

Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club

Short Circuit

May 2019

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Dinner with the Speaker

Where? Macaroni Grill NE corner of Alamo & Tapo Cyn When? 5:15 pm Join Bill and other club members for dinner before the club meeting.

May 1, 2019

May Program

Thursday, May 97:00 PM

Eric Oberg - KE6MLF BitX SSB ORP Radio

The µBITX is a general coverage HF SSB/CW transceiver kit with features you NEED for operating ease, convenience and versatility. It works from 3 MHz to 30 MHz, with up to 10 watts on SSB and CW with a very sensitive receiver. It features digital tuning, dual VFOs, RIT, CW Keyer and more. The µBITX is a general coverage HF SSB/CW transceiver kit with features you demand for operating ease, convenience and versatility. It features digital tuning, dual VFOs, RIT, CW Keyer and more..

Come hear about how you can have fun building, experimenting and using this inexpensive little rig.

Static & Sparks

Bill Woods - AB6BW

I've been meshing around a bit in the last few weeks - learning how to load and reload the AREDN firmware into Ubiquity and Mikrotik radios, build and rebuild Cat5e cables, and get TeamTalk working on the Ventura County Mesh. Much thanks to Orv for his long suffering patience. For those of you thinking of becoming MESH ACTIVE, one of the most important keys is to have a clear line of site to another mesh node that is aimed in your direction. Mv 5G Nanostation is at about 38 feet and skims over and between roof tops and trees to reach the Simi North Mesh node on the hillside above the end of Sycamore.

The SSARC Board has begun compiling a club calendar to aid us planning events and staying on top of various "business" items. One of the things that is quickly becoming apparent is that our income (dues, drawing ticket sales, donations) isn't keeping pace with our expenditures. No - we're not bankrupt - yet - but it's time to begin preparing for our future. We will be discussing this at the May 9 SSARC Club Meeting. -

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

May 2019

Nets of Interest

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

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 Operator: Brian KM6MIN.

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

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)

Upcoming ACS/ARES Events:

- 1. Saturday 4 May ALS ride. Check with E Group web site for more information.
- 2. Saturday 4 May 2019 Simi Valley Street Fair. This is held at the Simi Valley Mall parking area. There are no EmPrep displays or booths this year. The street Fair is fantastic with many great venders and booths.
- 3. Monday 6 May 2019 District Meeting. County EOC.
- 4. Saturday 18 May 2019 Red Cross Ride For The Red. Contact Stewart KG6BOV at kg6bov@arrl.net for info or to volunteer.
- 5. Saturday 25 May Thousand Oaks Safety Expo
- 6. Sunday 26 May 2019 Mountain to the Beach Marathon. Contact Kat K6VQN at k6vqn@arrl.net to volunteer. Still need a few volunteers to man up all the stations.
- 7. Sunday 2 June 2019 Love Run. Contact Zak N6PK at n6pk@arrl.net to volunteer.
- 8. Tuesday 4 June, 2019 OPERATIONAL READINESS TESTING (ORT) NIGHT.

9.

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Events

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6:00pm SSARC Pizza Night

Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd, Simi Valley

Saturday, May 4, 2019, all day - Simi Valley Street Fair Simi Valley Town Center (Near Macy's)

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Thursday, May 23, 2019, 7:00pm SSARC Board Meeting Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Saturday, May 25, 2019, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm - SSARC Spring Picnic

Jim & Lea Veronica - 442 Peter PI - Simi Valley - 93065

We expected this to be earlier in May but ran into a conflict with the annual SV Emergency Preparedness Street Fair. Many of our members will be involved with the ACS/ARES booth at the fair. We have moved the date to May 25. The picnic will be hosted by SSARC at Jimmy and Lea Veronicas' home. Hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and condiments will be provided by the club. Feel free to bring your favorite sides and appetizers for all to share. Jim and Linda Parker will be taking signups at Pizza Night and our meeting on May 11. If you can't get to a signup sheet please send an email to Jim/Linda at kj6ljx@gmail.com so we can be sure of having enough food.

We will have a "White Elephant" table where you can sell (ham) stuff with at least half the proceeds being donated to SSARC.

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 7:00pm SSARC General Meeting - Board Member Elections Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Raffle Prize!

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

Future Programs

- June 13; Lea Veronica "Living aboard a Sail boat with a Ham (operator). (I wonder who.???... Ed
- July 11; Stewart Sheldon "New Antenna Design"
- August 8, Orv Beach Mesh Network Update
- September 12, John Kitchens NS6X ARRL Santa Barbara Section Mgr.

Static and Sparks - continued from Page 1

Our new Bylaws specify that we need a simple majority of paid-up members to change the club dues so we will present the Board's recommendation and then discuss where we go in open forum at the meeting. Note that the small increase we are discussing will not of itself be sufficient. We will also be discussing ways to reduce our expenditures and also increase membership. Please come prepared to provide positive help as we deal with this issue. It is time to renew our memberships as our club year runs from July 1st to the end of June.

Also, we will be electing our new board at the June meeting. All members are encouraged to make nominations for the board. Please submit nominations to one or more of the current board before the May 23rd board meeting so we can prepare a slate to be presented via email before the June meeting as well as at the June meeting. All nominated persons will be given a chance to accept or reject their nomination.

73

Bill - AB6BW



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

A couple of years ago, I bought a previously owned 32-foot Class-A motor home 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 motor home 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" motor home 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.

I 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



Figure 1 - Top End of Mast Construction

Southwind

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 motor home, you need some way to easily attach it to a support structure such as the ladder that most motor homes 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

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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.



Figure 3 - Bottom Mast Mount

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.

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.



