Just what is inside these? Can you fix them?



Here is the front, before application of the hammer and crowbar.



And backside, battery pack removed.



Bits removed, circuit board / keypad slid out of the case. The wires are still attached to the round speaker mounted on the front panel.



Heatsink (upper left) removed from the circuit board. Silver LCD and pink Z strips, backlight frame (white rectangle), and LCD metal frame on the bottom left.



Front of the circuit board. The silver circles are the keypad contacts. The two rows of tiny gold squares at the top are the LCD contacts. The black blob is an epoxy covered chip. What kind? - no clue. Maybe the LCD driver.



The backside that was up against the heatsink. Frequency synthesis, PL tones, power driver. Maybe the chip in the lower left is the processor and memory. Somewhere front or back has to be the battery charger circuit.



The LCD with two pink "Z strips". The thin black stripe on the strip still attached to the gray LCD is conductive in the "Z" axis, and connects the two rows of gold contacts to the glass LCD traces.

From past experience, Z strips are quite difficult to get clean and connecting all the traces again. Sadly, two screws were under the LCD, so the glass and strips had to be removed to separate the circuit board from the heatsink.

I was able to re-program this radio just fine. Was able to kerchunk the 805 repeater, so the CPU, LCD drive, battery power circuits, and RF were all working. What did not work was the audio, either the microphone or speaker. No schematic, no replacement parts, no debug procedure. and now that the LCD has been separated from the Z strips, it is a real hit and miss to get things clean enough and sticking properly for the LCD to show all the segments again.

So, are they repairable? Not really.

The real reason I asked Matt for this dead radio was to take it apart and see if it used the Dorji DRA818V 1 watt transceiver module. I am following in the footsteps of other tinkerers and going to use this in upcoming projects.

Features: Frequency Range: 134~174MHz Channel space: 12.5/25KHz Configurable multi-channels Sensitivity: -122dBm Output power: +27/30dBm CTCSS / CDCSS codes 8 volume levels / 8 squelch levels UART interface TX current: 450/750mA @ 1 watt output Supply voltage: 3.3~4.5V



Looks like a handy-talky in a module. \$8! Just make a circuit board, add microphone, audio amplifier and speaker, battery, keypad, controller (arduino, PI, or ?), LCD, case... There is also a UHF frequency range version.

Sounds like it might be cheaper and quicker to buy another Baofeng, but what is the fun in that?

Do you think Matt will want his radio back?

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.



MFJ-335 MOBILE ANTENNA MAGNETIC MOUNT

This heavy-duty 5"diameter magnetic antenna mount uses a powerful 2.5 pound magnetic base for secure mounting on top of most vehicles. It features a standard 3/8-24 threaded receptacle for attaching various hamstick or other whip antennas as needed. The 9-1/2 ft. length of RG-58 cable has a standard PL-259 UHF end connector. Typical cost of this magnetic antenna mount from MFJ or DX Engineering is \$29.95.

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

WAGAN 350 WATT DC INVERTER



This 12-volt DC inverter converts a nominal battery output voltage of 12VDC into a useful 115V modified sine wave output to power applicable AC devices up to 350 watts. Recent variable battery voltage testing show a 10.8V warning alarm is emitted prior to shutdown at 10.2 VDC for protection of the battery.

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

MICRONTA 22161A CLAMP-ON AC CURRENT METER



This Radio Shack Micronta AC current meter allows quick and easy measurements of an AC current flowing in a single conductor by direct measurement of the magnetic field produced by magnetic clamping around the wire. If direct current flow measurement of a singular AC wire may not be possible, there is an accessory option wherein the device under load can be connected using a Micronta 22-161 multiplier instead This allows a device to be plugged in to either be measured directly or at 10X magnification if needed for weaker AC levels.

Condition: Very Good Price: \$10 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: \$15 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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 μ A - 20 A), resistance (200 ohms – 2000 M Ω), capacitance (200 pF – 200 μ F), 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)

GRAB BAG OF MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENTS



After recently cleaning out my closet, I came upon several components that I may have had thoughts of using over 20 years ago but unfortunately was not able to do so. I paid well over \$30 for these components back then but sadly, that did not occur so I am offering these components to any experimenter who would like to use them accordingly. These components are in their original packaging and have never been opened.

