



The PROPAGATOR

April, 2002

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

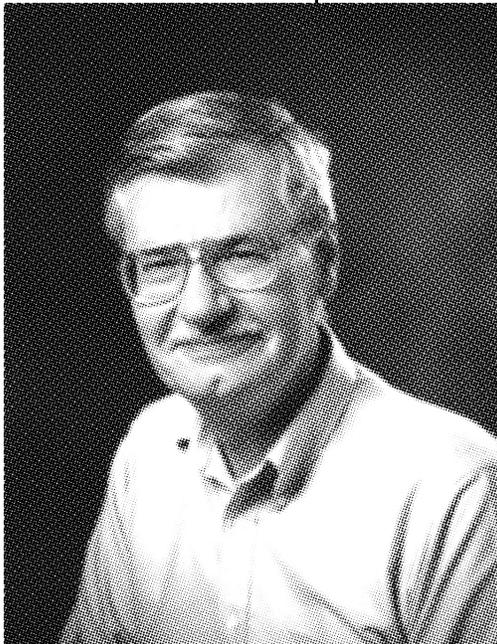
The T88CC Story ...

The Republic of Palau, with a total population of 18 thousand, offers some of the best diving and sport fishing in the world. It's hard to imagine this idyllic island group as the scene of some of WW2's fiercest fighting. Join noted photographer Art Goddard, W6XD, for a tour of this charming country and learn about meeting the challenges of DX radio contest operation.

Art Goddard, W6XD, earned his novice Amateur Radio license in 1956. He worked his way up through the ranks to Extra class. His radio activities include

HF/VHF, DX, contests, satellites and digital communications. He has traveled in numerous foreign countries. Equipped with his camera, Art captures the DXpedition spirit to share with fellow amateurs at club meetings and conventions.

Art is a life member of ARRL, currently serving as Director of the Southwestern Division. He is actively involved in representing and promoting Amateur Radio throughout the region. Professionally, he is a consultant in electronics systems, retired from Boeing (formerly Collins Radio and Rockwell International). Art and his wife Mary Ellen live in Costa Mesa, CA.



A Job Well Done

Paul Levey, NZ1M, is retiring as President of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association after six years of service. Paul will find plenty to keep him involved in club activities. We depend on his CW skills at Field Day, and the Annual party in December just wouldn't be the same without his musical contribution.

The club will miss his cheerful manner in opening the general meetings and making everyone feel very welcome. Paul will continue to serve the club as the Call Sign Custodian — the person whose name is on file with the FCC as responsible for the club radio license.

It was under Paul's leadership that the club obtained its own call sign (K6SOA). Other major milestones included obtaining a club web site (www.soara.org) and the e-mail reflector. The e-mail reflector enables each club member with an e-mail

address to receive mail addressed to their call at [soara.org \(k6xxx@soara.org\)](mailto:k6xxx@soara.org).

A new two meter repeater was brought on line and general improvements in all of the repeaters were notable accomplishments of the past few years. A major goal was obtained in the passage of a Ham-friendly antenna ordinance in Mission Viejo. Paul served as the spokesman for the Amateur Radio community and SOARA in those negotiations. That ordinance has served as a model for the surrounding communities, and Paul has been active in presenting our case to other cities.

Thanks, Paul, for a job well done.

SOARA Election

SOARA's board has announced the slate of officers for the current election. Officers and directors serve for two year terms. Officers — President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer — stand for election on even years and the directors stand for election on odd years.

Candidates for the offices are:

☞ **President: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H**

Ray has been an active leader in SOARA for several years. He is a Captain with the Orange County Fire Authority and has called upon his experience to provide leadership in the area of Emergency Communications. His current position is Director of Communications. (The board will be looking for someone to take over that position for the remainder of the term.)

☞ **Vice President: Malcolm Levy, KO6SY**

Malcolm has agreed to continue in the office of vice president for another term. Perhaps best known for his presentations of both technical and operating aspects of Ham radio, Malcolm arranges for the monthly speakers at SOARA's general meetings.

☞ **Secretary: Richard Coyne, WW7D**

Known to many as "the guy to see at HRO", Richard also has agreed to continue his work on the board. His duties include preparing the agenda and keeping the minutes of board meetings. Richard has been active participant in SOARA functions or several years.

☞ **Treasurer: Jerry Di Schino, KN6QK**

Certainly one of the most demanding jobs in running the club is that of the treasurer. Jerry served as treasurer in the past and has agreed to come back on the board in that post. Jerry is a tireless worker and his presence on the board is welcomed by all.

