



# The PROPAGATOR

September, 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

September Meeting	HAMCON Report	Antenna Insights										
<p><b>REPLACING KFI GUY WIRES</b></p> <p>SOARA meeting for September will feature Dino Darling, K6RIX, as guest speaker. K6RIX was on site at KFI during replacement of the guy wire system for the primary tower. Dino has both video and slides taking during the replacement project.</p> <p>For perspective purposes, the following photo shows the enormity of the guy system.</p>  <p>Guy Wire Strain Relief Insulator.</p> <p>Less than a year after the guy wires (over an inch in diameter) were replaced, the 750 foot tower was knocked down by a light airplane which clipped it about ten feet from the top. KFI was soon back on the air — they solved their sudden high SWR problem by switching to an auxiliary antenna (200 foot height).</p> <p>Pictures can be found on the internet: <a href="http://www.oldradio.com/archives/warstories/640.htm">http://www.oldradio.com/archives/warstories/640.htm</a></p>	<p>I have just returned from the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention held in Riverside. What an experience for me. It is a different experience when you stay overnight and attend for the week-end. Sitting in the restaurants you hear HAM talk all around. At one table they are talking about radios while at another table they're talking about antennas.</p> <p>SOARA had a booth at this convention, and I want to thank those who manned the booth. Howard, KG6GI, Charlie, WA6RUZ, and Brian, NJ6N were especially helpful. It was good to see all the SOARA members who stopped by to say hello. We also had help from the TASMA people with a thanks to Bob, NO6B, Pat, KC6ACL, and Mike, WW6MM. At times we had quite a crowd around our booth. Bob, NO6B, was demonstrating a program "Radio Mobile Deluxe" which shows RF strength from a repeater site overlaid onto a topographical map using a computer, internet link and projector provided by Howard, KG6GI.</p> <p>A special treat for me was meeting people that I have talked to on the California Rescue Communications Net for this past year. I can now attach a name to a face. I also spent time operating on the ARRL special station W1AW/6. I made one contact and it was with our own Malcolm, K06SY, who was operating his remote base station while in Florida.</p>	<p>It was just a video of a presentation on antennas, but before long you forgot that the speaker and his demonstrations were not right there. Frank Rutter, K3AW (SK), used an amplitude modulated 3 GHz oscillator to feed a variety of miniature antennas (at 3 GHz, of course they were small). He used a dipole antenna and a simple diode detector connected to an audio amplifier to probe the resulting radiation field. The signal strength was immediately evident from the volume of the audio produced.</p> <p>Frank's explanation of the radiation patterns were clear enough, but couldn't start to match the immediate and intuitive feeling obtained by watching the location of the receiving probe and hearing the tone level change with the radiation pattern. It is surprising that this sort of demonstration equipment is not more common. Everyone, no matter how experienced they were with antennas came away from the presentation with an increased appreciation for the radiation fields of the various designs.</p>										
<p><b>New Members</b></p> <p>Welcome to SOARA's newest members</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>Alma De Smith</td><td>KD6AQO</td></tr><tr><td>Karl Miljevich</td><td>KF6MDF</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret Walker</td><td>KG6YWY</td></tr><tr><td>Mark Morin</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>SOARA membership</td><td>now numbers 186!</td></tr></tbody></table>	Alma De Smith	KD6AQO	Karl Miljevich	KF6MDF	Margaret Walker	KG6YWY	Mark Morin		SOARA membership	now numbers 186!		<p>comment that homes with big ham radio antenna towers will become a status symbol and have higher values and thereby are wanted by Home Owner Associations.</p> <p>73, Lou, KG6FCT</p>
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## The Way I See It:

### Hamming in Northern California

I recently had an opportunity to take a trip to the San Francisco Bay area and visit family and friends. I caught up with Steve, KV6O, who moved there last year, and, as chance would have it, there were quite a few Ham related activities to attend.

I had attended the annual Pacificon conference (<http://www.pacificon.org/>) last year and had a chance to get to know some of the hams that I would run into again on this journey into the north.

On Friday evening I attended the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA) club



meeting. The PAARA club has been around since 1937, has about 200 members, and I would guess that about 80 attended the meeting. Before the meeting everyone had a chance to mingle and catch up with one another. The president of the club quickly spotted me, a non-member in their midst and proceeded to find out a little bit about me so that he could embarrass me later hi hi. The featured presentation was entitled "Scanners in the 21st century". It was given by Glenn Cohen, KD6ITC, and it was very interesting. I didn't win the raffle but that's okay — it was an enjoyable experience anyway. Check out the PAARA web site at: [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

On Saturday, bright and early, I drove up to the Stanford Linear Accelerator which is just a hop, skip, and a jump from my brother's house for Am-Tech Day. Am-Tech Day is "13 hours of fun

