



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 March 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

The next **Pizza** Night is at
Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd, Simi Valley
March 6 at 6:00 PM

At the **January** meeting, we did not have a speaker. No problem, we talked about resurrecting old laptop computers with Linux. Passed out 6 laptops that my company scrapped.

At the **February** meeting, we had some new members and visitors. Kept quite busy chatting about all sorts of stuff, leaning a bit towards the new members.

We are planning a **spring picnic**. The usual Wood Ranch, targeted for April 13th.

How about you stop by and say hi on the **Sunday night net?**
8:30 PM on the Simi Repeater 146.805.

Matt N3AR is working on the Settlers providing a VE session to get more new HAMS.

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A selection of NETS

Monday	Condor Connection (Plays Newsline)	7:00 PM	Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7
Tuesday	County ACS HF net	6:30 PM	Summer 7.242 +/- Winter 3.987 +/-
	ACS Area 1 - Simi Simplex net	6:45 PM	145.510 MHz Simplex
	ACS Area 1 - Simi Repeater net	7:00 PM	Simi Repeater 146.805 -0.6 MHz PL 100.0
	ATN-CA Net	7:30 PM	https://www.atn-tv.com
	LSB Net	8:00 PM	3.908 MHz
Wednesday	Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	28.34 MHz
	Mesh VOIP Net* Voice / video / data	8:00 PM	2.4/5.8 GHz Mesh
Thursday	LSB Net	8:00 PM	3.908 MHz
Friday			
Saturday	SSARC SSB HF Net	8:30 AM	7.240 (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter
	CW-QRP	9:00 AM	7.032 MHz
	Quad Squad net	1:00 PM	21.365 MHz
Sunday	The Newbie net	7:00 PM	Bozo Repeater 147.885 -0.6 MHz PL 127.3
	LSB Net	8:00 PM	3.908 MHz
	SSARC 2 Meter Net**	8:30 PM	Simi Repeater 146.805 -0.6 MHz PL100.0

Additional listings of **MORE** 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 Sunday night control 8:30 on the Simi Repeater:

Feb 23	Matt N3AR
Mar 2	Ron K6RIN
9	Kerwyn N6YHX
16	Matt KN6SEC
23	Brian KM6MIN
30	Kevin KD6UTC

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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.

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. **Stop by and say Hi**. You do not have to do anything other than check in to test out your simplex or repeater connection.

The Tuesday **HF net** during summer months is on 7.242 +/- at **6:30 PM**.

During the winter, it is back to 3.987 lower side band.

The Tuesday **simplex net** is on 145.510 at **6:45 PM**.

The Tuesday **repeater net** is on the 146.805 (-0.6 MHz, PL 100) repeater at **7:00 PM**.

NOTE: Please be advised that we hold the Tuesday **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.

For the Tuesday night nets:

4-Mar	Bill	AB6BW
11-Mar	Dante	W6JCQ
18-Mar	Lisa	KK6AKR
25-Mar	Frank	KI6OQ
1-Apr	Ron	K6RIN - ORT

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Upcoming Events

Here are some of the events the Settlers (and other clubs) have supported.

13 Souls - to be held this year?

February 23 Ventura Marathon - **done!**

April 13 Mountains 2 Beach Marathon

April 26 Ride for the Red

May 3 SoCal Ride, Walk & Roll to Cure ALS

May 2-4 Coyote Two Moon trail race

May 26 Memorial Day - Flags at Simi Cemetery - Brian KM6MIN

May 15 Peace Officers Memorial - Ron K6RIN

August 16 & 17 Wings over Camarillo

Member Updates

Mesh Maintenance by Orv W6BI

Last Sunday, Eric KE6MLF, and I went up to the SimiNorth site. We upgraded the 5 GHz node to the 802.11ac version, cleaned the bird doo off the lens of the PTZ camera, and managed to resuscitate the site security cam. We also scoped the site out for the solar panel location, plus a couple of other miscellaneous things.

