



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 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

The next **Pizza** Night is at
Toppers Pizza, 2408 Erringer Rd, Simi Valley
Thursday March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The March meeting will feature a Zoom presentation by Mark "Smitty" Smith of **Halibut Electronics**. He is located near San Luis Obispo, so he's localish (but still far enough where it'd be a pain of a drive). He's also one of the regulars on the HRWB (Ham Radio Workbench) podcast.

He is going to do a technical discussion on common mode current. He created a really cool common mode current choke tester and so has spent a lot of time with the topic. This will be a geeky talk which should scratch an itch for the electronics/tech nerds in the club.

A selection of NETS

Monday	Condor Connection (Plays Newslines)	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
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	447.640 UHF repeater - PL is 131.8 Hz

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 net at 8:30 on 447.640 UHF repeater - PL is 131.8 Hz:

February 1	Ron K6RIN	March 1	Kevin KD6UTC
February 8	Kerwyn N6YHX	March 8	Matt N3AR
February 15	Batt KN6SEC	March 15	Ron K6RIN
February 22	Brian KM6MIN	March 22	Kerwyn N6YHX
		March 29	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.



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, our net control will be:

3 March	Bill	AB6BW	County
10 March	Dante	W6JCQ	
17 March	Lisa	KK6AKR	
24 March	Frank	KI6OQ	
31 March	Ron	K6RIN	

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Member Updates

J-Pole Antenna Workshop by Ron K6RIN

On Saturday March 28, Ron K6RIN will be hosting a workshop to build a 2 Meter ladder line J-Pole antenna. Cost will be \$10.

10 AM at 3159 Lori Circle, Simi Valley. Ron will have a few tools, but if you have additional hand tools and soldering irons, bring them.

Light snacks will be provided, but please feel free to bring additional food items.

Please **RSVP** with Ron so he can get a rough headcount at (805) 797-6315 or rnelson759@sbcglobal.net

Perhaps extra credit if you make an antenna for the new 220 repeater?

Spring Picnic

The club is planning a picnic at the usual Rancho Madera Community Park. The PRELIMINARY date is **May 16**. Dust off your radio! We might try something different than the usual burgers and hot dogs...



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Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club

Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Vice President Matt Kaufman, N3AR. Matt welcomed everyone to the meeting, held in-person at the Simi Valley Senior Center, Room 105. Five Board Members were present, including:

- Vice President Matt Kaufman, N3AR
- Secretary Ron Nelson, K6RIN
- Treasurer/Webmaster Matt Griffin KN6SEC
- Eric Oberg KE6MLF
- Jim Parker KJ6LXJ

Club member Kerwyn Schimke N6YHX was also present.

Vice-President: Matt welcomed the group and reported that the Program for the March meeting will be a presentation on Common Mode Current, provided by guest speaker Mark Smith. Matt said he is looking for suggestions from club members on possible programs for upcoming club meetings.

The Vice-President's report was approved.

Secretary: Ron K6RIN reported that he was absent from the last Board meeting held in November 2025. He said he will be hosting a club antenna-build project on a weekend in March, possibly March 28.

The Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer: Board Treasurer Matt Griffin KN6SEC reported that the club treasury contains \$1,679.64. In addition, Matt said that club had collected \$400 during the last club meeting swap meet, which will be passed on to the Simi North repeater project.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership: Jim Parker KJ6LXJ said he will be updating the club roster based on recently a received membership renewal.

Newsletter: Eric Oberg KE6MLF reported that the monthly Newsletter has gone out to all members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Submitted by: Ron Nelson, K6RIN, Secretary

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Simi Hospital Radio Room update

Frank KI6OQ, Bill AB6BW, and Donnie JK6TTN have been busy at the hospital. New computer, monitor, and sound card interface.

Here is the main 2 meter radio. Good for simplex, the 805 repeater, and the county wide repeater.



Below is the 2 meter packet radio (on the top of the cabinet) and TNC (sideways on the left).

The 220 radio is on the bottom left.

The dual band radio and new sound card interface is on the right (the black box in the back of the cabinet is the radio, it has a detachable control panel).

