

The PROPAGATOR

August, 2000

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

SOARA Picnic 2000

By Mike Mullard, KF6HVO

A large group of SOARA members convened in Dana Point Harbor on Saturday, August 5, 2000, for the annual SOARA picnic. As usual, the food was plentiful and good with hot dogs and hamburgers provided by SOARA and side dishes provided by the members. The kids enjoyed games with prizes and SOARA hosted a free raffle for the members. I think this picnic will be remembered for the new friendships made and connections re-established.

Many thanks go out to all SOARA members who worked hard to make the event a success. First to Sherry and Marty, KF6UTX and W6MAK. Sherry shopped for all the prizes plus did a good part of the set up and the cooking. Marty helped by holding our space at the picnic area, and in setting things up. A great big thank you goes to Paul, NZ1M, who got to the harbor at the ungodly hour of 5:00 a.m. to reserve the space.

Thanks also go to Chris, KB6FYG, who helped me shop for the food at Costco, and to Steve Foglio, KF6TVM, who shared the barbecue duties with Sherry and me. Steve flips a mean burger. If he ever gets laid off from his job as a nuclear engineer down at San Onofre, he can always start a new career at McDonalds.

Tom Duprey, KE6GYQ, was in charge of the kids games. He and his crew, Heiko, AD6OI, and Patti, AD6OH, did a great job running the

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New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest members:

Mike McKinley	AC6LZ
Scott Dickinson	N6RRV
James Dickinson	KF6YIJ
Keith Soesbe	KG6CGT

FORD Electronics Donates Rack

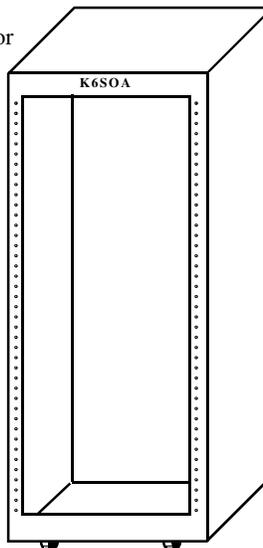
Over the past few months it has become clear that SOARA would need a new rack to house one of our repeaters. The specifications were developed, and Richard, WW7D, was assigned the task of locating a suitable rack.

Several leads were followed with no luck. A call to the owner of FORD Electronics in Buena Park got a response which sounded promising. Ford had several used racks available. After Richard explained that the rack was for a radio club, the owner surprised him by offering to donate the rack if we found that we could use one that he had in stock.

A quick trip to the store, just past the Fullerton Airport on Commonwealth, and SOARA had its new rack picked out.

It is an 80 inch high rack with casters, front and back locking doors, and is fully shielded. In short, it is an ideal rack for a repeater. The rack, which was on display at the July general meeting, is in excellent shape and will give many years service to the club.

When you are looking for electronic supplies and equipment consider Ford Electronics. Their address is 8431 Commonwealth Ave., Buena Park — 1 mile East of Beach Blvd. Their phone number is (714) 521-8080. Ford Electronics has been at that location since 1956.



Repeater Report

If you are a regular user of SOARA's 440 repeater, then you know. If you are a casual or infrequent user, you may have wondered where it went. The recent change in the Southern California band plan for 440 necessitated a move. SCRRBA (Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association) has changed the channel spacing from 25 kHz to 20 kHz in order to ease the crowding on the band.

SOARA's repeater has moved from the old frequency of 447.050 to its new location at:

445.660 MHz, negative offset,
and PL of 110.9 Hz.

So dig out your instruction manual and re-program your 440 rig.

When changing the crystals for the new frequency, Howard, KG6GI, also installed a crystal oven to improve the stability of the transmitter.

Along with the channel spacing changes approved by SCRRBA was a change to allow more open repeaters on the band. Our old coordination was for a closed repeater — for club members and guests only. The new coordination is for an open repeater. As is the case for the two meter repeater, the 440 machine is now an open repeater available for use by any amateur radio operator.

