



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 April 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

The next **Pizza Night** is at

Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd, Simi Valley

April 3 at 6:00 PM

At the **March** meeting, we had Vern W6NCt and Stu AG6AG give us a rundown on the ARRL Field Day to be held at the Ronald Reagan Library on June 28-20.

We are planning a **spring picnic**. The usual Wood Ranch, ON for April 27th.

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.

April 2025

A selection of NETS

Monday	Condor Connection (Plays Newslane)	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:

Mar	30	Kevin KD6UTC
Apr	6	Matt N3AR
	13	Ron K6RIN
	20	Kerwyn N6YHX
	27	Matt KN6SEC

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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:

1-Apr-25 Ron Nelson	K6RIN - ORT
8-Apr-25 Bill Woods	AB6BW
15-Apr-25 Dante Smith	W6JCQ
22-Apr-25 Lisa Trent	KK6AKR
29-Apr-25 Frank Valdez	KI6OQ

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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

Got Crap?

Have any extra or unused equipment? Ebay or Craigslist a pain? Do you want to trade your old, dusty, tired, and useless stuff for somebody else's old, dusty, tired, and useless stuff?

Mike KV6I has had stuff listed here on the newsletter for a while, or how about you bring it to the club meeting? (You could get there early, put it on a table, and deny any knowledge of its origins.) We can always sell it for a dollar and put that money in the club booze fund.

You could go to <http://www.theborednet.net/> and click on the SWAP NET link located at the top of the screen. These are almost all from the local clubs, Settlers, Ventura County Amateur Radio Society (VCARS), Ventura County Amateur Radio Club (VCARC), and Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC).

Maybe we have a club meeting dedicated to swap or show and sell?

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Member Updates

From Matt KN6SEC

The **spring picnic** is confirmed for **April 27th** Gazebo C 9am to 1pm at Rancho Simi park in Wood Ranch. The address is 556 Lake Park Dr, Simi Valley

Forwarded from VC-ACS (Ventura County Auxiliary Communications Service) Stu AG6AG

Hello All!

The Ventura County Amateur Radio Society (VCARS) will be hosting a **Contesting and HF clinic for Newly Licensed** (within the last 3 years) operators. This will take place on April 13th 2025 in Newbury Park.

We will be setting up a full station with logging capability to allow new hams to experience contesting during the ARRL Rookie Roundup.

We will have experienced operators and testers there to guide and teach the participants during the event!

Any licensed ham can participate at this event regardless of license class. We will have many control operators that can allow you to operate on the HF bands.

If you are interested in this unique opportunity to dive into the fun and competitive world of contesting please contact me directly at stu@ag6ag.org

I look forward to being one of your guides in this amazing learning opportunity.

Looking forward to hearing from you all,

Stu AG6AG stu@ag6ag.org

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Foxhunt - Forwarded from KC6MEH Michael

Please come to our foxhunt, **April 26**, Veterans Memorial Park, in **Sylmar**:

Join us for the classic 2 meter Radio Directional Finding Foxhunt

April 26, 2025 10am to 1 PM

Veterans Memorial Community Regional Park

13000 Sayre Street, Sylmar, CA

Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club

There will be 5 transmitters hidden in frequency 146.565

Talk in frequency will be 145.570

Start location and parking just right as you enter the park. Enter 34.32638, -118.41576 into your smartphone's map.

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Power When You Need It!

Joe Partlow W6JWP

As Hams, whether for portable or emergency operations, we have a need for a source of power for our radios and support equipment. For short term events, batteries charged at home fill the need. For longer events batteries and solar panels or gas generators can be used.

Gas generators require regular maintenance and, of course, gas to operate, but have the advantage of easily supplying AC power for appliances such as refrigerators or even microwaves. The downside is our radios mostly operate on DC power so there is a loss of efficiency caused if we have to use a DC power supply between the generator and radio.

Solar panels are bulky and require a solar charge controller to charge the batteries and if you want AC power for your fridge you need an inverter. Not to mention that pesky sun moving across the sky and disappearing after dark.

There's really no perfect solution but there is a compromise as far as solar power is concerned. Just bundle everything up and put wheels on it.