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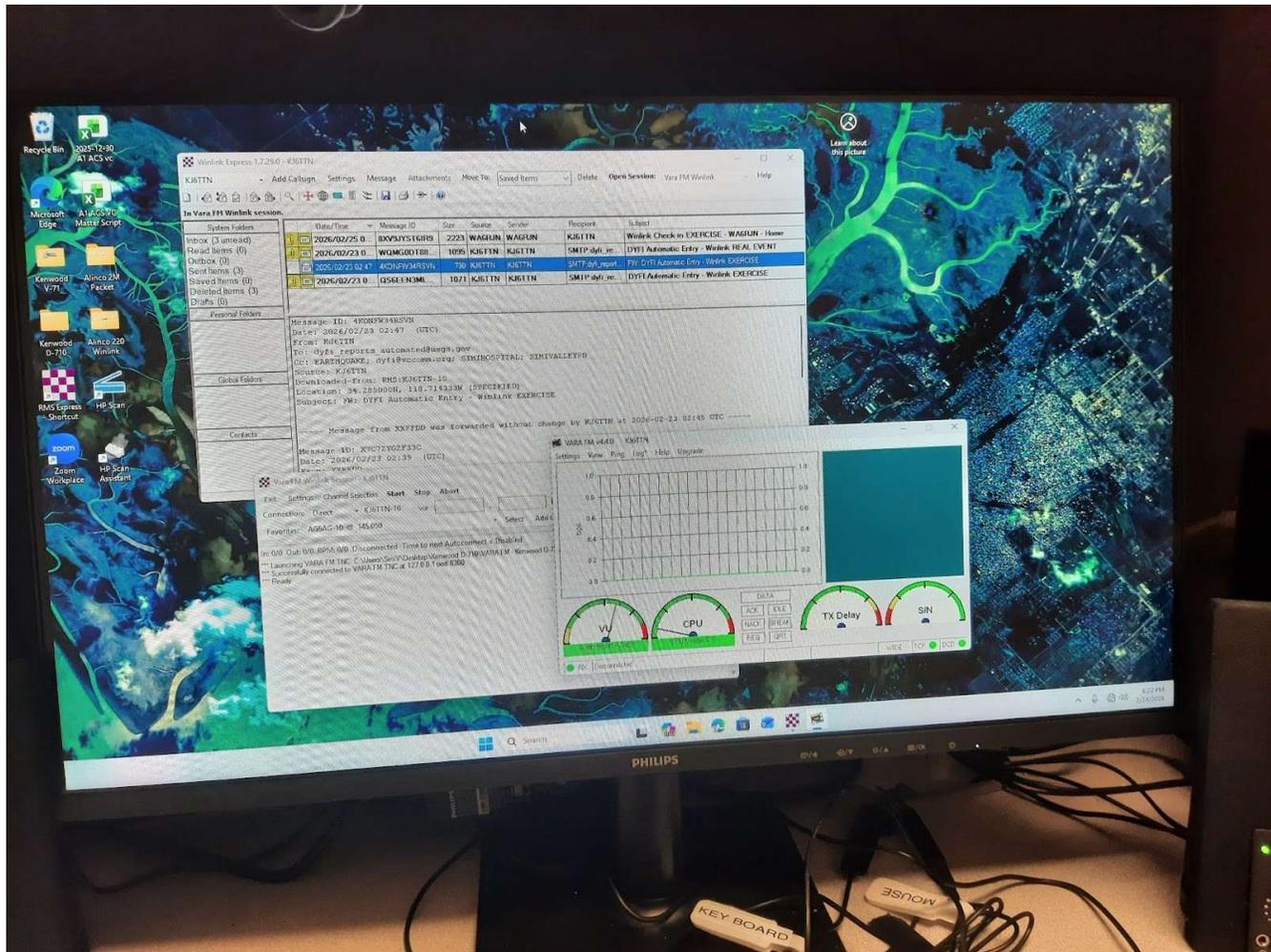
Here is the Kenwood dual band radio. Very fancy, way too many options. If you push any of the soft buttons on the bottom, left, or right hand side, you can get lost quickly. The actual function can change depending on other settings.



The APRS side is receiving and being decoded, but not quite yet up on APRSIS32 or Pinpoint. This radio does not display maps, but decodes APRS decode internally.

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Here is Winlink over VaraFM working just fine to Donnie's station as his bunker.



As always, still a number of things to do at both the PD and Hospital.

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Death Valley SOTA Activation By Ron Nelson K6RIN

On January 29th, I hit the road for another Summits on the Air (SOTA) ham radio adventure, this time to Death Valley, about a five hour drive from Simi Valley. I know, I know, you're already asking what a large valley that is below sea level has to do with operating from a mountain top. Well, the valley is ringed with mountains, many of which have wonderful trails that lead to various summits overlooking the beautiful valley. January is the perfect time to visit Death Valley. Temperatures are moderate (typically 30 to 70 degrees), and there are no crowds so it's easy to camp there without making reservations. This year there was an abundance of rain fall, so the vegetation was thriving.

After setting up camp in the Sunset Campground near Furnace Creek, I made dinner and planned my hike for the next day. On Friday, January 30th, I drove about 25 miles to the trailhead leading to Dante's Benchmark and Mount Perry, getting there about 7:00 AM. The plan was to hike to Dante's Benchmark (about a ½ mile and 200' of elevation gain), operate my radio there, then pack up and hike to Mount Perry (4.25 miles away) to operate again. Total round trip was nearly 10 miles and over 2,200' of elevation gain.

Upon reaching Dante's Benchmark at 5,704' above sea level, I was met with spectacular views of Bad Water Basin at 280' below sea level, as well as the Panamint Mountain Range and snow-capped Telescope Peak. I set up my 10-watt Icom IC-705 HF radio and a linked dipole antenna for 20 and 40 meters and operated for about 15 minutes, making 14 ham radio contacts (the minimum required for SOTA is four contacts). After packing up, I hit the trail again and headed to Mount Perry.

