



The PROPAGATOR

June 1999

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

It's That time of year again!

Ah, June — the time of year for brides and for graduation. Hey! don't forget Field Day, that comes in June too! And how about Kid's Day?

You don't know about Kid's Day? It was started a few years ago by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club in order to give kids a chance to experience the fun of Amateur Radio. It is held two times each year: in January and in June.

Kid's Day Rules

Purpose: Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. The goal is to give young people some hands-on experience on-the-air, so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is also intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

Date: June 19, 1999.

Time: 1800 to 2400 UTC.

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz and 14270 to 14300 kHz.

Suggested Exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if either operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

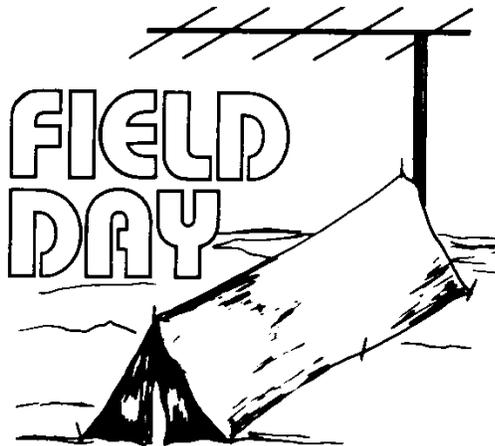
Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Send a 9X12 SASE to the Boring Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009

New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest member.

Greg Zambrano, KE6EKP

Invite your children, grandchildren or neighborhood children into your shack on Saturday, June 19th, between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM local time. If their only previous exposure to Amateur Radio was hearing a bunch of middle aged (or older) "fogies" talking, then this event will really surprise them. Kids really get a new picture of radio when they find the bands filled with other kids.



June 26 and 27

Gilleran Park, Mission Viejo

By far, the most popular Amateur Radio activity of the year is Field Day. More hams participate in this event each year than in any other national activity. Sponsored by the ARRL, this event is really a combination of a contest and an emergency drill. SOARA usually makes a very good showing in the contest results.

Under the leadership of Mike Mullard, KF6HVO, SOARA is preparing for another outstanding time. Everyone is encouraged to get involved in some way. If you have not visited a Field Day site you owe it to yourself to come out and see the activities.

The set-up crew will assemble at Gilleran Park (Olympiad, just south of La Paz) to start erecting the antenna structures and assembling equipment at 7:00 AM on Saturday (26th). By 11:00 AM Rigs, computers, antenna tuners, feedlines and antennas will be ready and the contest will start. For the next 24 hours club members will man three HF stations, both CW and phone.

The Field Day stations will use the club call sign K6SOA, and all members are allowed to operate since they are not, technically, the control operator. So don't be bashful about showing up and trying your hand at any aspect of the operation. If nothing else, come and sample the fine food the club cooks prepare (you didn't know that Hams could cook?).

For each of the past two years SOARA has had special Field Day Tee-shirts available for members to buy. Again this year a unique design had been produced and the shirts are on order. They should be available at the next club meeting.

Pricing of the shirts is the same as last year: \$10.00 for small, medium, and large. The extra large shirts cost one dollar more. Plan on getting your shirt at the meeting and wear it for the Field Day event.

In case a reminder is necessary, Field Day is an event that is open to the public. Be sure to bring your family by the site (if only to prove to them that there are a lot of crazy people interested in playing with those radios.)

See you at the club meeting and at Field Day. This should be our best showing yet if all get involved.

Fire Extinguisher ABC's Part II: Use and Maintenance

By Ray Hutchinson, AE6H

In a recent issue of The Propagator, we discussed the basic types of fires, fire extinguishers, and some practical recommendations about what to look for when purchasing an effective extinguisher for our vehicles. This issue, I'll very briefly recap some important issues from last time and address the unthinkable: how to use that shiny new extinguisher if our own or a fellow traveler's vehicle should catch fire. I'll also cover some vehicle fire prevention tips and actions to take that may help limit the damage in addition to extinguishing the fire.

