

Pleasant Valley Amateur Radio Club Update

March 15, 2022

Hello All

In cooperation with SMRA, PVARC has a new repeater on Red Mountain on 445.64 MHz / 141.3 PL.

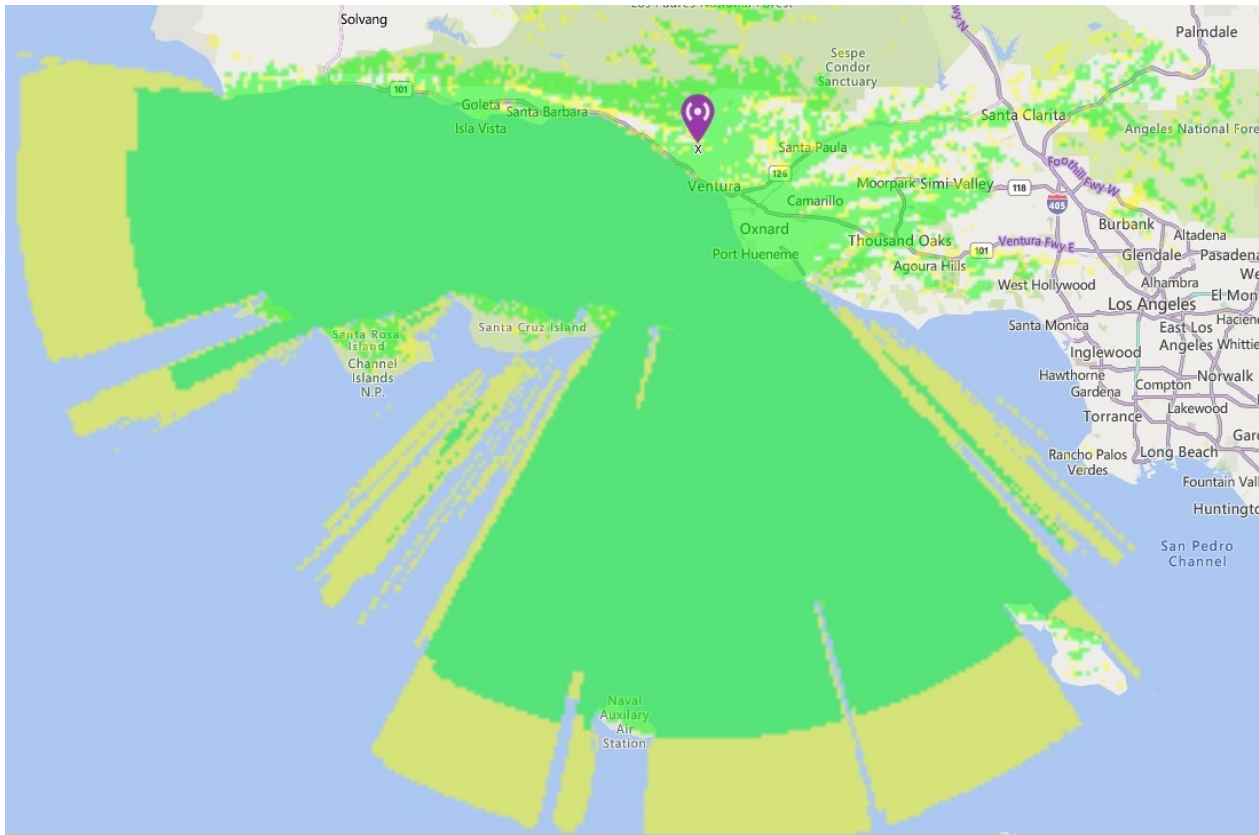
On Friday March 11th a new PVARC repeater was installed on 445.640 MHz with an encode and decode PL of 141.3 Hz. This repeater is linked to the PVARC repeater network and provides coverage along the Hwy 33 corridor and throughout the Ojai Valley. If this frequency sounds familiar, it was originally for Laguna Peak and is now coordinated by S.C.R.R.B.A. for Red Mtn.

This PVARC repeater installation was made possible with the cooperation of George Kreider KN6LA of the Sulphur Mountain Repeater Association. This repeater installation would have not been possible without a shared commitment of SMRA and PVARC to provide quality communications for the Ventura County amateur radio community. I would like to express my personal thank you to George for working with me and PVARC to make this installation possible.

This PVARC UHF repeater is linked to the PVARC repeater network through a 420 MHz full duplex link to Sulphur Mountain incorporates a 16 channel 2 Meter remote base radio and a mesh access point. The mesh node is still in configuration mode. In addition to all of this, I have incorporated a backup 145.200 repeater. So in the event the Sulphur Mtn repeater should fail this backup Red Mtn 145.200 repeater could be brought on line.



I have noticed the real-world coverage does not quite match the predicted coverage. For example a base station from Goleta is 95% quieting into the repeater but could not hear the repeater at all. I believe there are a couple of contributing factors for this. At present I am using a side mounted low gain antenna mounted at 30 feet and I think I may have left the repeater transmitter programmed to a test RF output power of 5 watts. I will check the power on a future visit. With all of the above considered the repeater is HT quality in my driveway in Camarillo, solid along the 101 and is providing enhanced coverage to the Ojai Valley.



To provide you with a little insight on repeaters, the installation of a repeater is not an overnight task. It takes time and expense to acquire the needed parts, build and test the system, and work with coordinating bodies for a repeater frequency and the 420 MHz link frequencies and both ends of the links. In effect three duplex frequency pairs had to be coordinated to make this system operational. In addition to all this it takes a great deal of time and discussion to work out a mountain top radio site. In some cases it has taken me over 10 years. And finally these days the cost of gas for my car play a big part of this equation.

And finally I would thank the team of Rob W6RH, Dan KE6NYT and Eric KG6WXC for their dedication and help in the installation of this repeater.





Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
Thank you all for your time

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