The trail to Mount Perry is difficult and beautiful. You have to hike down approximately 1,000' into a valley and then hike up the other side with another 1,000' of elevation gain. The rocks and ground along the way change colors; red, yellow, green, brown, and black. The last ½ mile included a scramble along a ridge of volcanic boulders tumbled on each other. Once at the peak, there is a large flat area that is suitable for all sorts of antennas. I set up my rig and operated for about ½ hour, making 25 contacts on 20 and 40 meters SSB.

After packing up, I enjoyed a light lunch before the return hike back. I was somewhat dreading the hike back as I was already very tired, but I trudged along placing one foot in front of another until I finally made it back to the parking area around 4:00 PM. This is a trail in which you literally hike uphill both ways. It was a very long day, but very rewarding, both in terms of scoring the 12 points for the summits, and experiencing the amazing natural beauty that Death Valley provides. I spent the night in the campground and drove home the following day, planning my next SOTA adventure.

Here are a few photos of this Death Valley SOTA adventure:



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Simi North Site Update Orv W6BI

After several delays due to illness and rain, Mike K6MJU and I went to SimiNorth on Friday the 20th and installed the 220 repeater in the new cabinet. (I watched while the master did the work :-)

As a refresher - while this 220 repeater and the old repeater are on the same frequency pair and use the same PL tone, the only thing reused from the old 220 repeater was the cavities. Mike blessed them off after personally checking their tuning. Everything else was donated by Mike:

The 220 radios (one for transmit, one for receive), the rack tray they're on, and coax cable and antenna. And the cable, instead of being tired old coax, is new 1/2" heliax (low loss flexible hard line). We contributed the mast mount for the antenna :-)

The repeater receiver is substantially better than the old one and the antenna is about 150 higher in elevation than its previous location at the police department. Coverage reports appreciated!

The repeater is connected to the site's ARCOM repeater controller and thus linked to the SimiNorth UHF repeater. So now you can listen to nothing happening on two repeaters instead of one :-D

(The repeaters are linked until the controller reboots. I have to figure out how to program a macro to link the two repeaters at controller power up.)

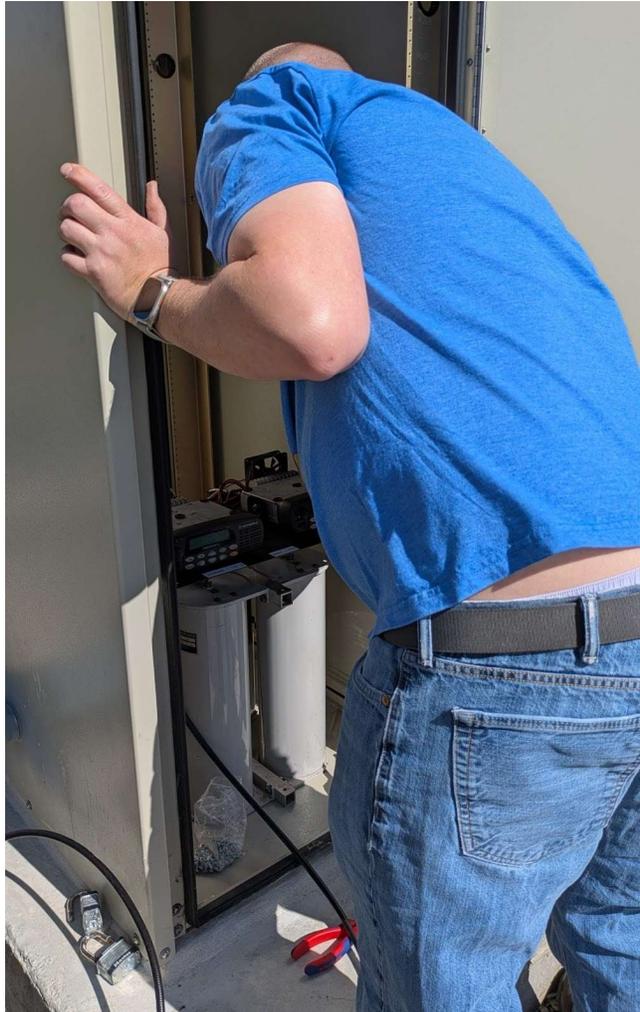
Future site plans:

- Sometime this year, install a new tower, migrate all the antennas to the new tower and demo the old tower.

- Maybe, eventually, link the Mellow Lane repeaters to the SimiNorth repeaters. If that comes to pass, you can listen to nothing happening on four repeaters at once :-D.

Orv W6BI

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Yet Another Go Box by Joe W6JWP

Yep, I have another Go Box. For those of you keeping count, that makes three that I've put together. What makes this one different? The parts are about 80% 3D printed.

I took inspiration from the [Lab Rax 10" 5U Server Rack](#) by mklements on Maker World.



While originally designed as a modular 10-inch server rack for computer networks, it lends itself to many different applications. While only 10" wide it still uses the same vertical mounting hole spacing as the more traditional 19" rack. The smaller size means it prints on the majority of home 3d FDM printers. There are many variations that can be found on the various 3D model repositories online, so it's easy to find a version that appeals to your skill level and aesthetic.