What I have is the following:

- 1) RS P/N 274-246 1/8" 3-conductor phone jacks (Qty = 2)
- 2) RS P/N 274-245 3/32 Subminiature phone jack (Qty = 1)
- 3) RS P/N 272-11524 B-pin LED lamps (Qty = 2)
- 4) RS P/N 272-1092C 12-volt micro lamps (Qty = 2)
- 5) RS P/N 273-1374 Audio isolation transformers (Qty = 2)
- 6) RS P/N 274-688B Five-Position Terminal Strip (Qty=1)
- 7) RS P/N 270-235 Aluminum Project Enclosure (Qty=2)

Condition: Never Used Price: \$10 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

From Kevin, KD6UTC; I'm selling some of my HF equipment that I don't use. I would like to sell it as a bundle. I hope this will be a good start kit for one of our members new to HF.

SSARC Marketplace HF bundle

- ICOM 7300 with original box
- LDG Electronics Z-100PLUS Automatic Antenna Tuner
- LDG RBA 4:1 Balun
- LDG RBA 1:1 Balun
- (2) MFJ HAM sticks 20M
- (2) MFJ HAM sticks 40M
- (2) Mirror/Pipe Antenna Mounts
- MFJ Double T Pipe Mount

Condition: Excellent Price: \$850

Contact Kevin (KD6UTC) kevin.deadwylier@gmail.com







From Glenn WA6GNB

GrandStream # 1620/1625 telephone for sale. New – still in the original box. Compatible with our MESH system. \$30.00 Contact Glen at gnb.2112@yahoo.com

From Dennis, a Simi Valley resident, a B&K 2120 oscilloscope for sale.

Dual trace, 30 MHz bandwidth. Price is listed at \$100. (ed. It is still sitting here. Never hurts to try and make an offer?) The scope is here in Simi. Here are the same items as listed on ebay for comparison:

https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_from=R40&_trksid=p2380057.m570.l1311&_nkw=bk+precision+21 20&_sacat=0

Contact Dennis at <u>dkruse789@yahoo.com</u>



Somebody gave Orv W6BI a 75 foot length of LMR 600 cable. It has N connectors on both ends. Starting bid is \$50, it will be a donation to the club. Highest bid at the end of July wins. Send your bids to our treasurer Matt KN6SEC at mgriffi79@yahoo.com

(ed. Really? This is a \$250 cable assembly at Ham Radio Outlet. Nobody puts a bid in, I am going to hold a \$20 up at the next meeting and RUN away with it!)

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							
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Vice President	VACANT						
Secretary	Ron Nelson	K6RIN		rnelson759@sbcglobal.net			
Treasurer	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC		mgriffi79@yahoo.com			
Committee Chairpers	sons		·	•			
Webmaster	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(661) 361-5955 cell	mgriffi79@yahoo.com			
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Raffle Prizes	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(805) 433-4513 cell	mgriffi79@yahoo.com			
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Advisor Mesh	Orv Beach	W6BI		orv.beach@gmail.com			

Type of Application:	Type of Membership:	- Contraction
New Member		Simi Valley, Ca. W6SVS
Renewal		Rateur Radio
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Address:	City:	State: Zip:
Phone: ()	Alt. Phone: ()
E-Mail Address:		
Additional Family Member		
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Badges requested: Yes	□ No □ How many?	X \$18.00 = \$
Name (s) Call(s):		
Shirt Printing: Yes 🗖 No	D □ How many?	X \$25.00 = \$
Name (s) Call(s):	(Self	Supplied Polo Shirt, no emblem or poo
Hats Requested: Yes	No □ How many?	X \$20.00 = \$
Name (s) Call(s):		
	OFFICE USE ON	ILY
Application type: New	Renewal Membership	type: Individual 🗖 Family 🗖
Date Received:	Amount Received:	Database completed: