HERNANDEZ VALLEY REPEATER

Dec 6, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes "5 Year Plan" Evaluate and Expand Repeater Coverage - ie. San Juan Canyon, San Juan Bautista, Clear Creek. Ron KD6ZXG takes the lead for Clear Creek, South County.



Photo by Jim Ki6KD

Sept 3, 2019 Ron, Tim W6TST and Mel KK6MES plan to go to Hernandez/Clear Creek area to scope out a new south county repeater site.

Feb 4, 2020 Evaluate and Expand Repeater Coverage – Ron reports on Clear Creek/Hernandez Peak, a possibile repeater site but noted that access can be a challenge.

May 5, 2020 Expand Repeater Coverage/ OES Grant – Ron, Tim. Ron reported that OES has given approval for invoicing equipment. Battery, repeater and duplexer bids were submitted. A possible area for a repeater site near has been identified, Hernandez Peak across from the Laguna Mountain BLM access.

Sept 1, 2020 Sara KJ6SAS secures grant funding from the Community Foundation for San Benito County/United Way for the Hernandez Peak repeater housing.





Photos by Clark KK6UGA

May 4, 2021 Hernandez, South County repeaters - Tim reports that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) grant to provide equipment for the repeater was fully approved.







HERNANDEZ VALLEY REPEATER

Report by Ron KD6ZXG, November 27, 2021



After our first repeater was built in 2007, one our goals was to keep expanding repeater coverage through San Benito County, Because of its location and topography, most of the county did not have access to repeaters or cell phone coverage. The next repeater to be brought on line was the Bear Valley repeater in 2008 followed by the Call Mountain repeater in 2015. These three repeaters are linked to each other, creating a network that covered a good portion of San Benito County.

In 2018 we met with County OES staff where we learned that funding might soon be available to enhance our current system. We proposed building a forth repeater to expand our coverage to the southeastern part of the county as that was the last largest area uncovered by either repeater or cell service. Eventually the funding was approved and most of the needed equipment was slowly purchased over the next several months.

The next step was to find a proper location for the repeater. After many trips to the area to conduct surveying and testing, a site was selected near Hernandez Reservoir. While very remote (a 1.5 hour drive from Hollister), this site was found to give excellent coverage in the Bitterwater and Hernandez regions along with the Clear Creek area of the county. An agreement was worked out with the local landowners and a grant was obtained from the Community Foundation to purchase a shipping container to house the equipment. The shipping container was modified to look like a ranch shed by enclosing the sides and adding a pitched roof.

During testing we found that this location was too remote to reach the Hollister and Call Mountain repeaters so that it could be linked up to our system. In order to tie the four repeaters together, the Bear Valley repeater had to be expanded and additional equipment installed. A second round of funding from the County Emergency Services along with donations helped complete his part of the project. With many hours of work contributed by our members, all the pieces of this project came together in October. This was by far the most complex project that the SBCARA has taken on to date and we would like to thank the members who contributed their skills, labor and time to make it all happen. Special thanks goes to Clark KK6UGA. Billy W6WKB, Mel KK6MES, Robert K9OHV, Brent KG6KPD, Jim KI6KD, Joe KK6ZWM, Vanessa KG6ZAK, Tim W6TST, Sara KJ6SAS, Jack K6KRK, Heatherly N6HKT and Ron KD6ZXG.

The frequency of the Hernandez Valley repeater is 146.985 MHz (-) with a PL of 118.8. Because of the area that it serves, you cannot reach this repeater in Hollister but as you travel south on Highway 25 it will come in just north of Bitterwater Valley. To conduct a "self test" radio check, key your mic and press 455 on your DTMF keypad, then release the PPT button and say your call sign after the repeater says "Ready".

We expect that there will be several follow-up trips to the repeater sites to fine tune our system. If you would like to accompany us or if you would like to learn more, contact Ron at KD6ZXG@gmail.com.

Hernandez Valley repeater article for newsletter
November 27, 2021

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