I went with a basic design that included threaded heat inserts to allow for repeated assembly and disassembly. Of all the expenses involved in this build, this was the biggest. 50 brass inserts cost \$38.16 compared to \$28.73 for two spools of PETG filament, \$18.99 for the soldering iron/heat set insert tool and \$7.99 for 50 M6-1.0 x 10mm button head screws. Still less than \$100.00 for the case and I still had filament left over for the various custom equipment panels and the radio shelf.

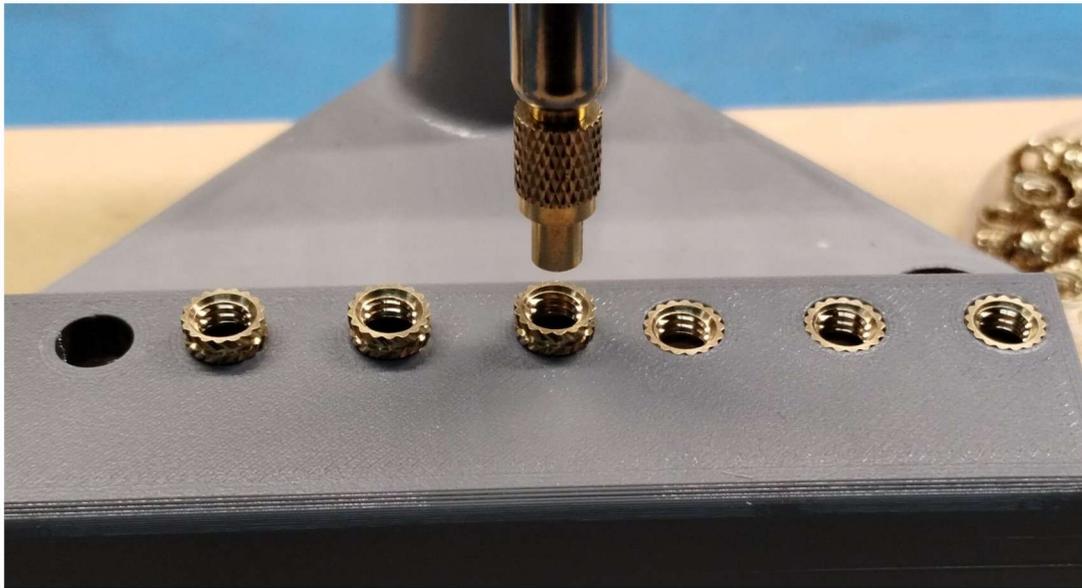
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A word about 3D printing filaments. I selected PETG over the more common PLA. PLA is good for beginners, decorative models, and high-detail prints due to its ease of use, rigidity, and low warping. PETG is superior for functional, durable, and outdoor parts requiring higher strength, heat resistance (80°C+), and flexibility. PLA can soften and start warping if left in a car on a hot day.

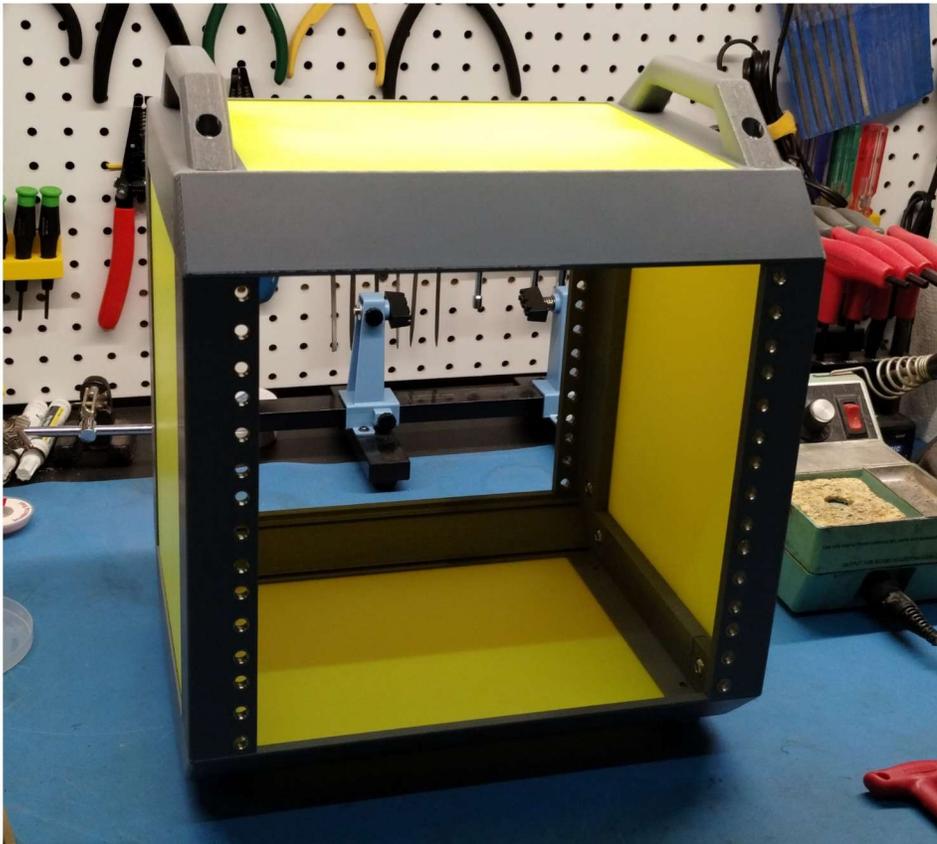
I decided to print the structural parts of the rack in gray and the panels in ACS/ARES yellow. If you don't want to print the panels you make them from 1/8" acrylic. I also decided to 3D print some feet out of some blue TPU filament that I had on hand. TPU is rubbery plastic that has a bit more give than other 3D filaments.

