



# Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

# Short Circuit

July 2018

July 12, 2018

## Static & Sparks

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Mike Hasenfratz - WA6FXT

73's de Mike WA6FXT

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### July Program

Thursday, July 12 7:00 PM

#### Mike Hasenfratz - WA6FX.

When Mike recently presented his SDR program, the Flex server in Texas was down preventing the demonstration of Mikes Flex-6700. With the server back on line, all should go smoothly. Mike and Bill AB6BW should be able to conduct a remote to remote QSO between SV and TO from the Senior Center.

#### Dinner with the Speaker

**Where? TGI Friday's**  
**When? 5:30 pm**  
**Join your club board members and Mike Hasenfratz for dinner before the club meeting.**

### August Program

#### Rick Stutsman - N6IET

Rick will present his recent experimentation with the Hustler mobile antennas, whereby he tried various things 'outside the box' to increase efficiency while keeping the SWR low on various HF bands.

#### ELECTIONS 2018

This month are club elections. Please, come and make your support known.

The following club members **have been elected** to club positions to serve during the 2018 - 2019 year:

President, Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT - Incumbent

Vice President, Jim Veronica, WA6NXX - Incumbent

Treasurer, Glenn Daly, WA6GNB - Incumbent

Secretary, John Percival, WI6O - Incumbent

Membership Chairperson, Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ - Incumbent

Newsletter Editor, Bill Woods, AB6BW - Incumbent

Historian, Mike Tweedy, KV6I - Incumbent

#### Membership Renewal

If you haven't already done so, do it now. You can fill out the form and pay your dues for the coming year at the July meeting or print the form from our web site or the newsletter and mail it and your check to P.O. Box 2125 Simi Valley, Ca 93062-2125

General Meeting  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Simi Valley Senior Center  
3900 Avenida Simi  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

## Nets of Interest

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <b>SSARC 2 Meter Net*</b> 8:30 pm SMRA-ERN Repeater 146.805 - 0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 - 5.0MHz PL100.0  <b>Mesh Net</b> 8pm 2.4/5.8 GHz Mesh	<b>Condor Connection</b> 7pm (Plays Newslines) Frazier Mountain 224.720-1.6 MHz PL156.7	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz  <b>ACS Area 1</b> Simi Valley SMRA-ERN 7:05pm Repeater 146.805 -0.6MHz PL100.0 or 445.580 -5.0MHz PL100.0  <b>ATN-CA Net</b> 7:30pm <a href="http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm">http://atn-tv.org/netnight.htm</a>	<b>Channel Islands chapter 10-10 International</b> 28.34 MHz at 10AM and 6PM	<b>LSB Net</b> 8pm 3.908 MHz		<b>SSARC SSB HF Net</b> 8:30am 7.240 (+ or - QRM/N) 40 meter  <b>CW-QRP</b> 9am 7.032 MHz  <b>Quad Squad net</b> 1PM on 21.365 MHz's

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

## Sunday Night Net Control Operators

Thanks to our fine Net Control Operators: Steve, KE6WEZ; Rick, W6DQE; Ray, KI6LKD; Jay, AG6JF 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](mailto: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](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com))

## Upcoming ACS/ARES Events:

- 10 Jul 2018 NBEMS practice sessions.
- 21 Jul 2018 ALS Ride Area 2 Moorpark. Contact Stuart Sheldon [ag6as@arrl.net](mailto:ag6as@arrl.net) for information.
- Tuesday - 7 August 2018 - ORT Night. Contact Steve King at [ke6wez@gmail.com](mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com) to help out.
- 14 Aug 2018 NBEMS practice sessions.
- Saturday & Sunday - 18 & 19 August 2018 - Camarillo Air Show. Contact Ted @ [w6tel](mailto:w6tel) to volunteer.
- Saturday - 29 September 2018 - Share The Road Ride - This is a bike ride event that covers a large portion of Ventura County. First Stations need to be set up at 0600 with other stations setting up later. Event ends about 1630 to 1730. If you can help with this event please let me know.

## Events

### Thursday, July 5, 2018, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

Round Table Pizza, 2345 Erringer Road, Ste. 100, Simi Valley

### Thursday, July 12, 2018, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting

Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

### Thursday, July 26, 2018, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting

Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

### Thursday, August 2, 2018, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

Round Table Pizza, 2345 Erringer Road, Ste. 100, Simi Valley

### Saturday, October 13, 2018. Fall Picnic

The May 5<sup>th</sup> proposed picnic was officially cancelled by the Board at the May board meeting.

After looking at the calendar with all the upcoming activities on weekend it was finally decided to have a Fall picnic on Oct13th at Jim and Lea's house.