Upcoming Speakers

Summer will soon be over and it is time to start thinking about serious things. To kick off the Fall SOARA has scheduled two very popular speakers. The September program will feature **April Moell**, WA6OPS, talking about Emergency communications.

Gordon West, WB6NOA, will present the program on October 16. Don't miss either of these popular speakers.



Getting the antenna up.

This month AE6H takes us on a tour of some of the local city ordinances which affect Radio Amateurs who are looking to install an outside antenna. Ray has been among the SOARA members who were active in dealing with the cities as they wrote the laws. He has collected information on the ordinances and wrote this brief summary to aid those club members who are not familiar with the recent laws.

Amateur Antennas Permitted by Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, and other Local Cities.

By Ray Hutchinson, AE6H

Chapter 9.30, section 9.03.020, of the "City of Mission Viejo Development Code", adopted by the City Council on October 27, 1998, allows for "reasonable accommodation" of amateur radio antennas. Prior to the enactment of this ordinance, there were NO legally allowed ham radio antennas in the City.

Briefly, the Development Code allows the following antennas without any permits from the city:

An antenna 1 meter in diameter or less, providing it is not taller than the highest point of the roof line. This could include many small vhf/uhf beams and yagis.

Wire antennas, made up of 1/4 inch or less diameter wire. This generally refers to Dipoles, Long wires, Slopers, etc. If you attach the wire to the building, it cannot be higher than the highest roof line.

Verticals not higher than 42 feet above the surrounding grade. This would include HF antennas such as the R7 and R7000, Butternut HF6V or similar units.

Slightly larger antennas, such as ground mounted masts up to 42 feet above grade, with booms up to 6 feet long, and elements not over four feet long will require an abbreviated review by the city planning staff, and letters of non-objection from the immediate surrounding neighbors. For safety reasons, a building permit may also be required for the support structure.

Finally, antennas and masts larger than those described above will require a full development review and a public hearing before the planning commission. The fees have been reduced, however, from those normally charged for such a review. Antennas must not be installed in the required front, side and rear yard setbacks.

In Laguna Niguel, the situation and requirements are very similar, but there are a few minor differences. In this city vertical antennas and dipoles are permitted as above, but all others will require a Conditional Use Permit from the City

SOARA worked hard recently when these two cities were revising their municipal ordinances to be sure ham antennas were going to be permitted. Initially, both of these cities intended to prohibit them!

Other area cities range from having no special regulation (San Clemente and Lake Forest), to extensive regulation (San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point).

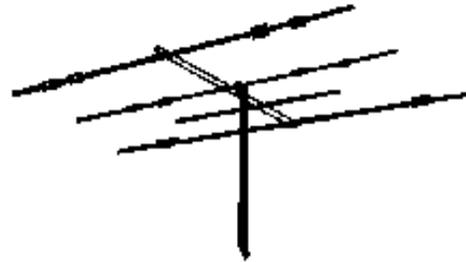
A word of caution: this is only a very brief summary, and is intended for informational purposes only. If

you are contemplating putting up an antenna, I strongly recommend that you pick up a copy of the applicable ordinance from the planning and community development office at your City Hall.

These ordinances don't supersede your Homeowner's Association requirements. Most CC&R's state that outside antennas are not allowed, but a variance can be requested. Several local hams have been able to negotiate permission for antennas with their associations.

SOARA attempts to maintain a library of the current antenna regulations for all local cities, and I will be happy to assist any member with their antenna projects with answers, suggestions, and recommendations to assist them in erecting legal antenna systems within their cities. Contact me by e-mail at: ae6h@soara.org or call (949) 496-8020.

73. Ray, AE6H



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games. This function is greatly appreciated by SOARA, as it adds so much to the picnic experience.

Heiko was also our radio operator. He brought his HF rig and was able to make several stateside contacts. A South American contact allowed him to show off his Spanish skills. Heiko was assisted by James, KF6YIJ, who brought a dipole and helped Heiko make contacts.