I first saw the Portable Solar Power Station proposed in a YouTube video



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(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_LgBvyrPyQ&t=529s) and it inspired me to build my own consisting of a 100 watt solar panel, charge controller, 100AH LiFePo4 battery, 1500 watt inverter, battery box, hand truck and miscellaneous wires, connectors and hardware. The whole thing costs less than \$400 and can be built cheaper depending on what you can scrounge up. The most expensive part of the system was the 100AH LiFePo4 battery which can now be found on Amazon for \$109.

Once I gathered all the pieces together and started to assemble the system, I discovered I didn't care for the way to mount the solar panel suggested in the video and looked for another alternative. The slotted steel flat bar was a little too flexible and didn't give the support I thought was needed. What I went with was aluminum channel strut from zoro.com. Along with some channel, nuts, and U-bolts I have a much stronger mount for the solar panel.



I used 10 gauge red/black wire to connect the solar panel to the charge controller and from the charge controller to the battery box. I terminated the solar panel side with MC4 connectors and the battery side with 45 amp Anderson powerpole connectors. The connectors were all crimped and soldered.

For the battery box I continued using the 10 gauge wire for the 12 volt supply and ran it out the other side of the box. Both ends were terminated with more 45 amp Anderson powerpole connectors and I installed a 20 amp fuse for the input side and a 40 amp fuse for the output side. Because I could, I 3D printed labels for both. I ran 4 gauge wire from the battery to the inverter mounted on the top of the battery box running through a



100 amp breaker mounted on the front of the battery that doubles as an emergency cut off switch. I invested in a crimping tool for the larger connectors and soldered them as well.

The arrangement makes the system modular for ease of loading and unloading while still being quick to set up.