And we had an unexpected visitor to the site not long after we left (bottom center):



And again, a bit later:

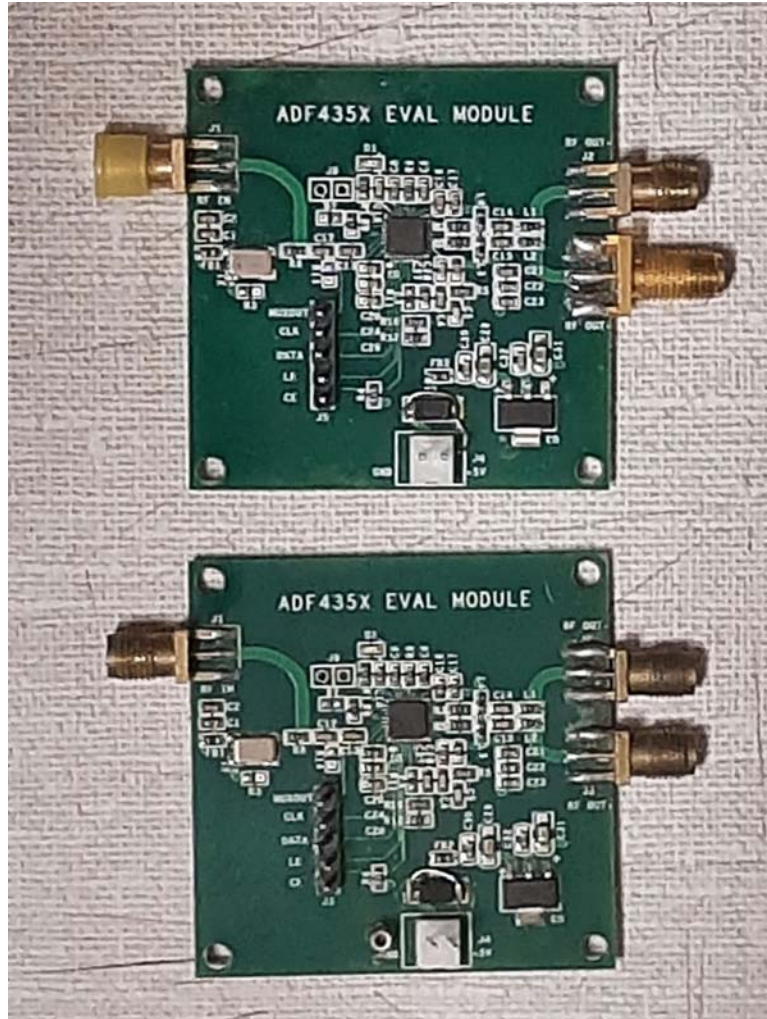


Ed - Unsure as to the relation between the blue and brown birds. They may be in the same, or possible rival gangs. In either case, this explains where all the bird poop on the tower comes from.

