



# The PROPAGATOR

May, 2001

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## Field Day Planning Continues

*Some time during the past couple of weeks you should have received an e-mail from Steve Perluss, KR6CE, announcing the Field Day planning meeting.*

Greetings SOARA members, June 23 is getting closer and we are in the final stages of Field Day planning. To make this Field Day a success, we need everyone to get involved. Please plan on attending the field day planning meeting and pizza feed next Tuesday:

Date: May 15  
Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Emileo's Pizza in Lake Forest on Muirlands at El Toro Rd, Ralphs Plaza

Here are just a few of the needs we have to fill:

1. Non-traditional mode demonstrations such as APRS, ATV, SSTV, Satellite QSO
2. Alternate power sources: solar panels
3. Message handling: NTS origination
4. WIAW Bulletin: Need volunteers to copy message
5. Help with antennas
6. Help at public information table
7. Help setting up the computers & software
8. Batteries, generators, lights, tables, etc.
9. Help with setup and breakdown
10. Assistance with the food and coffee
11. Photographers and video
12. Help locating and setting up radios
13. Headphones, keys, tuners, etc.
14. Installing Ground rods
15. VEs to support testing

, , , and many, more things that I haven't listed. I hope to see you all at Emileo's and at field day on June 23 and 24.

## New Trabuco Canyon Repeater Is On Line

Howard Brown (KG6GI), Repeater Director

The new SOARA 2-meter repeater was put on the air on the afternoon of Wednesday, 2 May at its final location in Trabuco Canyon. The site is located at an altitude of about 1800 feet so it will give extraordinary coverage throughout the Saddleback Valley.

The installation crew, shown below, gathered at the Trabuco Canyon Fire Station in the early morning under the supervision of Ray (AE6H). Ray made sure that everything was in place and assured the complete success of the installation. Ray had arranged for the repeater equipment to be moved to the site a

## Spring Auction is Here

It is that time again. Time to dig through that junk pile — oops, I mean, dig through that valuable vintage equipment you have piled in the corner of the garage, and pick out some choice specimens to take to the auction.

This is always a popular event at SOARA. There are lots of items to examine ("I had one of those back in 1970!"), and you may find a treasure that some other ham is foolishly parting with (to save his marriage?).

Bring some cash and have a lot of fun. See you Monday, May 21, at 7:00 PM.



Figure 1- the Trabuco Canyon installation crew: Stu (KF6RCY), Ray (AE6H), Howard (KG6GI), Keith (KG6CGT), Gary (KI6DB), Bill (KD6NJP). Jerry (KN6QK) took the picture

week earlier.

The radio worked great, and all features have been enabled except for the Transmit PL function which is giving some problems. The system has been configured as closely as

possible to emulate the Laguna Beach 2-meter machine. The system provides Voice Recorder capabilities so we can broadcast Club messages. Auto-dial capability is also included in the package.

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## The Way I See It: "Share the Magic of Radio"

SOARA's General Meeting in April was conducted by Malcolm, KO6SY, and Keith, KG6CGT. Much of the meeting was devoted to looking at how our members developed an interest in Ham Radio. I think you will find the results interesting, and you may recognize some opportunities to introduce a future ham to the hobby.

### 'SHARING MAGIC OF HAM RADIO' IS GOAL AT SOARA MEET

By Keith Soesbe, KG6CGT

SOARA Vice President Malcolm Levy, KO6SY, kicked off a lively and interesting meeting by asking for a show of hands by age group, making it dramatically clear that we have few young hams and that most of us are beyond middle age. The obvious conclusion is that we are enjoying a disappearing hobby and decisive action is needed if the youngsters of today are to have this exciting and fulfilling hobby available to them 20 years from now.