Also on the ballot is the candidate for Technical Director. Bob Grant, W6CIC, who has extensive experience, has agreed to take on this job for the remainder of the term.



The Way I See It:

Odds & Ends:
Emergency Ops,
Morse Keys, and
such

Hospital Group Supported by SOARA members

By Keith Soesbe, WR6R

SOARA members who are also part of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) participated in the triennial disaster exercise held at the John Wayne Airport on March 6. Four Orange County hospitals participated in this four hour drill, each receiving about 18 "patients" with moulages indicating injuries.

The simulated commercial jet accident occurred at 10AM. Each of the hospitals, Hoag, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Western Medical Center Santa Ana, then activated HDSCS once they knew of the incident and put their disaster plans into action. Because of its size, three communicators were sent to Hoag. The other hospitals all had two communicators responding to them. Communicators were also dispatched to the airport incident site to "shadow" the county's medical disaster management coordinator and to the county Emergency Operations Center. In total, 15 HDSCS members were in action.

Three bands and four repeaters were used in addition to various simplex frequencies to provide options for handling traffic. Being able to move stations off the main net keeps the net more functional and available for high priority traffic. We are thankful to have access to the various repeaters. SOARA member Mitchell Knight, KB6IIG responded to Western Medical Center in Santa Ana and Keith Soesbe, WR6R was Net Control.

HDSCS also performed an extended stand-by operation at Anaheim Memorial Medical Center. Some major trenching and backhoe work has been going on along with the construction of new vaults for fiber optic cables for the phone and computer systems. The work is high risk for possible loss of phone service so the hospital asked to have at least one communicator on site linked to the outside world any time the work is going on. The hospital has conference in HDSCS abilities to back up critical patient

communications in an emergency. This coverage was provided for eight days, about six hours per day. Among the many communicators furnishing on-site and base station support was SOARA member Keith Soesbe, WR6R. If you would like to know more about HDSCS check out the we site at www.HDSCS.org.

An orientation and Review Workshop was conducted February 23 to provide a full day of intensive training for members using the excellent facilities of Orange Counties Emergency Operations Center (EOC) atop Loma Ridge, east of the City of Orange.

Al Way, KC6LNP is the newest SOARA member to join HDSCS where he will be in good company with Heiko Peschell, AD6OI, Patti Peschell, AD6OH, John Walker, AC7GK, and the aforementioned Mitchell Knight, KB6IIG and Keith Soesbe, WR6R. Involvement in this emergency group (as well as others such as ACS/RACES, ARES, etc.) helps fulfill our service obligation and helps preserve amateur radio while supporting the local community.

I think there is an antenna on top of that building!

The new Mission Viejo City Hall is open and occupied. One of the features is a large Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for use by the city in case of a disaster. This facility was designed before 9-11, it seems even more prudent now.

In connection with the EOC are facilities for radio communications within City Hall. A location is provided for the Mission Viejo RACES group (the Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club, a R.A.C.E.S. and A.R.E.S. group). Yes, there is an antenna on top of the City Hall, there are several. Radios, and antennas, include those for City-to-city communications (business band), 800 MHz, and Amateur Radio sets for 440 MHz and 144 MHz for local communications, and six meters for county RACES communications.

Future plans call for an HF antenna (well, not while the building is *brand new!*) and rig for communications over longer distances. County RACES has made good use of ATV and slow-scan TV so there is a chance that the city would look favorably on obtaining the equipment to enable those modes of operation. The demonstrations of their value in assessing disasters has been pretty

compelling.

The HF antenna and the present RACES HF rig will remain at the Norman P. Murray Civic Center. The Civic center will serve as a back-up EOC. This means that the antenna will be available for use at SOARA meetings when needed.

If you are not presently active with one of the local emergency groups, you are urged to join a group. Disaster preparedness is one of those things you must do ahead of time.

The Keys to Communications:

Those SOARA members who are active on CW are probably aware (and if not, let me make you aware) that Jim Richards, KD6VDH, has a sideline of making telegraph keys. Well, not just keys — finely crafted keys.

The March, 2002 issue of CQ magazine features Jim's keys in Dave Ingram's column "World of Ideas" (page 60). The column has some very nice things to say about the keys that KD6VDH makes. They show two views of a dual lever (jambic) paddle key. Jim also makes straight keys with the same good looks and fine craftsmanship.

