



The PROPAGATOR

June, 2001

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

SOARA Focuses on Field Day, June 23 & 24, 2001

The June general meeting will be dedicated to preparation and final plans for Field Day. Under the direction of Steve Perluss, KR6CE, Field Day 2001 is shaping up as one of the best in SOARA's history.

The following excerpt from the FCC's web site FAQs about Amateur Radio, gives a good indication of what Field Day is about.

Q. What is "Field Day"?

A. Field Day is an emergency preparation exercise conducted each June under the sponsorship of the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

Q. Do the Rules apply during Field Day?

A. Yes. All of the Rules apply in all respects every day. The sponsor of a contest or other operating event may, however, impose additional limitations on your operation as a condition of your participation in the event.

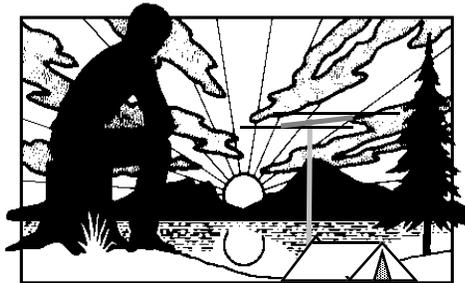
Yes, Field Day is about emergency preparedness. It is also a contest — one in which SOARA does very well — but the points are designed to reward emergency type of operations. All of our power is from portable generators, batteries and solar panels. All of the antennas are erected on Saturday morning, just hours before the contest starts.

While you might not think of public awareness of Amateur Radio as having to do with emergency preparedness, there is a definite relation. In the event of a major emergency, Hams traditionally provide the public with communications services. We

will be called on to help local officials, in the long run much of our work will involve what are referred to as Health and Welfare messages. Simply providing our neighbors with the means to get messages to and from friends and family in other areas.

SOARA is making a special effort this year to invite the general public to stop by our Field Day site in Gilleran Park to see Amateur Radio in action. An invitation has been extended to local elected officials to come and visit the site.

In last month's Propagator you found a flyer on Field Day as an insert. Please use that flyer to invite friends, neighbors, fellow employees, etc. to visit us on June 23 and 24. If you need more flyers you may pick them up at the June meeting.



Amateur Radio to youngsters. A recent survey at a SOARA meeting found that most Hams first got enthused about the magic of radio in their early teen or preteen years. They won't find out about Amateur Radio on TV. Someone has to invite youngsters to visit their shack — or invite them to Field Day. What an exciting prospect for a youngster with an inclination toward things

technical.

Some of the special modes of operation at this year's event will be: PSK31 (a fairly new digital mode), Slow Scan TV, a satellite station in operation, and APRS (automatic position reporting system). Of course there will be the traditional CW and SSB rigs in operation.



Everyone can find some aspect of Field Day that they can enjoy. The event features 24 hours of operating. That doesn't include the time spent setting up: erecting antennas, running wiring, connecting radios, antenna tuners, and computers. Nor does it include the time spent in taking everything down and putting it in order for next year.

Each operating position can involve two people. Each contact must be logged, and the operator is often too busy to handle both tasks. If you don't want to talk on the radio, you can still be a part of the excitement by logging. After making a special effort to invite the general public to visit our site, we don't want to ignore them when they come by. This may be the chance you have been looking for to talk to strangers about Ham Radio. Even if you just come by and sit and talk to your club buddies, it adds to the atmosphere. And hams do like to talk when in the presence of a radio!

We will also have a walk-in testing session. Anyone wishing to take a test must bring the \$10 fee, a picture ID, social security number, and any license and CSCE.

Come and have a good time with SOARA.



The Way I See It: Understanding Radio Theory Without Math.

There are some interesting topics in radio theory I am anxious to write about, but — the question came up recently: What is the procedure for renewing your license? The FCC's procedures have been changing over the past few years, and have been a little difficult to keep up with at times.

If you obtained your license recently, the VE team took care of the paperwork and the actual filing with the FCC. Upgrades to a higher license class are also taken care of by the VE team that gave the test. It will may be that the first time you have to deal with the FCC directly is when you renew your license.

First, it is your responsibility to know when to renew your license. This is something that you can lose track of in ten years. The FCC has not been sending notice that the renewal is due. If you are a member of the ARRL, they will send you a notification and you can handle the renewal through them. There is no charge for this members-only service. Sounds like a good deal.

When you renew, you will find that you must provide your TIN — your Taxpayer Identification Number. For individuals the TIN is just your Social Security Number. You are required to provide this to the FCC because Congress wants to check to see if you owe any money to the government before you are provided any services by any agency of the government. I think I put that accurately. Anyway, don't be surprised at being asked to provide your social security number.

At one time, when you upgraded your license it was treated as a new license in that the renewal was due ten years after the upgrade. This is no longer the case. If you upgrade to a higher class

license that license renewal is due on the same date as the old one would have been due.

You can not renew your license more than 90 days before its expiration date. You can continue to operate after the expiration date if you applied for renewal in that 90 day window.

If you miss the renewal date, then your license will expire and you may not operate. You do have a two year grace period in which you can renew your license without losing your call sign and being required to retake a test. If you let it go beyond the two year grace period, you will have to take the test and could only get your old call sign as a vanity call.