This subject has been discussed on the Sunday morning HF Net involving Dale, W8RRV (Net Control), and others such as Jerry, KN6QK, Jim, AC6XG, Richard, WW7D, Howard, KG6GI, Malcolm, K06SY, Heiko, AD6OI, Jim, AB6ZF, Ray, AE6H, Lou, KA6BJO, Muriel, KA6BJP, Roger, W6SQQ, Scott, N6RRV, Steve, KR6CE, Richard, AD6VT, and Keith, KG6CGT. One of several conclusions reached was that the defining characteristic of a good amateur radio operator is that he or she helps others in the hobby.

Malcolm conducted a mini-survey of the group followed by a group brainstorming session soliciting ideas on what we all can do to save the hobby for the next generation.

Board Members and Muriel, KA6BJP, captured results of the mini-survey which can be summarized as follows:

➤ Most of us were quite young when first interested in ham radio (average age about 12 years).

➤ Another person (relative/friend/Elmer) introduced us to the hobby and our initial activity was short wave listening.

➤ We tend to be more interested now in HF than other facets of amateur radio.

➤ We are overwhelmingly male and our hobby is supported (or tolerated) by those closest to us.

A wide variety of suggestions were offered in response to the question "How can we help share the magic of amateur radio?"

⇒ Every ham should function as an Elmer as much as possible.

⇒ Scott, N6RRV, recommends bringing potential hams (neighbors, friends) to the shack to experience the magic of wireless communication first hand. Jim, AB6ZF is working with a radio group in his church.

⇒ Continue to provide the free Tech Training classes. At this time a Technician Class is being run by Mike, KF6HVO, and his group of instructors: Jim, AB6ZF, Keith, KG6CGT, Ray, AE6H, Dale, W8RRV, Steve P, KR6CE, and the VE team under the leadership of Lou, KA6BJO,.

⇒ Help spread the word about Field Day; it is a great time for non-hams to see Amateur Radio in action.

⇒ Expand efforts to provide liaison with schools. Lou, KA6BJO, has delivered flyers to Mission Viejo High School. Heiko, AD6OI, will help with Trabuco High and Paul, KG6DRZ, will help with San Clemente High. We still need someone to cover El Toro High.

⇒ Richard, WW7D, is an effective point-of-contact for SOARA at Ham Radio Outlet in Anaheim. Jim Kelley, AC6XG, and Heiko, AD6OI, deliver flyers to RSM Radio Shack and Keith, KG6CGT, does the same for LH Radio Shack and RVAC.

⇒ We should continue standards, sponsors, and board vote on candidates for SOARA membership.

⇒ Malcolm, KO6SY, is providing pre-owned but still useful ham publications to a local library in response to a suggestion by Jim, AC6XG. This is something that more of us should do when we buy newer ARRL Handbooks or Antenna Books. Malcolm is also available to give school presentations.

⇒ Jim Dunkley, AB6ZF, can contact one science teacher but we need to identify more. Do you know a science teacher in South County? If so, please notify Dale, W8RRV. We must make sure that key contact persons (such as science teachers) are invited to Field Day and that they share in the magic. Do not waste this opportunity.

⇒ Each of us can look at every person we meet as a potential ham and explain (or, better yet, demonstrate) the benefits of ham radio

⇒ Bring the prospective ham/member to club events to see what we do and meet others.

Make sure they are fully welcomed and help them fit in.

Outstanding involvement opportunities available include the following:

➔ Provide initial contact with additional local science teachers.

➔ Ensure welcome and introduction of new and prospective members.

➔ Help contact existing South County hams about SOARA.

➔ Escort visitors to Field Day along with Mitchell, KA6IIG.

➔ Help innovate new club activities such as a mini-field day or radio rodeo.

Thanks go to all who contributed ideas and volunteered to help others share in the magic of ham radio.

More ideas are welcome and your participation is desired. Those wishing to help may contact any SOARA Board Member (see page 4 for names, phones, and e-mail). If you have any ideas or questions about how you might help you may also contact Keith, KG6CGT, at 949-770-1481 or via e-mail at [soesbe@msn.com](mailto:soesbe@msn.com).