Wanting to beat the heat of the day, this

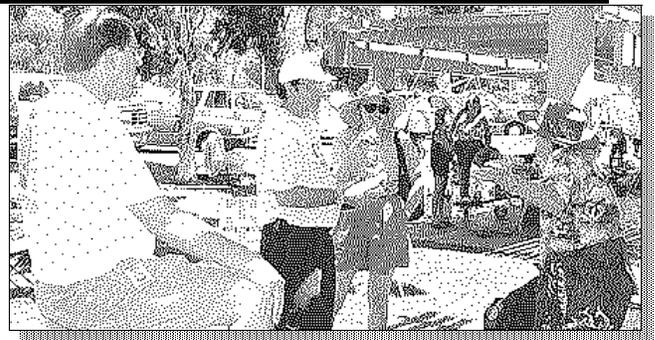
writer escaped for a while and went sea kayaking with Rich, KF6JHJ. We rented kayaks and paddled around the harbor, stopping at the sandbar at the edge of the breakwater to cool off. After the picnic ended last year, this same writer went walking along the breakwater with Rich, KF6JHJ, Chris, KB6FYG, and Koray, a friend of ours. I forgot that I was no longer a teenager and practically killed myself by trying to keep up with the kids as they scampered down the rocks and into the water. I went for an unexpected dive, missing sharp submerged rocks by

inches. You'd think that the experience would have knocked some sense into me. Probably not.

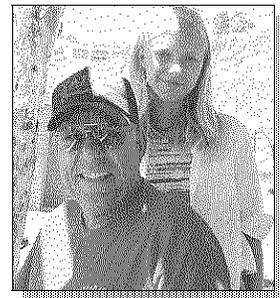
Ray, AE6H, brought tables and chairs. His wife Debbie cut up all the vegetables for the burgers. Their help is always appreciated.

If I have left anyone out, please excuse me. Everyone who volunteers at SOARA events deserves abundant recognition. Thanks to everyone for a great picnic. Be sure to come out next year and join us.

Year 2000	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	24	28 PSK31	20 T-hunt	17	15 Auction	19	17	21	18 Hosp.	16 Gordo	20 Auction	No meeting
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	24	28	20	17	15	26	17	21	18	18	20	
Propagator Deadline	8	12	4	1	4/29	3	1	5	2	9/30	4	2
Board Meeting	31	3/6	27	24	22	26	24	28	25	23	27	
Spring Auction					15							
ARRL Field Day						24 - 25						
SOARA picnic								5				
Fall Auction											20	
SOARA Holiday Party												3



Thanks to Sten, WA2MRO for the pictures



SOARA Picnic provided a time to visit, to talk on the radio, to enjoy good food — and, of course, for games. Nothing like a water balloon toss on a hot



For Sale

Two antennas for sale:

- 1) Hustler G7-144 2-meter antenna complete with manual. It has 7 dB gain at 15' tall with low angle radiation pattern. Asking \$65.00.
- 2) G5RV dipole for various HF bands. Asking \$25.00.

Contact Scott, N6RRV via e-mail: n6rrv@soara.org

The PROPAGATOR

South Orange Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 2545
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Address Service Requested

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Meeting: Monday 8/21/00 at 7:00 PM "Fractal Antennas", W8RRV

☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. 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 PM. 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.

☛ **Web Site:** SOARA maintains a web site with current club information. The URL is: <http://www.soara.org>.

☛ **Repeaters:** The SOARA 2-meter and 70 cm repeaters are open to all licensed hams.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 - (110.9)

SOARA 440 — 445.660 - (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 KG6GI for details.

SOARA 220 — 224.100 - (110.9)

SOARA 220 — 224.640 - (123.0)

HROC 440 — 447.180 - (131.8)

☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater open net is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM following the Laguna and M.V. emergency nets.

40 meter HF net (7.262 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM

PSK-31 net: 28.120 USB 1 KHz meets Fridays at 6:00 PM.

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