The event will include BBQ hot dogs and burgers with buns, potato salad and chips, condiments by (Linda),

Jim Veronica will be the coordinator so contact him if you would like to help.



## Raffle Prize!

Jim Hutchinson KI6MZ, our new raffle coordinator, has several great prizes lined up. Bring \$\$\$ !!

## August Speaker - Rick Stutsman - N6IET

I've been involved with ham radio off and on since 1960 when I got my Novice license at age 15, and I've been interested in electronics and radio technology since age 13 or so. My interest in electricity started at age 11 when my dad explained how a DC motor worked, and I was able to build one that worked using nails (for the armature), 10-gauge steel wire (for the field magnet), sheet copper split and curved to fit around a tape-wound shaft (for the commutator), and flexible aluminum strips of some kind for the brushes. Anyway, it worked when connected to one those big 1.5-volt carbon/zinc telephone batteries. I finally 'broke' it when I hooked the shaft to my AC Erector Set motor to make it into a DC generator. It was lighting up a flashlight bulb when all of a sudden the armature windings flew off the ends of the spinning nails from centrifugal forces, and it was ruined.

Over the decades of ham radio I've built and used several different kinds of HF antennas: magnet wire strung under the eaves of the house and end fed using a tuner connected to a Heath AT-1 transmitter; folded dipole for 40-meters fed with TV twin lead; trapped 5-band dipole (using single pair of homemade traps); 80/40/15 meter fan dipole; inverted-vee dipole with apex at top of TV antenna mast on roof 55 feet above ground; Hustler 5BTV trapped vertical, both ground-mounted without and with buried radials, and mounted on a chimney and grounded to a sheet-metal roof; multi-band trapped yagis atop a 70-foot steel tower I erected by myself using a home-made gin pole, along with a 160m inverted-vee fed with open-window line; Hy-Gain AV-680 vertical mounted on my apartment building with tilt mount on a sewer vent pipe; various 'portable' and 'temporary' fan dipoles (using telescoping aluminum tubing extended to 30-40 feet high); and now several variations of quarter-wave lumped-inductance-loaded Hustler 'mobile' antennas mounted both sideways (horizontally) and vertically, using various kinds ground counterpoises, including sheet metal balcony wall cover, stainless steel fencing overlooking Santa Monica pier, an insulated counterpoise wire, and aluminum railings along the beach.

**Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club  
General Membership Meeting, June 14, 2018**

Call to Order: President, Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting, held at the Simi Valley Senior Center. There was a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. 9 Officers and Board Members/Advisors were present. The total attendance was 27, with 3 visitors.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Glenn Daly, WA6GNB, reported the Club's current account balance as \$1,023.

Introductions: There was a round of introductions for members and guests. Our guests were: Vern Potter, W6NCT, Cody Evans, KK6IEX, and Kevin Deadwylier, a new Ham, awaiting his callsign.

Election: Mike Hasenfratz read the list of officer candidates as published in the June newsletter. There were no additional nominations from the floor, so Mike asked for a motion to elect the full slate of officers. A motion was so made and seconded. A vote by show of hands was unanimous to elect the following to serve for our new Club year 2018-2019:

President:	Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT
Vice President:	Jim Veronica, WA6NXX
Treasurer:	Glenn Daly, WA6GNB
Secretary:	John Percival, WI6O
Membership Chairperson:	Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Woods, AB6BW
Historian:	Mike Tweedy, KV6I

Field Day: VCARS member and Field Day Chair, Vern Potter, W6NCT, said arrangements for Field Day Saturday dinner are set. The cost of the meal will be \$16.00 per person. The dinner will start some time after 6pm. Rick Slater, AG6AY, said the logging program "N1MM" will be used and plans are set for the networking of all station logging computers. Vern had a sign-up sheet for station operators and helpers for logging, set-up and tear-down. He also needed to get a final count of those who wish to participate in the Saturday dinner. Stu Sheldon, AG6AG, spoke about his role as the PIO for Field Day.

Program: President Mike introduced our speaker, SSARC member, Eric Oberg, KE6MLF. The title of his talk was "Stuff I got on Amazon". Eric described electronic projects he has bought that are produced and imported from China. The items are very low cost and in many cases are copies of designs by American or European Hams and hobbyists. Example items Eric mentioned include a \$5 frequency counter, component tester, LCD Display, Li-Ion batteries and charge controllers. The talk ended at 7:35pm and Mike presented Eric with a certificate of appreciation from SSARC. Eric plans future presentations about an antenna analyzer and about a "BitX" SSB QRP rig he has built.

Break: At 7:45, a 25-minute break was taken with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing: The progressive Membership drawing was held. The winning name drawn was Charles Engman, WB6MIO, who was not present to win the \$10 prize. The prize amount will therefore increase to \$20 for our next meeting on Thursday, July 12, 2018. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each month it is unclaimed.