RFSpace SDR by Eric KE6MLF

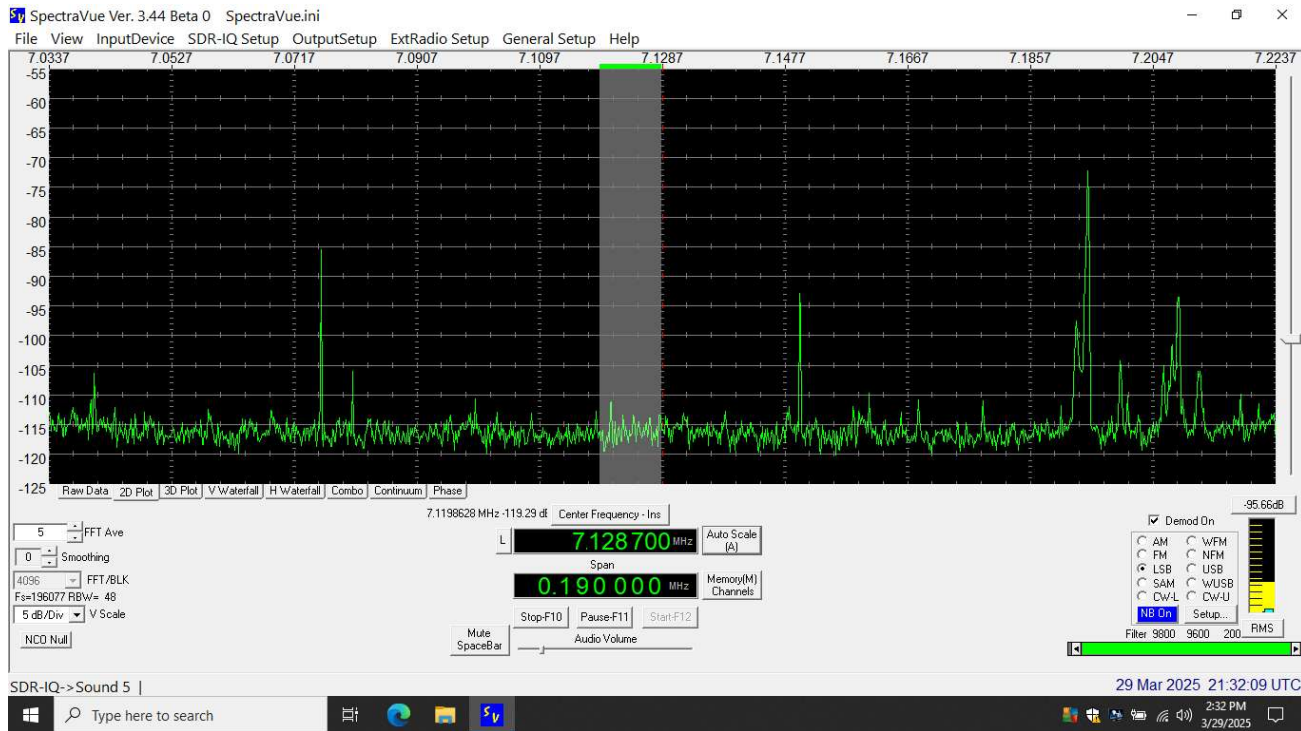


Orv W6BI pulled this out of a bin loaded with Jim KI6MHZ stuff. It was not quite what Orv was looking for, so he passed it on to me. This receiver is at least 10-15 years old, but it turns out the manufacturer still has the software, "SpectraVue" on their website. Downloaded, plugged in, **Works**.

There is a groups.io section, so I can dig up more information or hints and tips.

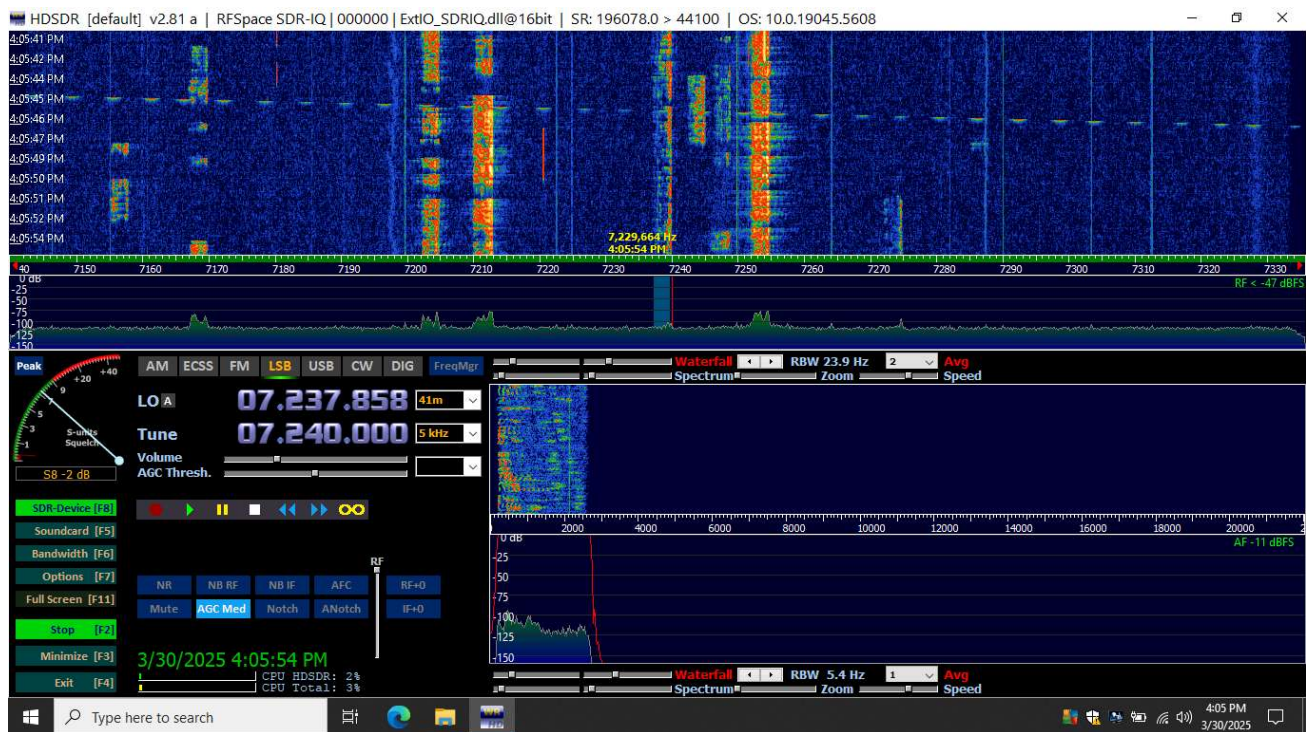
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Here is the SpectraVue in “2D-Plot” mode. Quite handy to see transmissions pop in and out:



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Better yet, after a tiny bit of mouse clicking, I found out that the SDRIQ driver is available for a much more modern software front end, HDSDR. That also works, and is going to be upgraded and maintained for at least some time in the future. Here is HDSDR, showing the vertical waterfall:



Top window is the most of the 40 meter band. The middle window is the spectrum waterfall, and the bottom window is the audio spectrum. See all the funny horizontal dashes on the top window? That noise was squirting through the band every few minutes, at least in my neighborhood.