QUICK REVIEW

Buy one or more good quality, ABC (multi-purpose) dry powder type extinguisher(s). A good size to look for is a "2-A: 20B: C" UL rating. Try to find one that has a metal head, and make sure it does have the UL Logo on the label. Storage of the extinguisher in the vehicle can be tricky. Make sure that the trigger safety mechanism is securely attached to prevent an accidental discharge, but not so securely attached that it can't be quickly and easily removed by anyone needing to use the extinguisher. Mount or pack the extinguisher securely, but make sure it is obvious and quickly reachable for use. A good item to include on your pre-travel checklist is inspection and quick maintenance of your fire extinguisher. Look at the pressure gauge frequently to be sure it reads "in the green", and invert the extinguisher a few times to loosen any compacted powder agent. Make sure the hose, if so equipped, the nozzle, and bracket are all in good condition. Do this monthly and a day or two before a scheduled trip departure to give yourself time to correct any deficiencies.

EXTINGUISHING A FIRE

Actually using your extinguisher on a real "hostile" fire can be an unnerving and frightening experience. To help avoid mistakes and unnecessary delays caused by the confusion and excitement of a fire, experts have developed the following easy to remember acronym: "PASS". Each letter of this acronym stands for one of the four steps for using a fire extinguisher. These steps are:

- Pull the safety pin from the trigger mechanism.
- Aim the hose or nozzle of the extinguisher at

the base of the fire.

- Squeeze the trigger.
- Sweep the powder stream back and forth across the fire.

Practice this simple maneuver a few times in a "dry run". If your employer or local fire department holds a fire extinguisher class, try to attend. Often this will give you an opportunity to practice using an extinguisher on an actual fire. If a class is not available, and you feel unsure about using your extinguisher, stop by your local fire station. The personnel there will be glad to show you how to use your extinguisher correctly.

Another thing to remember is that the powder extinguishing agent works best by coating the burning material, thereby excluding oxygen from the fire. Try to spray the powder on the material that is actually burning, not just at the top of the flames or at the smoke.

OTHER ACTIONS

There are a few other actions to consider tasking to help limit the spread of a vehicle fire. These are especially helpful if the fire is discovered while still small. If the fire occurs while the vehicle is being driven, consider moving the vehicle away from other vehicles, buildings, flammable vegetation or anything that could make the problem much larger. Before exiting the vehicle, try to turn off the ignition, (thereby shutting off the fuel pump, preventing it from feeding the fire). Put the vehicle transmission in park, and/or set the parking brake; there is no feeling more helpless than watching a flaming vehicle roll downhill setting fire to things in its path. If possible, try to activate the remote hood latch release. This becomes very important in engine or under hood fires. The electric wiring or mechanical cable that actuates the hood latch release on modern cars often burns through, preventing the opening of the hood so that the extinguishing agent can be effectively applied directly on the fire. Before attempting any of the above actions, be sure to always put your personal safety and that of your passengers first.

Other fire fighting safety tips include: wear gloves and a long sleeved natural fiber shirt or

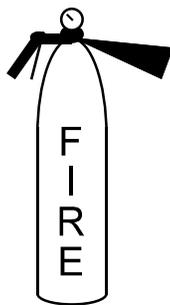
jacket to protect your hands and arms. Shield your face and head, and if you feel it necessary to open the hood, stay very low so that escaping flames and hot gases will vent above you. Except while opening the hood, try not to stand directly in front of, or directly behind the vehicle. Be aware of the locations of the fuel tank, spare fuel tanks, and gas filled shock absorber / struts. These items can rupture or explode sending flames or shrapnel your way. In a well-involved vehicle fire, the tires can rupture with a very loud bang that will certainly scare the bejeebers out of you, but usually isn't as dangerous as the previous items. Try to place something like a rock, or chock behind the downhill side of a wheel, to keep the vehicle from rolling away in case the driver wasn't able to set the brake.

FIRE PREVENTION

A very wise man once said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". This certainly applies here. There are a number of things we can do prior to a trip to make a fire much less likely. Fuel leaks are the main cause of vehicle fires, followed by electrical malfunctions. A thorough routine or pre-trip inspection of your vehicle should include looking for any signs of fuel leaks, cracked, worn, chafed, or frayed fuel lines and wiring. Inspect to make sure electrical circuits, especially those for after market items such as Ham radios, stereos, amplifiers, auxiliary lights, and the like, have wiring that is in good condition, and the circuits are properly fused, close to the battery or power source. Make sure whenever wiring passes through holes in body metal such as the firewall, it is properly routed and protected with grommets, wire loom, and secured with wire ties. (Just good amateur practice, here).

Transporting spare fuel is always a safety concern. Fuel should always be transported outside of the passenger compartment. It should also only be transported in the highest quality approved containers that will seal tightly, preventing leaks.