Prize Raffle: After the regular prize raffle drawing, the Grand Prize winner of a Jackyled Power Tower outlet strip was Mike Hasenfratz, WA6FXT.

Future Meetings: Our speaker for the July 12 meeting will be, Mike Hasenfratz, who will give his SDR Radio program and demonstration again.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

## Letter From The Editor

Please submit articles, pictures, etc. on things of interest to our SSARC community for publication to me at [ab6bw1@gmail.com](mailto:ab6bw1@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. I look forward (with a wee bit of trepidation) to your submissions. **Submission Deadline is Sunday night before 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday!**

73, Bill (AB6BW)

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				
<b>President</b>	Mike Hasenfratz	WA6FXT	(805) 405-8696	<a href="mailto:mikeh@tothe.net">mikeh@tothe.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Veronica	WA6NXX	(818) 389-3453	<a href="mailto:fun4all8@earthlink.net">fun4all8@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	John Percival	WI6O		<a href="mailto:percivaljohns@cs.com">percivaljohns@cs.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		<a href="mailto:gmb.2112@yahoo.com">gmb.2112@yahoo.com</a>
Committee Chairpersons				
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019 cell	<a href="mailto:ab6bw1@gmail.com">ab6bw1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>PIO</b>	Linda Parker		(805) 558-1731 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Raffle Prizes</b>	Rick Galbraith	W6DQE	(805) 433-4513 cell	<a href="mailto:rick@keymaterial.com">rick@keymaterial.com</a>
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Dante Smith	W6JQC		<a href="mailto:danterusso1999@gmail.com">danterusso1999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		<a href="mailto:mtweedy@roadrunner.com">mtweedy@roadrunner.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Ray Campbell	KI6LKD	(805) 404-3246	<a href="mailto:ki6lkd@yahoo.com">ki6lkd@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Net Coordinator</b>	Steve King	KE6WEZ		<a href="mailto:ke6wez@gmail.com">ke6wez@gmail.com</a>
<b>Food Services</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:ki6ksv@gmail.com">ki6ksv@gmail.com</a>
<b>Room Coordinator</b>	Linda Parker		(805) 558-1731 cell	<a href="mailto:kj6lxj@gmail.com">kj6lxj@gmail.com</a>
Elmers and Members at Large				
<b>Past-President</b>	Frank Valdez	KI6OQ	(805) 404-0394	<a href="mailto:frankki6oq@gmail.com">frankki6oq@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past-Treasurer</b>	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)		
<b>Elmer</b>	<b>VACANT</b>			
<b>Advisor</b>	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		<a href="mailto:wildpoky45@earthlink.net">wildpoky45@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		<a href="mailto:jhutch17@adelphia.net">jhutch17@adelphia.net</a>
<b>Advisor</b>	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		<a href="mailto:speedy@earthlink.net">speedy@earthlink.net</a>

## State of the Sites by Orv Beach June 2018

We have three local ham radio sites serving Simi Valley. Here's some of what's happening at each of them:

### Chatsworth Peak

(There are other ham repeaters on Chatsworth Peak, but this article is about the equipment I know about).

Paul's (WD6EBY) repeaters on 2m (145.240) and UHF (445.840) continue to work well. They're normally linked 24x7 to the other repeaters of his network (repeater info here: <https://www.pvarc.club/repeater-systems/>) An link to the DARN system (darn.org) has been established and tested. Some improvements remain to be made to improve the link quality and then we'll see the two systems linked occasionally.

### Mellow Lane



Mellow Lane houses the SMRA 2m (146.805) and UHF (445.580) repeaters, and the 2m DSW (Disaster Services Worker) repeater on 146.94. (The transmitter of the SMRA UHF repeater apparently has died and is waiting a replacement.)

There are three network nodes at Mellow Lane. Two are on the tower, and the third all the way around the site, on the east side, pointing at Chatsworth Peak. Supporting the nodes are:

1. A network switch
2. A box housing
3. The 12V to 24V converter for the Toughswitch and three nodes
4. The 12V to 5V converter to power the Raspberry Pi computer
5. The RPI itself, used to provide a web page on which is a screenshot from the camera at the top of the tower, the battery voltage, inside temperature, outside temperature, and the status of the AC power (present/absent).

Earlier this year the batteries were upgraded. The one battery powering the two SMRA repeaters was moved over and paired with the one on the DSW repeater. Four new batteries (funded by SSARC!) were installed to power the SMRA repeaters. George KN6LA installed a smart charger for the batteries.

After that, the power for all of the digital mesh gear (three radios, a switch and a telemetry box) was moved to the battery stack. The camera on the digital network remains to be moved to battery power.