After printing all the parts I was ready to install the inserts. I have a stand that converts a Dremel tool or hand drill into a drill press so I designed and printed an adapter to hold my new soldering iron/heat set insert tool for the insertion operation. This wasn't really a requirement, you can do this by hand, but there is a risk of the inserts going in crooked. With the soldering iron set to 240°C and a little patience the inserts went in nicely, no need to force them, I just let the heat do the work.





With the inserts in place, I began the assembly. If you use mklements' design, be sure to follow the assembly instructions, I had to disassemble my rack part way through because I had put some parts together in the wrong sequence.



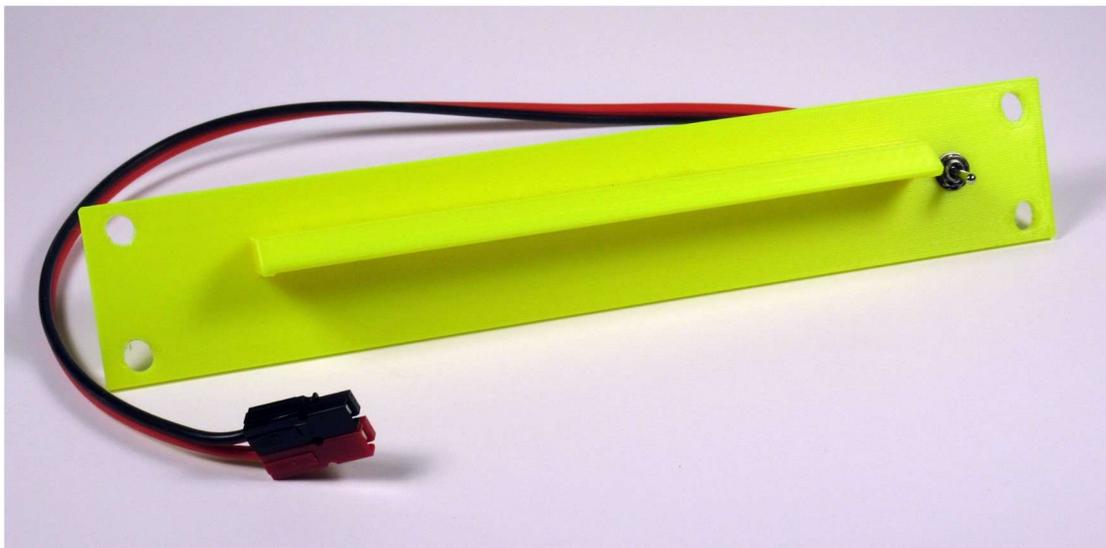
Next was designing and printing the rest of the parts I needed for the Go Box. These included a dual speaker panel, a light bar panel, a radio shelf, a front power panel and a rear power panel.

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The radio I'm using is a Wouxun KG-UV980P 50 watt quad band mobile radio with two external speaker outputs. This allows two frequencies to be monitored at the same time, so I designed a dual speaker panel using the speakers and cords from a pair of external speakers I wasn't using.



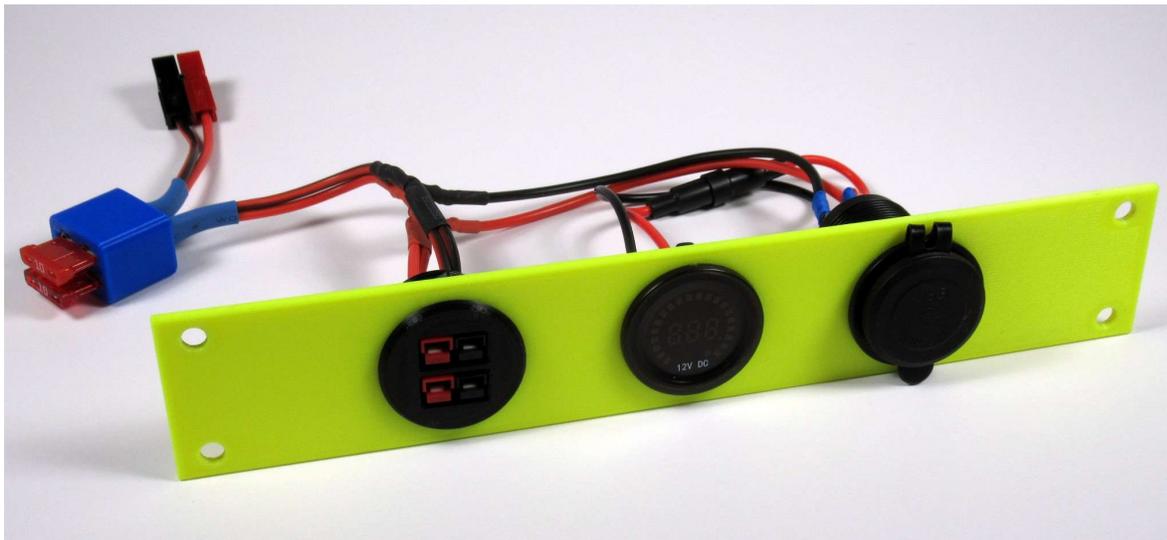
The light bar uses a length of 12 volt white LED lighting strip and a small toggle switch.