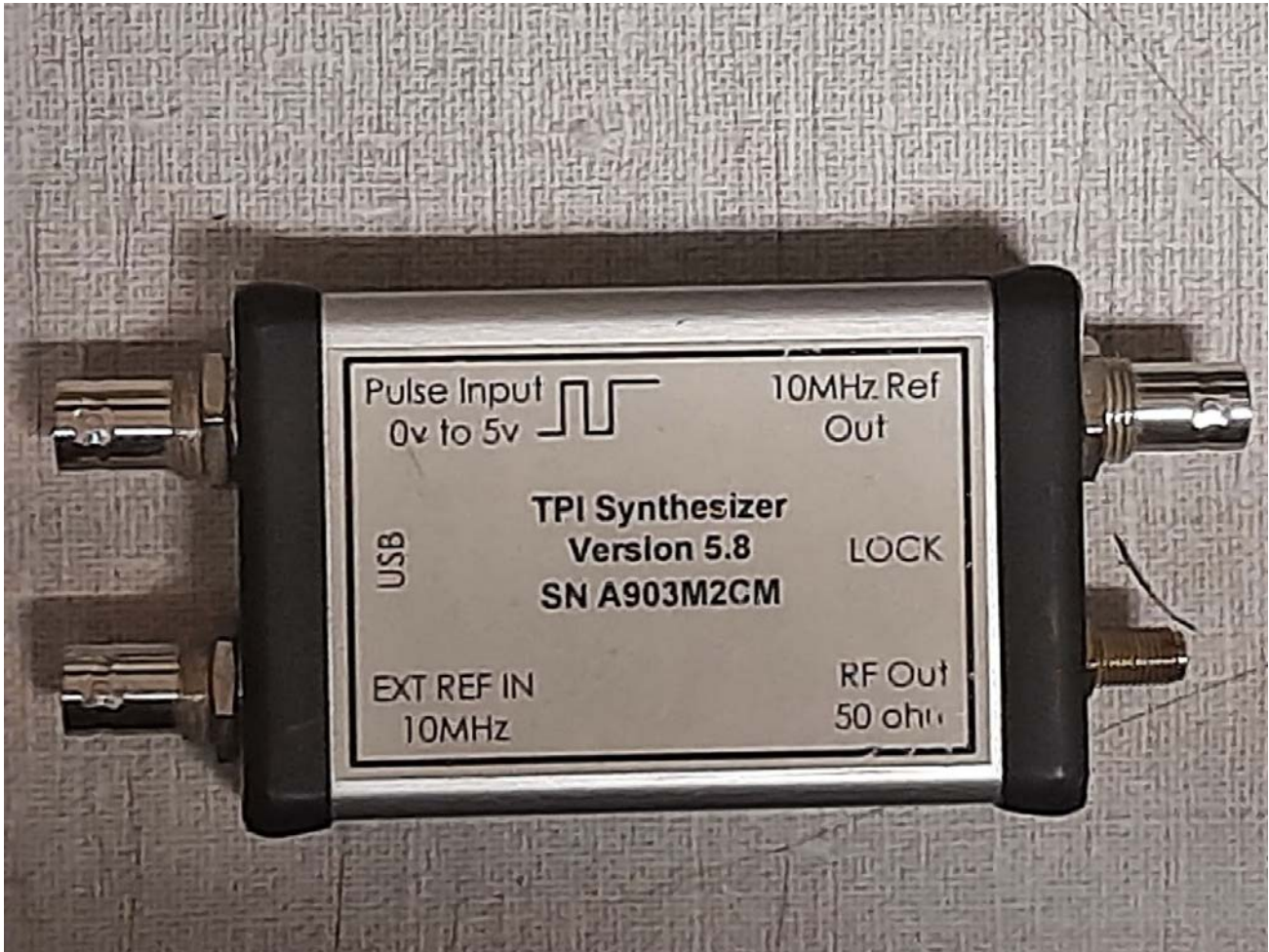
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Frequency Synthesis by Eric KE6MLF

Jim KI6MZ had lots of experiments. He had two of these little circuit boards tied to Arduinos, a LCD, and an encoder dial. They have a Analog Devices frequency synthesizer that can generate 35 MHz to 4.4 GHz. Want to borrow one?



Meanwhile, Kerwyn dug this trinket out of the bin, but he was afraid of it, and so passed it on to me.



It is the same Analog Devices frequency chip inside, but also has a USB interface and 10 MHz output. A bit of Google-foo, and I found the original manufacturer. Went to rf-consultant.com and downloaded the control software. Did not work, so I sent the website contact an email. The next day, the **owner** sent me the correct program for a 10+ year old product, including the calibration for this serial number. **Works!**

Just what are we going to do with three outputs of 35 MHz to 4.4 GHz? Want to try it?

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Anyway, good news, since I have three of the frequency synthesis modules, it is a **Collection**.

Remember that? Got to have three or more of something to be a “collector”. Here for instance, is my collection of Putt-Putt Boats. You may laugh, but how many Putt-Putt boats do you have?