The CQ column suggests that if you are looking for a custom key, you should contact Jim directly. You can often catch him on the SOARA two meter repeater (147.645) in the morning. He is presently working on a "very small" straight key for Malcolm, KO6SY.

It is great to see someone applying their skills to provide hams with top notch equipment. It is also quite gratifying to see so much interest in CW. It is still a great way to communicate, even if you do have to develop a skill in order to use it.

Support the Economy, buy *new* equipment in May.

Save all of the used equipment you want to sell for the November auction. This year we will not have a Spring Auction. If it turns out that one auction a year is satisfactory then it will be held at the regular November meeting date. If garages get too full of excess old equipment and the pressure gets too great we may go back to two auctions a year. □

Year 2002	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20	17	15	19	23	21	18 Auction	No meeting
Program	Antennas	PSK-31		"T88CC" W6XD	"T-hunt" W6SQQ	"Field Day"						
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	28	—	18	—	20	22	15	—	23	—	18	—
Propagator Deadline												
Board Meeting	2/4	3/4	25	22	27	24	22	26	30	28	25	
ARRL Field Day						22 - 23						
SOARA picnic								3				
Fall Auction											18	
SOARA Holiday Party												1

For Sale

Lou Parker, KA6BJO, has both HF and VHF/UHF antennas for sale. He and Muriel will be moving to a new location and can not use the antennas there.

The HF antenna is an R7 and the second antenna is a Tribander (144/220/440MHz). The R7 has 300 ft. of coaxial cable. He is asking \$150.

Lou can be contacted at: 949-951-0336

First Class Mail

SOARA has taken advantage of the lower mailing rates for bulk mail in the past. You may have noticed that the past few newsletters have come by First Class Mail. Unfortunately bulk mail does not receive the same degree of service as First Class, and there has been a large spread in the time between the mailing of the newsletter and its delivery.

Rather than have some members receiving the newsletter early and many receiving it very late we expect to continue to use First Class mail.

This month you will find your ballot for the election included within the newsletter. Please vote.

Field Day Planning

It will be only a few weeks until Field Day is here (June 22 - 23). SOARA, under the leadership of Steve Perluss, KR6CE, is already in the planning stage. A short planning meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, one half hour before the general meeting. Anyone interested in helping with the planning and coordinating is invited to this meeting.

If you are an old hand at Field Day operations then give some thought to joining Steve's team of dedicated helpers. If you have not participated in past Field Days then plan on joining the fun in June.

In addition to volunteers for coordinators there will be many opportunities to be involved in the activities. Before Field Day weekend, arrangements must be made for rigs, batteries, and generators. Antennas and masts must be checked and put in working order.

Food and activities must be coordinated. Computers, for keeping track of contacts must be assembled and the networking checked out. There is a job for everyone who wishes to help. Even if you only stop by the site to observe, do plan on being there for some part of the Field Day weekend. It is an exciting and fun part of Amateur Radio. Don't miss it.

Spring Cleaning

Saturday, May 4, 2002 has been selected as the date for a "trip up the hill" for cleaning and maintenance of the 2 meter repeater site in Laguna Beach. At this site SOARA has its own (small) building to house our own and several other repeaters. The site was put in very good shape at the last work day, but periodic maintenance is still required.

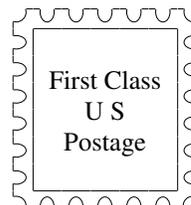
Ray, AE6H, has visited the site and mapped out the areas which need work. Tasks include repairs on the building, cleaning inside the building, and work on the grounds around the structure. The large antenna may be lowered for inspection and cleaning.

Although there is some serious work to be done there are no particular skills required in order to be useful. Any SOARA member is welcome to join the party.

Welcome . . .

Each month we get a few new hams who drop-in to see what SOARA is like. Please watch for visitors and new members (or old members you don't know). Make these people feel welcome. If a visitor's first impression of the club isn't favorable, that may be the only impression of us they will ever get.

The PROPAGATOR



South Orange Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 2545
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Address Service Requested

**Meeting: April 15, 2002 at 7:00 PM
Art Goddard, W6XD**

☛ **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 SOARA meetings every other month. 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)

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 (7.268 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM. PSK - 31 net (28.120.15, 1000 on waterfall) Friday 7:00 PM.

SOARA OFFICERS

President: Paul Levey, NZ1M 949-380-0399
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SOARA COMMITTEES

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