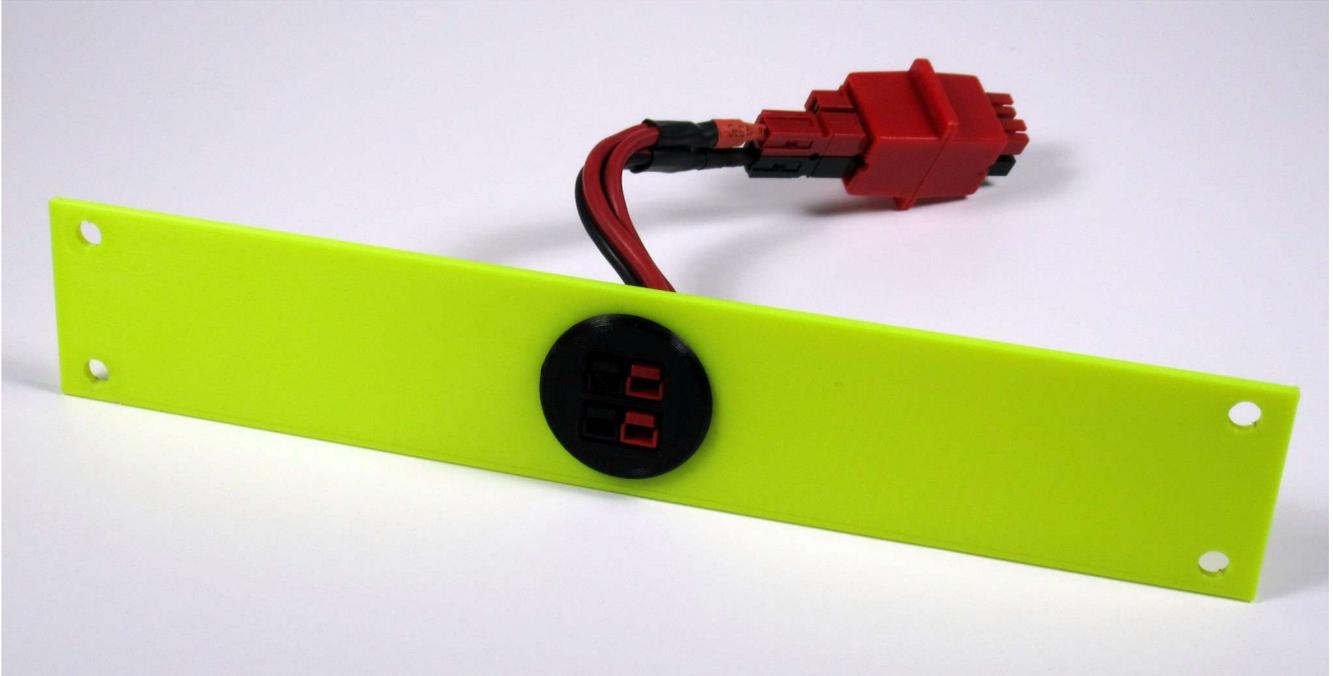
The mounting shelf for the radio was custom designed for the radio.



The front power panel includes a voltmeter, USB charging port and Anderson Powerpole connectors in a 3D printed panel mount. The voltmeter was the only thing I had to order, everything else I had on hand.



The rear power panel uses another 3D printed Anderson Powerpole panel mount.