Knowing that this device is going to keep working for years, I can now start to explore the finer details of operation. Turns out every time I fire it up, I get lost listening in on all sorts of radio traffic.

How handy would this be to have sitting on the side during a contest or field day?

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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)

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 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)

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EDSYN MODEL CL1481 SOLDER STATION

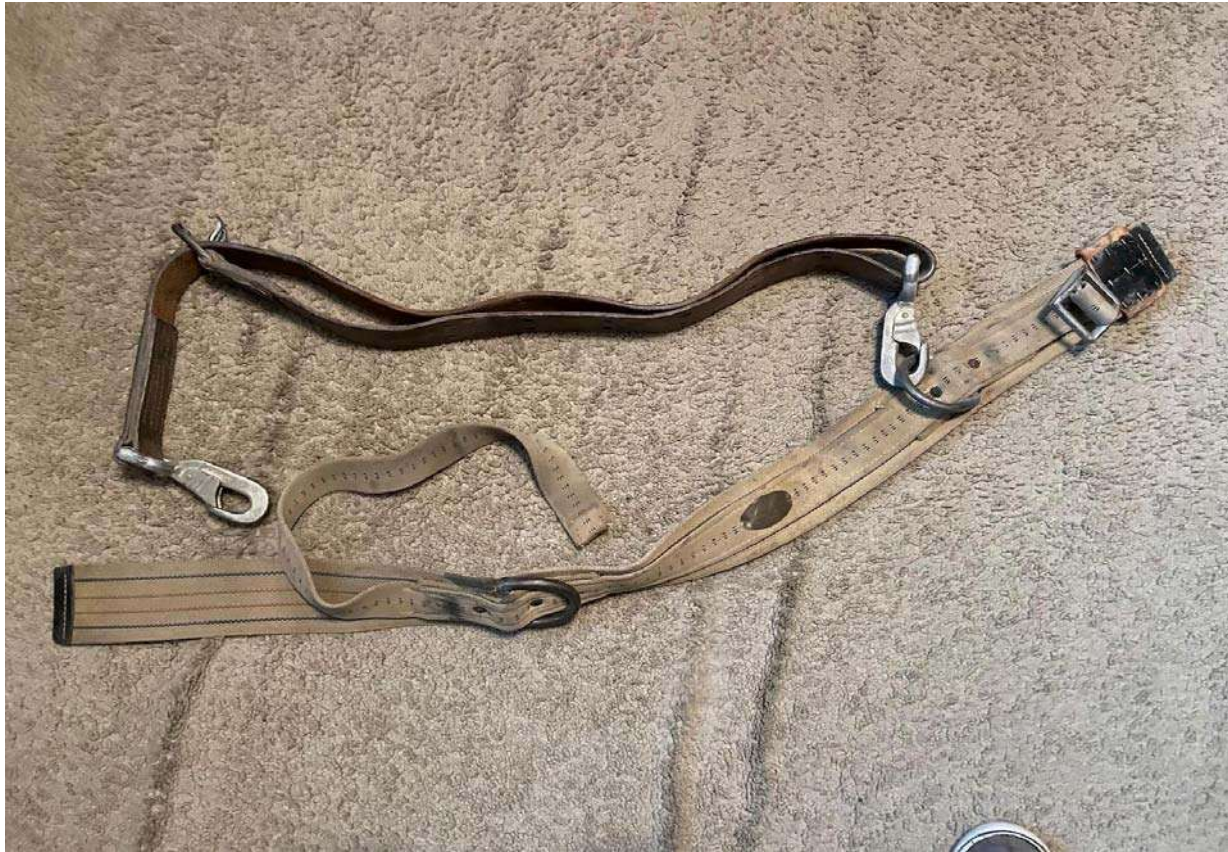


This solder station contains a 30 watt soldering iron, a soldering iron holder, a cleaning sponge and 4 different types of interchangeable soldering tips. Unit was originally won as a raffle prize and never used, but has been tested to work OK.

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

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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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