Figure 2 - Detail of Upper Slotted Mount



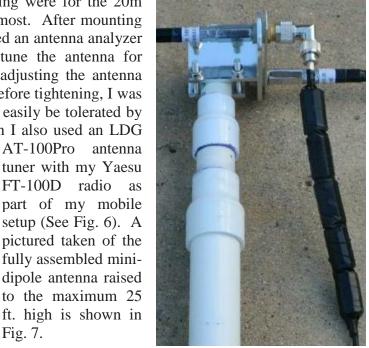
Figure 4 - Mast Extender

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



Figure 6 - Motor home Rig w/ Optional Tuner

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 motor home 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.



Every Wednesday at

Fig. 7.

AT-100Pro antenna

fully assembled mini-

Figure 5 - Ferrite Chokes Installed on Coax



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For traveling in my motor home, 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 motor home.





Figure 8 - Secured Mast Assembly for Travel

Figure 9 - Stowed Mast Location under RV

Wishing everyone Happy Camping and good DX hunting! 73's de Mike KV6I

White Elephant Sale

Bring your surplus stuff to sale on the white elephant table at our spring picnic on Saturday May 25. The rules are simple. Negotiate your sale and donate 50% to SSARC.



7 May 2019

Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting, April 11, 2019

(Secretary's Note: I was absent from the April meeting. I put the following report together from notes taken by our Webmaster, Jim Parker, KJ6LXJ. Thank you, Jim!)

<u>Call to Order</u>: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by President, Bill Woods,

AB6BW. Bill 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 24 with 2 visitors.

<u>Treasurers Report</u>: Glenn Daly, WA6GNB, reported our account balance. The report as given was approved

by a motion, MSP.

<u>Meeting minutes</u>: The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

Announcements: Rick Galbraith reported that Larry Pyle, AD6ST, who has been in the hospital, is doing

better, much improved.

There were positive comments about the last Pizza night, saying attendance was good.

<u>Field Day:</u> Vern Potter, W6NCT, spoke about Field Day and said we will not have an organized

Saturday night dinner arranged this year.

<u>Program</u>: President Bill Woods, AB6BW, gave a demonstration of his home station running FT8, by

remote control operation. He then made a slide presentation showing the software

features of the program he uses for the FT8 mode.

<u>Break</u>: A break was taken, with refreshments provided by Bill Everett, KI6KSV.

Member Drawing: The progressive Membership drawing was held. The winning name member was not

present to win the \$10 prize. The prize amount will therefore increase to \$20.00 for our May 9, 2019 meeting. Members must be present to win, and the prize grows by \$10 each

month it is unclaimed.

May Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 9, 2019, with a scheduled presentation by

Eric Oberg, KE6MLF, about the Bit-X SSB QRP radio.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned shortly before 9pm.

Submitted by: Secretary, John Percival, WI6O

8 May 2019

Simi North Mesh Update - Bill - AB6BW

Orv (W6BI) recruited me as his ground guy during the recent upgrade of the 5 GHz Mesh Node at Simi North. Orv changed out the Nanostation M5 for a Rocket M5 with a sector antenna. As you can see from the picture of Orv on the tower, he chose a nice calm day with only slight wind and no cloud cover. My main responsibility was to call 911 if Orv got blown off the tower and into the adjacent property. You can see the sector antenna propped against the equipment cabinet in the "before" shot and then gracing the top of the mast in the "after" shot. The upgrade increased the coverage from 45 degrees with the Nanostation to 120 degrees. It is aimed SSW so it should provide better coverage to the SW section of Simi. My QTH is SE of the site and I show a very significant improvement.







9 May 2019

Letter From The Editor

Please submit articles, pictures, etc. on things of interest to our SSARC community for publication to me at <u>ab6bw1@gmail.com</u>. 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 1st Thursday!

73, Bill (AB6BW)

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	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019 cell	ab6bw1@gmail.com			
Vice President	Jim Veronica	WA6NXK	(818) 389-3453	james4424422@gmail.com			
Secretary	John Percival	WI6O		percivaljohns@cs.com			
Treasurer	Glenn Daly	WA6GNB		gnb.2112@yahoo.com			
Committee Chairpersons							
Webmaster	Jim Parker	KJ6LXJ	(805) 368-6745 cell	kj6lxj@gmail.com			
Newsletter	Bill Woods	AB6BW	(818) 694-9019 cell	ab6bw1@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	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		jhutch17@adelphia.net			
Historian	Mike Tweedy	KV6I		mtweedy@roadrunner.com			
Net Coordinator	Brian Hernandez	KM6MIN	(805) 813-7595	behxxvii@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	Mike Hasenfratz	WA6FXT	(805) 405-8696	mikeh@tothe.net			
Past-Treasurer	Norbert Rehaut	W9YPM(SK)					
Advisor	Bill Everett	KI6KSV		ki6ksv@gmail.com			
Advisor	Jim Hutchinson	KI6MZ		jhutch17@adelphia.net			
Advisor	Brad Rife	KI6KSY		speedy@earthlink.net			

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:	Simi Valley, Ca.
New Member □ Renewal □	Individual (\$18/yr) □ Family (\$20/yr) □	Wesvs Con Radio
Name:		•
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Address:	City:	State: Zip:
Phone: ()	Alt. Phone: ()	
E-Mail Address:		
Additional Family Member		
Name:		
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Name:		Day & Month of Birth:
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) ARRL: Yes □ No □
Name:		
Call:	Class:	(Omit year) 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) (S	Sm, Med, L, XL, etc):	
Jackets Requested: Yes	□ No □ How many?	X \$88.00 = \$
Name (s) Call(s) Size(s) (S	Sm, Med, L, XL, etc):	
	OFFICE USE ONLY	
Application type: New □	Renewal □ Membership type	: Individual □ Family □
Date Received:	Amount Received:	_ Database completed:
Radges and Shirts ordered	٠.	