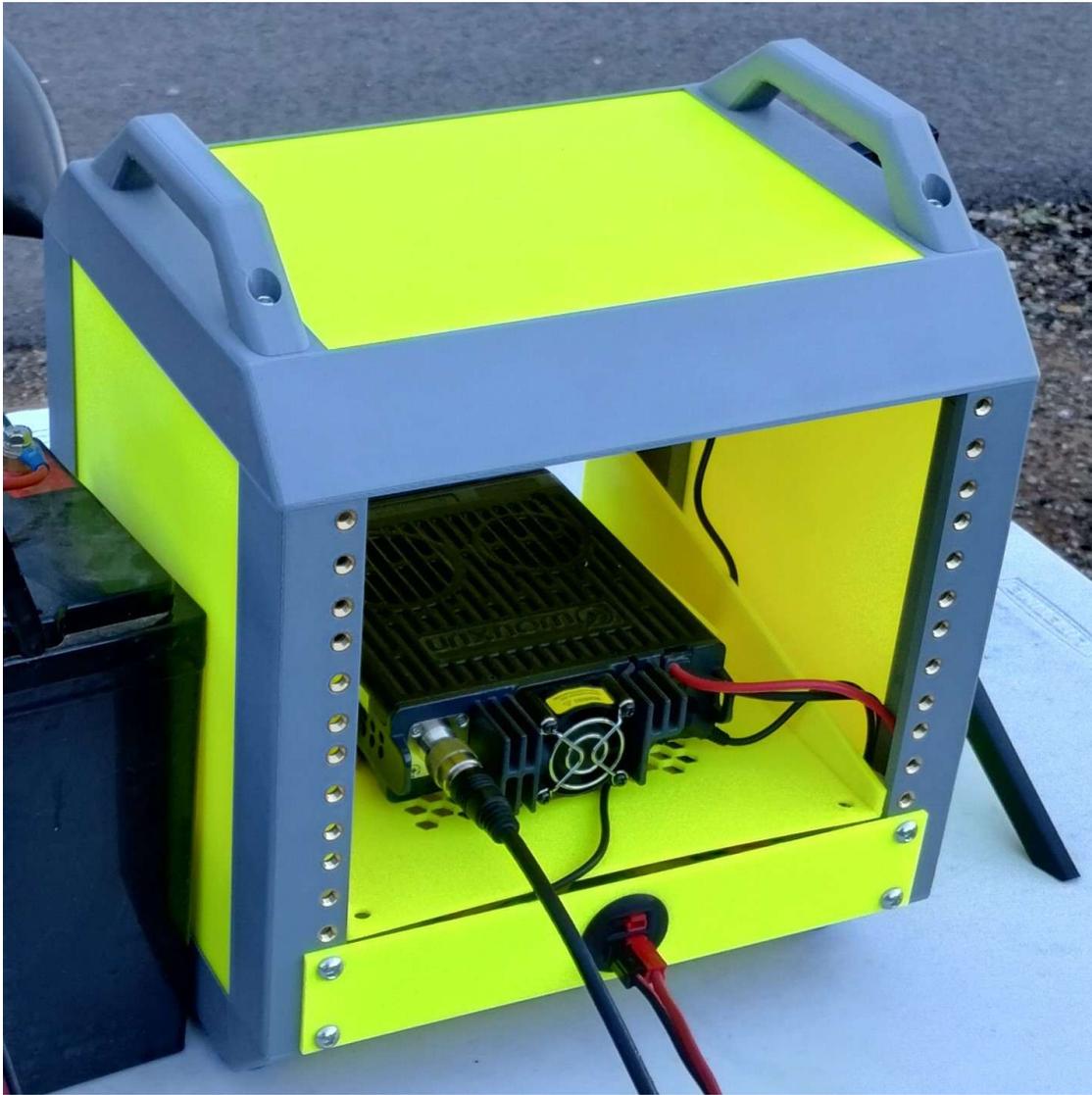


Everything was printed with the left over yellow PETG filament except the Powerpole panel mounts which were printed from some black PETG from my stock of filament and a fuse block I designed and printed from TPU.

With everything printed and the non-printed parts mounted and wired up with Powerpole connectors, it all went into the rack, checked out and was ready for its debut at the 2026 Ventura Marathon.



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Full disclosure, you can buy a steel and acrylic [10-inch rack](#) with a couple of shelves and hardware from Amazon for \$80.00, but where's the fun in that?

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Links:

Lab Rax 10" Server Rack -

<https://makerworld.com/en/models/1294480-lab-rax-10-server-rack-5u#profileId-1325352>

Tecmojo 6U Network Rack -

https://www.amazon.com/Tecmojo-Network-Translucent-Handles-Equipment/dp/B0F4JZ9YJW/ref=sr_1_3?adgrpid=187988927924&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.-JihAxnvEqhCjHS_gG3p28NrPMd1F2WRcZQNLUjb46iap1mjbHBCoEBoWCrervW80yoUT89YT5avZxgSSphetfeplcR_8_munwUmmhNIO8v_I_hketeDdicgPMS4l1XlzqzCjtcWDgiR8Vy7ZDX74lhCl8HYrTJwe54FQtAluxDFPerZXF5fGBy9WTPW-VUeLzmqZr2zlkN_xnZwTjQy1qd1EQ4ZthP2GQxvD_mL70Y.TypX5ZdfABSc1gcJGBlcqYMEpfNDVXdq7BP0IB1nAjg&dib_tag=se&hvadid=779633769305&hvdev=c&hvexpln=0&hvlocphy=1013638&hvnetw=g&hvocijid=982344700721631853--&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=9823447007221631853&hvtargid=kwd-312887853980&hydadcr=917_1015320401_2340620&keywords=10%2Binch%2Brack&mcid=5b095b09196d359c9425a1c50dffcd3&qid=1772132159&sr=8-3&th=1