For Field Day involvement, contact Steve, KR6CE, at [kr6ce@soara.org](mailto:kr6ce@soara.org) or Dale, W8RRV, at [w8rrv@soara.org](mailto:w8rrv@soara.org).



Year 2001	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	22	26	19	16	21 Auction	18	16	20	17	15	19 Auction	No meeting
<b>VEC Testing</b> 5:30 PM	22	—	19	—	21	23	16	—	10	—	19	—
<b>Propagator Deadline</b>	6	10	3	1	5	2	1	4	1	9/29	3	2
<b>Board Meeting</b>	29	3/5	26	23	TBA	25	23	27	24	22	26	
<b>Spring Auction</b>					21							
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>						23 - 24						
<b>SOARA picnic</b>								4				
<b>Fall Auction</b>											19	
<b>SOARA Holiday Party</b>												2

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The repeater is built around the Motorola Micor Base Station radio system which, together with the power amplifier, duplexer and circulator, provides 60 watts of RF to the antenna feed-line. The system is operating at 145.240 MHz with a 0.6 MHz downward shift and a PL of 110.9 Hz. The site is equipped with a Celwave Station-Master antenna mounted 15 feet above the ground. The system produces 240 watts of effective radiated power which virtually floods the valley.

It is planned to eventually link Trabuco Canyon with Laguna Beach so we can operate our various repeaters in tandem configurations.

An approximate coverage diagram has been posted on the SOARA Web site at [www.soara.org](http://www.soara.org). The coverage looks like it will cover the I-405 north to at least Long Beach. The mountains shield the site such that there is little or no coverage along the northbound I-5 beyond Lake Forest/Irvine area.

The site is being operated under a test authorization issued by TASMA last September. The test period is to assure that our operation is compatible with other repeaters that share our frequency.

Have fun and let your Board know of any anomalies that you detect so that they can be corrected.

## Kid's Day — a Chance to "Share the Magic"

Kid's Day is just around the corner. On June 16, 1800 to 2400 UTC, kids of all ages are invited to experience ham radio. Amateurs are encouraged to invite youngsters into their shack to enjoy the fun. Kid's Day began in 1994 with a one-hour program created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club in Boring, Oregon. The youngsters exchanged names and their favorite color. Forty kids participated. Last year more than 1000 took part in the event, now sponsored by ARRL. All participants can download a

personalized certificate. There's no limit on operating time. The suggested exchange is name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Kid's Day rules, frequencies and other information are on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html> and in the June issue of QST, page 48.

*From The ARRL Letter, Vol 20, No 19*

## Elvin (Al) C. Rhodes, KD6VKP, SK

We regret to inform the membership that another member has become a silent key. Al enjoyed Field Day activities and the informal Friday lunch meetings.

## Election Results Official

The ballots have been counted. New board members will officially start their duties at the May meeting. Officers who had been serving by appointment now hold elected positions. The current listing of officers & directors is found on page 4.



I hope Willie comes to the SOARA auction on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the radio will be for sale!

# The PROPAGATOR

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

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## Meeting: Monday, 5/21/01 at 7:00 PM. Spring Auction

☛ **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](mailto: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 2m — 145.240 - (110.9) ← New, try it out.

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 Tuesday 8:00 PM  
40 meter HF net (7.263 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM  
PSK-31 net: 28.120 USB 1 KHz meets Fridays at 6:00 PM.

### SOARA OFFICERS

*President:* Paul Levey, NZ1M . . . . . 949-380-0399

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*Treasurer:* Heiko Peschel, AD6OI . . . . . 949-859-3868

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### SOARA DIRECTORS

*Repeater:* Howard Brown, KG6GI . . . . . 949-581-2634

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*Publications:* Dale Griffith, W8RRV . . . . . 949-830-3767

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### SOARA COMMITTEES

*Activities:* Steve Perluss, KR6CE . . . . . 949-364-6195

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