Saddle Strawberry Peak by Ron K6RIN

What is the best way to celebrate our annual President's Day holiday? Kerwyn N6YHX and I decided to celebrate the day by hiking up Strawberry Peak in the Angeles National Forest and operating our ham radios for a Summit's on the Air (SOTA) activation. Actually, our original plan was to hike San Gabriel Peak, but that area of the forest was closed due to the recent fire activity near Alta Dena, so Strawberry Peak was next in line. I have to admit, I have done Strawberry Peak in the past, and it is a steep and challenging seven mile out-and-back hike. Deciding at the last minute to hike this peak left very little time to prepare mentally for the challenge, but we pressed on and made our way to the top. Being a holiday, the trail was active with several other hikers, but not overwhelming. Kerwyn is an excellent hiker and very good company on the trail. Having a hiking companion made the miles go by very quickly.

After finally making our way up the grueling last half mile, another hiker helped us take a photo (see below) and we set up our radios and antennas. Kerwyn used an end-fed half-wave wire antenna with his tiny 5 watt (tr)uSDX radio. I used my Icom IC-705 at 10 watts and a couple of resonant wire dipole antennas. I also used a Yaesu FT-5DR HT radio for simplex 2-meter contacts, and for spotting on the SOTA website through APRS.



A few hikers who made it to the peak, stopped by our operation and asked about our activity. They were all genuinely interested. After asking many questions and listening to our radios and explanations, one man left and then came back with another visitor to show off our operation. I managed to make a quick contact with a ham (Eric - N0WAE) in Montana, to which they were amazed. Perhaps we inspired him to get his ham radio license.

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I managed to make 28 contacts during the approximately hour-and-a-half we operated from the peak and Kerwyn had a similar number of contacts. These included contacts on 2, 10, 20, and 40 meters. Band conditions were interesting. 10-meters gave us excellent signals into the midwest, with contacts into Illinois and Kansas. 20-meters was a bit shorter than normal with excellent contacts in the California bay area, Washington State, Arizona, Montana and Utah. 40-meters was a bit more challenging than normal, however both Kerwyn and I managed to contact Adam Kimmerly K6ARK who was camping at Jalama Beach, north of Santa Barbara. If you recall, Adam, who is YouTube famous, recently spoke to our club through a Zoom connection, where he discussed many of his radio projects. Both Kerwyn and I were very excited to speak with Adam on the radio.

After operating, we packed up our gear and made our way back down the mountain. Going downhill is way easier and faster than going up, but there is always the potential for a slip and fall. We made our way carefully, using different muscles in our legs than those used for heading up the hill. All-in-all, a very successful and satisfying way to spend our President's Day holiday.

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Yuma Hamfest - A Trip Report by Orv W6BI

I drove to Yuma on February 13th for the Yuma Hamfest which was held Friday and Saturday, February 14th and 15th. It was held at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in a brand-new, substantially larger building than in the past.

My presentation on AREDN networking software had been accepted, and we had registered for a booth (actually a table) to represent AREDN. Tim KN6PLV, the lead AREDN developer, flew down from Berkeley to help me in the booth. Cameron N7CPZ, a local, also joined us to show off his AREDN applications server.



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At the table next to us were Walter KD7DNY and Tom NL7FQ, representing AMO (Arizona Mesh Organization) They did a great job representing AREDN in the area.



We set up a microwave link from our booth near the southwest corner of the building to the northeast corner, maybe 200 feet away. Initially the throughput of the link was very poor, but improved as we kept lowering the power at each end. We got good performance when each end was running about two milliwatts. :-) We suspect that the receivers were getting a lot of reflections from the sides of the metal buildings, interfering with reception, until the power was lowered. If you're curious, the final throughput across the link was between 11 and 12 Megabits/second. We put a camera on the link so folks could see that the radios were actually doing something. The screenshot was taken Friday afternoon just after the hamfest had opened its doors.

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The Yuma Hamfest is restarting this year after several years of downtime for various reasons. Attendance seemed sparse (although it is a smaller hamfest). There were the usual vendors, and I saw folks walking away with armfuls of purchases, so hopefully the vendors were happy. It was announced that the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be held there the next couple of years, so hopefully that will drive attendance up.