### Simi North

Simi North is the site of the old SVRA repeater above the north end of Sycamore. It operated on 146.88 from 1988 to about 2006, when it was moved to Mellow Lane and put on 146.805.

Simi North was unoccupied until we moved some digital network gear in there in 2016. There's a 3 GHz link radio, a 5 GHz user access radio, a PTZ camera, and a telemetry box.

Recently the UPS backing up the gear was replaced with 2 batteries provided by Paul, purchased from the funds accumulated in the GoFundMe account established for radio site repair this spring, after the disastrous Thomas fire.

On the left is a before picture. The telemetry was a Raspberry Pi computer laying on a shelf, alongside a Ubiquiti Toughswitch network switch.

The UPS can be seen sitting on top of the original AD6SV repeater battery box, built by Art WB6CWJ (SK) in about 1988.

You don't see any radios, as they're just 3 plastic boxes up on the tower. The RPI and network switch are sitting on the white shelf.

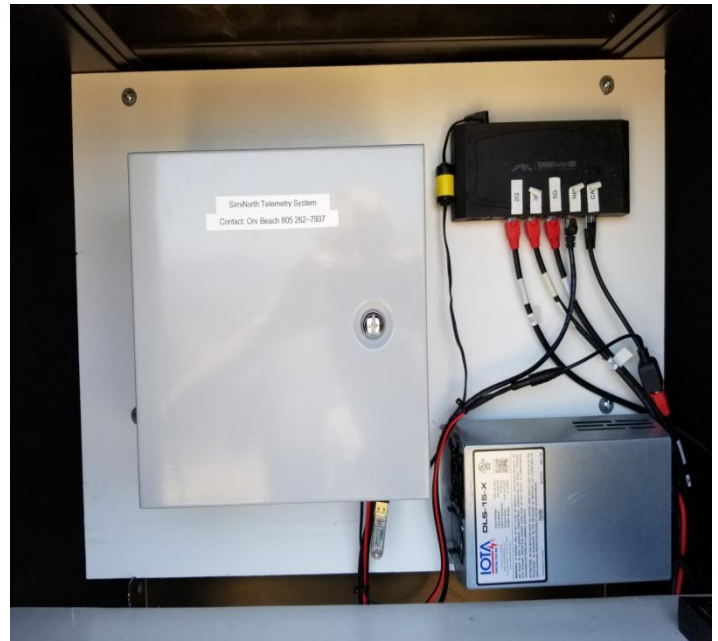


On the right is a recent photo. You can see the two batteries populating the original battery box in the bottom of the rack. (WB6CWJ would be proud).

The black PVC pipe on the top right of the enclosure is the cable entrance. The vent on the top left of the cabinet is fed by a thermostatically controlled exhaust fan. Power for the cabinet is underground conduit entering the hand side of the cabinet (not visible) connecting to the guest house on the property.

At the top of the rack is a new backboard. On the backboard are mounted:

- A battery charger for the batteries
- The network switch
- A box, housing:
  - The 12V to 24V converter for the Toughswitch and three nodes.
  - The 12V to 5V converter to power the Raspberry Pi computer.
  - The RPI itself, used to provide a web page on which is a screenshot from the camera at the top of the tower, the battery voltage, inside temperature and the status of the AC power (present/absent). This is a very similar arrangement to that at Mellow Lane.



### Future Plans Chatsworth Peak

Scheduled for later this year are a battery backup system for both the repeaters and the mesh network system, and some network upgrades. From Paul:

“The battery mounting frame has been constructed and parts are being installed and wired. The backup system which will include 4 130 amp/hour batteries, a 45 amp power supply / smart battery charger, and a 12 volt to 110 volt inverter to power the mesh network switch from batteries.

Once the backup system is installed I can then remove the Astron power supply to make way for the new 16 port PoE network switch. This new switch will double the available ports and provide improved routing of the nes network.



The current switch is installed in a tower mounted enclosure where all of the cat5 lines are terminated. As the new switch will be installed in the repeater container, 12 new cat5 data lines will be run between the tower and the container.

I am looking to do the installations in September.”  
So expect a call for a work party!





**Mellow Lane**

The UHF repeater transmitter is on the fritz again. Unknown when it will be replaced.

The camera needs to be moved to 12 Volt powering

Remote power control of the air conditioner is being considered.

The “bullet” camera needs to be upgraded to a PTZ camera when funds become available.

**Simi North**

The 2 GHz user access point failed a number of months ago and needs to be replaced (there are no users currently using either the 2 GHz or 5 GHz access points on Simi North).

The current PTZ, a noname knockoff from China, is disappointing in quality. It should be replaced with a better one in the future.

73

Orv W6BI

# 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 (\$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: \_\_\_\_\_