Holders of the no longer awarded class of license (Advanced, Novice, and Technician Plus) can continue to renew their licenses. The Technician Plus holders will receive their renewed license indicating only "Technician". This does not mean that they lose HF privileges, but the FCC database will not contain the information that they have the code credit. If you hold a Tech + ticket, it would be wise to hold onto your old license as a form of proof of the actual status of your license.

How Do You Apply for a Renewal?

You apply for a renewal (or a change of name or address) by filing a FCC Form 605. (Note that this is not the same form 605 that is used by the VEs when they send in your application for a new license.) There are, in fact, two parts to the FCC 605 form: the FCC 605 Main Form — for renewals, etc.; and the FCC 605 Schedule D — to apply for an Amateur Radio call sign change or Vanity Call Sign.

Form 605 can be filed either by regular mail or can be filled out on-line at the FCC web site. Several options are available for obtaining a paper copy of the form. Forms can be ordered by calling (800) 418-FORM (3676),

or can be downloaded from <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>. Mail the

completed form to:

FCC
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

The method the FCC would prefer that you use to renew or modify your license is through the ULS (universal licensing system) over the internet. It is quick and efficient — but there are some limitations. At present

you must use a Windows based computer and their site is not fully compatible with browsers other than recent versions of Netscape Communicator (versions 4.5, 4.51, 4.61 & 4.7). The browser must be configured for Java, Java Script, and to accept Cookies.



The first step is to set up an account by registering at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>. You will need to provide the following:

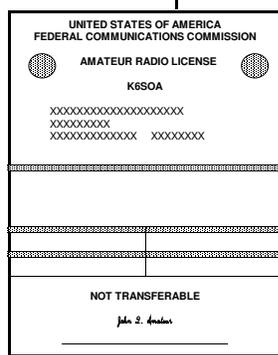
- ☞ Name, address, and telephone number
- ☞ Taxpayer Identification Number (SSN)
- ☞ Self-assigned password
- ☞ Call sign

Fairly detailed instructions for the common applications for Amateur Radio are found at: <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/D00-270C.html>.

While there are many internet resources available to amateur radio operators, it is sometimes a bit tedious trying to run down the information you want. Below is a list of resources related to licensing. SOARA offers its members not only a fine web site with information on upcoming events and many useful links, but also an e-mail alias service. If you have not taken advantage of this service register now so you can receive e-mail addressed to you at [\(call\)@soara.org](mailto:(call)@soara.org). Check at www.soara.org for details.

For looking up current call sign information:
<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fcclook.php3>
<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> (search, license)
<http://www.qrz.com>
<http://www.wm7d.net>
<http://callsign.uair.edu/callsign.shtml>
http://www.buck.com/cqi-bin/do_hamcallexe
For vanity call sign resources:
<http://www.carroll-usa.com/vanity/>
<http://www.amateur-radio.org/vanity.html>

Lets see, how do I get this computer started?



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

Special Station K1D

WIDAD, K1MOM and K1D call signs mean it's Kids Day again: Peter and Jeanne Schipelliti, WIDAD and K1MOM, respectively, and their kids Geena, age 6 and Luciano, age 4, have activated the special 1X1 call sign, K1D. The family wanted to promote ARRL's Kid's Day and assist hams in igniting the interest of children in Amateur Radio. They plan to use the call sign from June 2-17. Kid's Day is June 16, from 1800- 2400Z. Listen for K1D on 28350, 21380, 14270, 7230 and 3895 kHz. Hams who plan to put youngsters on the air for Kid's Day can get a free Amateur Radio coloring book and youthful operating aids from K1MOM at: k1mom@arrl.net. For more info on Kid's Day, see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>.

ARRL Special Rates

ARRL membership rates are going to increase. You can join or extend your membership at special rates — but you have to act now. If you join or renew before July 1, you can take advantage of the special rates. Check the current QST, call 1-888-277-5289, or visit the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org>. You can join or renew through SOARA. See the treasurer Heiko, AD6OI, at the meeting.

Kid's Day Rules

Educational Activities: Recruitment & Education · Kid's Day Certificate

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

Date: June 16, 2001.

Time: 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time.

Suggested exchange: 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."

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor.

Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Reporting: Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet to kids@contesting.com. You may review these postings at <http://www.contesting.com/kids/>. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club.

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). You can download this certificate for free or send a 9 X 12 SASE to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009. More details may be obtained at the Web site, <http://www.jzap.com/k7rat/>



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

Address Service Requested

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**Meeting: Monday, 6/18/01 at 7:00 PM.
Program: Field Day Preparation**

☛ **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 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

nz1m@soara.org

V.P.: Malcolm Levy, KO6SY 949-951-1882

ko6sy@soara.org

Secretary: Richard Coyne, WW7D 949-855-4689

ww7d@soara.org

Treasurer: Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868

ad6oi@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

Repeater: Howard Brown, KG6GI 949-581-2634

kg6gi@soara.org

Publications: Dale Griffith, W8RRV 949-830-3767

w8rrv@soara.org

Membership: Chris Reed, KB6FYG 949-361-1438

kb6fyg@soara.org

Education: Mike Mullard, KF6HVO 949-249-2846

kf6hvo@soara.org

Technical: Kevin Moon, KG6ABX

kg6abx@soara.org

Communications: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-496-8020

ae6h@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Steve Perluss, KR6CE 949-364-6195

kr6ce@soara.org

Testing: Lou Parker, KA6BJO 949-951-0336

ka6bjo@soara.org

Website: Chris Reed, KB6FYG 949-361-1438

kb6fyg@soara.org