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Digging in the Dirt - by Matt KN6SEC

Seems Matt KN6SEC got conned in to help Donnie KJ6TTN run power from the house to the “bunker” shack.

From Matt: “Tuesday Feb 18th I helped Donnie to drill holes in his house and run conduit to his shack. Thank God he had the trenches dug or being dug by another. Fun stuff.”



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Looks like a lot of dirt and digging. Now Donnie can power the air conditioning, frozen yogurt machine, and the lights for the stage and stripper pole!

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Internet Resources

simisettlers.org - us!

cvarc.org - Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club

k6mep.org - Ventura County Amateur Radio Club

vcars.org - Ventura County amateur Radio Society

pvarc.club - The home of many of the counties repeaters

arednmesh.org - Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network

vccomm.org - Ventura County ACS / ARES

www.arrl.org - American Radio Relay League

archive.org/details/simi-settlers-arc - Our old newsletters!

qrz.com - forums, for sale, articles - **Create your profile here!**

eham.net - forums, for sale, articles (kind of a zombie site)

www.theborednet.net - a local bulletin board including net schedules and **stuff** for sale!

Under the **groups.io** banner (a free account is required):

groups.io/g/SimiSettlers/messages - A great place to post

groups.io/g/SIMI-VALLEY-HAMMESHNET/messages

vc-accs.groups.io/g/main/messages

vc-accs.groups.io/g/area-1/messages

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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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: \$5 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

COMET CF-4160 DUPLEXER



The Comet CF-4160 is a 2m/70cm duplexer that can act as a splitter to provide separate VHF and UHF coax outputs that can feed separate 2m and 70cm antennas for dual band transceivers having a single coax output. Alternately, it can combine outputs from separate VHF/UHF rigs or a transceiver having separate VHF and UHF coax outputs that can be combined together to use a single coax cable that connects to a VHF/UHF antenna such as a MFJ-1760 or MFJ-1768 dual band Yagi. For low bands such as 2m, the frequency range is from 1.3 to 170 MHz. For high bands such as 70cm, the frequency range is 350 to 540 MHz. UHF-type coax connectors provided are a single female SO-239 and two male PL-259 connectors. The Comet CF-4160 duplexer currently sells for \$52.98 from GigaParts.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$5 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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PARA DYNAMICS PDC9 SWR & POWER METER



The Para Dynamics PDC9 inline SWR / Power Meter operates from 144MHz to 430MHz which includes the 2m - 70cm ham bands. The unit has two power ranges, 15W and 60W. Unit provides two female SO-239 coax connectors. Unit measures approximately 2" X 2.5" X 1". A similar unit recently sold on eHam.net for \$25.

Condition: Excellent Price: \$5 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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RADIO SHACK PRO-2044 SCANNER



The PRO-2044 is an 80-channel programmable scanner capable of receiving both AM and FM modulated signals in the HF, VHF and UHF bands ranging from 29 MHz to 512 MHz. The scanner's channels are divided into 10 channel-storage banks of 8 channels each. The scanner also has an additional 10 monitor memories available for temporary frequency storage if desired. The unit features keypad entry programming buttons plus standard volume and squelch controls to set desired audio level. The unit has a built-in internal speaker plus a headphone output jack. Power requirement is 12VDC with an AC adapter included. Rear antenna input is a BNC-type connector for connecting to an outdoor antenna or to a small collapsible whip (included). Size is 8" wide x 7" deep x 3" high. Instruction manual is included.