Another frequent cause of fires in vehicles is smoking. If you must smoke on the road, do so only in areas where the land managing authority allows it and you know it is legal and safe to do so. Always use the vehicle ashtray. A carelessly discarded cigarette or ash has started many wildfires near roads and one dropped or blown into cargo or a seat cushion has caused many vehicle fires.



	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Propagator Deadline	6	6	3	1	5	6	7/31	4	2	10/30	
General Meeting	22 7:30 PM	15 7:30 PM	19 7:30 PM	17 7:00 PM	21 7:00 PM	19 7:00 PM	16 7:00 PM	20 7:00 PM	18 7:00 PM	15 7:00 PM	no meeting
Board Meeting	3/01	22	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	
VEC Testing		15 5:30 PM		17 5:30 PM	26	19 5:30 PM		13 5:30 PM		15 5:30 PM	
Spring Auction				17 7:00 PM							
ARRL Field Day					26 7:00 AM						
SOARA picnic							7 9:00 AM				
Fall Auction										15 7:00 PM	
SOARA Xmas Party											5 5:00 PM

Orange County Fair

Check page 82 of the May 1999 issue of QST. You will find a picture of last year's Amateur Radio booth at the Orange County Fair. The booth is sponsored by the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations. This year's fair runs from Friday, July 9, through Sunday, July 25. Licensed operators can volunteer to help operate the booth and Special Event Station W6F.

Volunteers are given free admission and parking, and an opportunity to see the fair between shifts at the booth. You will have an opportunity to explain amateur radio to booth visitors and invite unaffiliated amateurs to local club meetings. For more information or to volunteer call:

Marcia Bruno, N6ISW
Home: 714-775-6095
Work: 714-842-5302

To submit articles, comments, or suggestions regarding the newsletter: send e-mail to the editor Dale Griffith, W8RRV at w8rrv@soara.org



— Preview —

Starting next month the Propagator will run a series of brief articles by Jeffrey Herman who worked as an operator at the Coast Guard 500 kHz station in Hawaii. Jim Kelley was a classmate of his in San Clemente High School a few (well . . .) years ago. Jim got permission from Jeffrey to use his stories in SOARA's newsletter. They are well written and give an interesting view of an aspect of communications that has passed from the scene.

Is "CQ" short for "seek you"?

Happy Birthday FCC

In 1919 Frank Conrad, a Westinghouse engineer, built an amateur radio station in his home. He played records for the enjoyment of other radio amateurs (don't try this today - it is disallowed by FCC rules.) Westinghouse executives soon saw Conrad's use of the hobby as a way to sell radio equipment.

Westinghouse obtained a license from the government, and KDKA of Pittsburgh started broadcasting in November of 1920. Thus, broadcasting was born, thanks to an amateur radio operator and some farsighted executives at Westinghouse. The number of broadcasting stations grew rapidly. No specific frequencies were assigned at that time, and there was soon a "chaos of the airways". In 1927 the Federal Radio Commission was established to grant licenses and assign operating frequencies.

On June 19, 1934, the Communications Act was signed into law (one of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal measures). This act established the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to regulate not only radio but also to oversee the telephone system.

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South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting: Monday 6/21/99 at 7:00 PM "Operating at Field Day"

☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Changes to the meeting time or place are announced in this newsletter and on the two-meter repeater.

☛ **License Exams:** Amateur License Exams are given prior to most SOARA meetings. Exams are from 5:30 to 7:30. You must make an appointment at least a week in advance. Call Lou Parker, KA6BJO, at 951-0336. (No calls after 9:00 PM please.)

☛ **Contacting SOARA:** Questions about SOARA? Send e-mail to: info@soara.org, or leave a message at 949-249-1373: a SOARA board member will respond as soon as possible.

☛ **Repeaters:** The SOARA 2-meter repeater is open to all licensed hams. The SOARA 440 repeater is for club members only and is currently operated on a "coordination pending" basis.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 - (110.9)

SOARA 440 — 447.050 - (110.9)

The SOARA 220 and HROC 440 repeaters are shared by members of both clubs. Each machine is subject to the operating rules of its respective club. Call AC6XG for details.

SOARA 220 — 224.640 - (123.0)

HROC 440 — 447.175 - (131.8)

☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater,

Tuesdays: 7:00 PM Laguna RACES

7:30 PM Mission Viejo RACES

8:00 PM SOARA open net

40 meter HF net (7.235 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM

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