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Joe W6JWP

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-acs.groups.io/g/main/messages

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

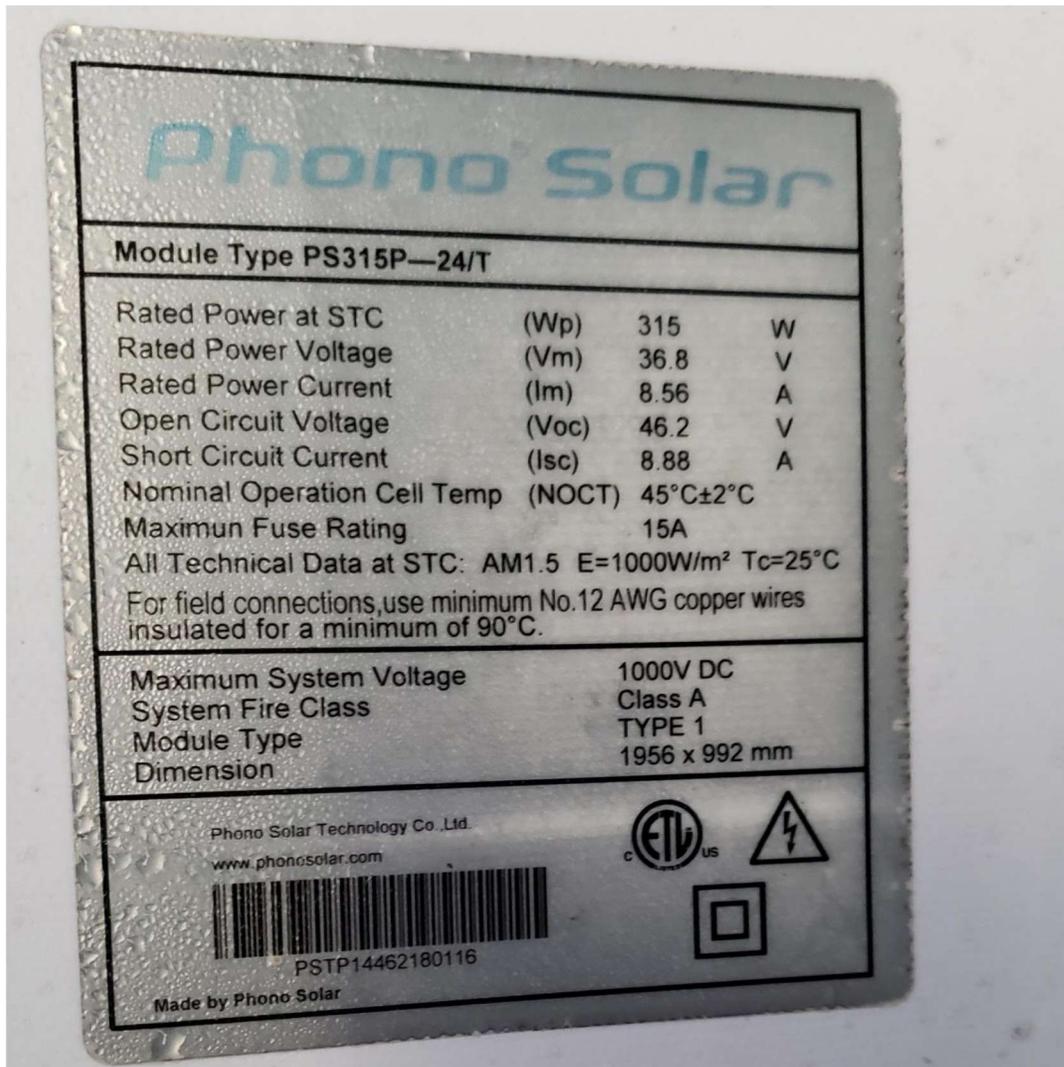
SSARC Marketplace

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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From Orv W6BI

For Sale - 315 watt solar panels - \$50 each. Lightly-used prior to being taken out of service. Four available. Funds will be directed towards Simi Valley repeater maintenance



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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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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From Joe W6JWP

Ender 3 v1 3D FDM Printer

Modified for direct drive.

Upgraded flexible magnetic steel bed. Includes a spare textured steel bed.

Good basic machine

\$75.00 or best offer.



Contact joe.w6jwp@gmail.com

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Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club Web Page: <http://www.simissettlers.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:

Type of Membership:

New Member Individual (\$25/yr)

Renewal Family (\$30/yr)

Name: _____ Day & Month of Birth: _____

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: Yes No
(Omit year)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Alt. Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Additional Family Members:

Name: _____ Day & Month of Birth: _____

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: Yes No
(Omit year)

Name: _____ Day & Month of Birth: _____

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: Yes No
(Omit year)

Name: _____ Day & Month of Birth: _____

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: Yes No
(Omit year)

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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