Condition: Very Good Price: \$5 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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REALISTIC PRO-42 SCANNER



The PRO-42 is a handheld 10-channel programmable scanner radio capable of receiving FM frequencies in three separate bands: 30 MHz to 54 MHz (VHF Low), 138 MHz to 174 MHz (VHF High) and 380 MHz to 512 MHz (UHF). The unit features keypad entry programming buttons plus standard volume and squelch controls to set desired audio level. The display is an LCD type with a backlit display for improved readability in low-light conditions. It includes a channel lockout capability with an optional 2-second scan delay to eliminate missed replies. The unit has a built-in internal speaker plus a headphone output jack. Antenna input is a BNC-type connector for connecting to an 8-inch flexible antenna (included) or an outdoor antenna if desired. Power (9VDC) is provided by six internal AA batteries or via an external power jack. A separate charger input is also provided should rechargeable 1.25 volt nickel-cadmium batteries be used instead. A convenient belt clip is also provided for ease of use.

Dimensions are 6.75" tall x 2.75" wide x 1.50" deep. Weight is 15.9 Oz.

Condition: Very Good Price: FREE!. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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LAFAYETTE RADIO MODEL TE-50 TUBE TESTER



This portable tube tester from Lafayette Radio is perfect for testing vacuum tubes from classic radios and television receivers sold back in the day. It has eight tube sockets capable of testing standard Octal, Loctal, 7-pin miniature, 9-pin miniature types as well as well as 9- and 12-pin Compactron tubes and nuvistor tubes that were popular back in the 1950's and 1960's. Tests include leakage, shorts and tube emission (e.g.- gain or μ -measurements). The tester includes a slide-out chart drawer plus supplemental charts for newer-type tubes listing the required selector switch and slide switch settings for each tube under test including a test clip for testing tubes with high-voltage anode top caps such as those used for horizontal sweep circuits of earlier televisions. Similar Lafayette Model TE-50 Tube Testers are listed on E-Bay for \$99.99 or more.

Condition: Very Good Price: \$5 or OBO. Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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RADIO SHACK MODEL 15-1244 RF MODULATOR



This Radio Shack RF modulator can provide an NTSC type RF signal to older TVs or video monitors that require an analog signal as an input. The output is user-selectable for either channel 3 or channel 4 output and can provide 75 ohm or 1k ohm impedance. Input is AV video/video using standard phono-type plug cables. An RF coax jumper cable is provided.

Condition: Excellent Price: FREE! Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

EDSYN MODEL CL1481 SOLDER STATION

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This solder station contains a 30 watt soldering iron, a soldering iron holder, a cleaning sponge and 4 different types of interchangeable soldering tips. Unit was originally won as a raffle prize and never used, but has been tested to work OK.

Condition: Excellent Price: FREE! Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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TOWER CLIMBING HARNESS



This is a heavy duty tower climbing harness for climbing towers to repair existing antenna elements or to install a new antenna on top of a tower. The belt is of rugged leather construction with safety clip-ons to provide safety and security during a tower climb.

Condition: Fair/Good Price: FREE! Contact Mike Tweedy KV6I (805-231-9683)

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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

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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	Matt Kaufman	N3AR	(818) 425-0920	matt.d.kaufman@gmail.com
Secretary	Ron Nelson	K6RIN	(805) 797-6315	rnelson759@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(661) 361-5955	mgriffi79@yahoo.com
Committee Chairpersons				
Webmaster	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(661) 361-5955	mgriffi79@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Eric Oberg	KE6MLF	(805) 791-0745	ericoberg1@gmail.com
Membership	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745	kj6lxj@gmail.com
PIO	VACANT			
Raffle Prizes	Matt Griffin	KN6SEC	(805) 433-4513	mgriffi79@yahoo.com
Youth Coordinator	VACANT			
Historian	Mike Tweedy	KV6I	(805) 231-9683	mtweedy@roadrunner.com
Net Coordinator	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595	km6min_bh@yahoo.com
Food Services	VACANT			
Room Coordinator	VACANT			
Elmers and Members at Large				
Past-President	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019	AB6BW1@gmail.com
Advisor	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		ki6ksv@gmail.com
Advisor Morse Code	John Percival	WI6O		johnspercival1@gmail.com
Advisor Mesh	Orv Beach	W6BI		orv.beach@gmail.com

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, Ca 93062-2125 --- (www.simisetters.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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