Amateur Radio activities in Menlo Park one Saturday a month!" and is celebrating its first year in existence. Am-Tech Day allows hams from the area, and as it turns out from way out of the area, to bring their own equipment, set it up for demonstrations and discussions. There are featured speakers in the attached auditorium and plenty of trees for hanging antennas. Steve, KV6O, brought his famous tennis ball launcher, and we used it to install a dipole high between the tall trees. We made some good contacts with his TS-440S transceiver. There's a really neat museum on site, complete with artifacts from the years of development at SLAC. For more information about Am-Tech Day, check out the FARS (Foothill Amateur Radio

Society) web site at: [www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday)

On the way back from Am-Tech Day, Steve and I stopped by to see a friend of his who works for Hamstop ([www.hamstop.com](http://www.hamstop.com)) at their San Jose offices. It was really fun to see where the PowerPole power panels and other items that I've been buying from Hamstop through the Internet are actually made.

The last event that we attended was on Sunday morning was the famous Livermore swap meet put on by LARK, the Livermore



Amateur Radio Klub at Robertson Park, Livermore. The swap meet had more commercial and ham radio transceivers as well as accessories for sale than any swap meet I've been to in recent years! I liberated several hand-held radios and batteries from their previous owners, parting with the last of the cash that I had brought with me. For more information on the Livermore swap meet, see <http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>



<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>.

All in all, it was a fun trip. If you're ever in Northern California and have some time on your hands, make sure to check out the web sites I've mentioned and attend some of the fun and exciting events our northern neighbors put on.



For the benefit of all of you sharp eyed mathematicians:

### Jamboree On The Air

The Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will take place next month: October 15-16, 2005. Phone Frequencies are: 3.590, 7.030, 14.050, 18.080, 21.140, and 28.190. Look for CW stations on: 3.940, 7.290, 14.290, 18.140, 21.360, 28.390. Get on the air and encourage the scouts who may be tomorrow's hams. □

## Dues Time

Dues statements will be going out shortly; so look for it in the mail. Dues are the main support of our club and it is the life blood that keeps the Club and all its activities going.

Remember your timely payment of dues helps support the club and actually allows the Board to plan activities for the upcoming year. Thanks in advance for a prompt payment, and thank you for helping the club provide the many activities to support our hobby.

Jim Riedel, K6EEE, Membership Director

### **News on the net:**

What a fantastic audience we reach! From Fontana to San Diego To LA. We even get picked up by out side clubs over the echo-link . It's like having my own radio show with call ins!! Gordo always has something to say that's of interest to every ham. Richard's "Ham Band Check" some times leads my HF guys to abandon the net altogether. Now we will have an occasional new feature: "The Professor Is In." It will feature one of our new members, Ray Chandos, WA6RRK. Ray will from time to time toss in insights to the mysteries of radio.

Being a very busy guy, he will make an

appearance as his time allows, so it will be a nice treat when the "Professor Is In."

**CALLING ALL KIDS;** yes we have a fair flock of them now thanks to the recruiting and encouragement of Kathy and friends. We may start asking for the younger hams to check in and use that radio Dad has let dust settle on. So stay tuned on the SOARA 220 / 440 / 2 meter net. The net starts at 8:00 PM every Tuesday Night.

Dave, KG6QCI, Communications

Every weekday morning at 8:30 you can hear several SOARA members checking into the California Rescue Communications Net on 7.250 MHz. SOARA's Sunday morning net meets on that same frequency.

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**South Orange Amateur Radio Association**  
P.O. Box 2545  
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SA612AN Double balanced mixer/oscillator, 8 Pin DIP.  
\$2.50 I have 10 pcs available.  
Knuite Josifek, K6HIV      [k6hiv@arrl.net](mailto:k6hiv@arrl.net)

## **Meeting: September 19, 2005 at 7:00 PM** **K6RIX: Radio Station KFI**

- ☛ 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 147.645 two-meter repeater.
- ☛ **License Exams:** Amateur License Exams are given prior to SOARA meetings. Exams are from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Walk-in applicants are welcome. For information call Paul Levey, NZ1M, at 949-481-5454.
- ☛ **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 Laguna Beach, San Clemente, and Trabuco repeaters are open. The Santiago Peak repeaters are closed. For details or questions on the repeaters contact the Repeater director, KG6GI.
  - 2m — 147.645 — (110.9) Laguna Beach
  - 2m — 146.025 + (110.9) San Clemente
  - 2m — 145.240 — (110.9) Trabuco
  - 220 — 224.100 — (110.9) Laguna Beach
  - 220 — 224.640 — (123.0) Santiago Pk. (C) 440 — 445.660 — (110.9) Laguna Beach
  - 440 — 447.180 — (131.8) Santiago Pk. (C)
- ☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater open net is held Tuesday 8:00 PM 40 meter HF net (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM.

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