

The PROPAGATOR

January, 2007

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Hands-on Ham Radio

The guest speaker for our January meeting will be Vlad, KI6BLP, demonstrating his home brew Satellite Antenna steering system along with APRS. Vlad took an interest in Amateur Radio Satellites during our last field day and has continued to experiment, improve and develop his own systems.

Taking a look at the cost for commercially available EL-AZ systems and software, Vlad believed he could do it on his own for a lot less money and have a fully functional, dependable system on the balcony of his condominium for daily contacts through the Amateur Satellites circling the world as you read this.

Vlad is an excellent example of what has been called "kitchen table" Amateur Radio design and development. I had the opportunity to visit Vlad during the holidays and watched him operate his system, steer antennas and make contacts for far less money than any one of the commercial systems around. Come to the January meeting for an insight into putting together a successful system for working the satellites.

73, Ron W6OM

Rent Increase

Is the glass half empty, or is it half full? SOARA has been advised that our Santiago Peak rent has been increased by a substantial amount. Nothing like a notice of a rent increase to inspire one to start checking on what others pay in rent! Well, it turns out that the increase probably brings us in line with what other hams are paying in rent in that desirable location. So, we don't have the option of moving into a similar location at a rent close to what we have been paying.

SOARA's annual operating budget is not very large. We do not pay for the use of the meeting room at Norman P. Murray Civic Center and we do not pay significant rent at the other repeater sites. Our major annual expenses are publications (\$2200), rent (\$2000), and phone lines (\$1900). Activities, repairs, and miscellaneous categories run under \$1000 each with some funds applied to capital equipment (e.g. D-Star repeater).

Shall we feel "ripped off" over the rent increase, or shall we feel lucky that it was so long in coming? Either way we have to deal with it. The Santiago Peak 440 machine has become our most used machine since its relocation and improvement in sensitivity, and it is certainly the one with the best coverage.

Our options are fairly limited. We will, of course pursue negotiations. We can abandon the site or pay the rent. The increased rent will be about \$16 per member annually which can be derived by either dues or an annual fund drive. The rent topic will come up for discussion at the January meeting.

training, plus SOARA provides a family oriented environment where young and old join together in common interests. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to re new your membership for 2007, reconnect with old friends and make new ones to enjoy our wonderful hobby even more.

73, Ron W6OM

NJ6N Ham of the Year

SOARA's award to the outstanding club member for 2006 was awarded to Brian Roode, NJ6N, at the annual club party on December 3, 2006. The award is presented in recognition of contributions to the club and to the greater good of Amateur Radio. Congratulations Brian!



Ray, AE6H, SOARA president (right) presents Brian, NJ6N (left), with the Richard Coyne memorial Ham of the Year Award.

A note from Membership

2007 Promises to be an exciting year in Amateur Radio with all the recent changes in licensing requirements and frequency allocations. Being part of the Ham Radio fraternity is enhanced by being a member of SOARA to expand your circle of friends and join in a variety of operating experiences, contests and T-Hunts. As we look to the New Year and our new D-Star Digital Repeater system it can be said that SOARA is leading the way in Orange County with new exciting digital communications technology while maintaining balance in other areas of interest. SOARA is your club and reflects your needs and wants in Amateur Radio operations and

A note from Activities

This looks to be a very exciting year with a lot of planned activities. I will concentrate on field day activities for the first half of the year. We will start with some mini field day meetings in the park to set up and test antennas. I have plans for the coax capacity antenna. We could build some of these antennas for different bands and compare their operation against a plain wire dipole. The mini field days are planned for March 24, and May 19. We also have scheduled a pizza party for April 25. I am always interested in your suggestions, so let us start the year off with lots of input.

73, Lou, KG6FCT.



The Way I See It: Looking ahead at 2007

Greetings and Happy New Year! As we embark on another year at SOARA, it is already shaping up to be another busy and very exciting one. Once again the club is facing some new challenges but also many opportunities for our members.

First, we will be continuing to implement more features on our new D-Star repeater system. A major advancement will be tying the system to the Internet, giving our users worldwide voice and data capabilities. The challenge will be that because the D-Star technology is still undergoing development and the learning curve is steep, but once again, SOARA is at the forefront of this exciting new development. I encourage all to learn more about the capabilities of D-Star and make plans to get involved.

We will also be continuing to endeavor to bring improvements to our existing analog repeaters with some issues remaining to be worked out relating to building move on Santiago Peak, and there are some more changes and improvements needed at the Laguna site. This will present opportunities for those of you that would like to learn more about the workings of a repeater system to

The FCC made several changes in the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service toward the end of last year. The so-called Omnibus rule changes became effective on December 15. Changes were made to the size of the CW/Digital portions of the 80m and 40m bands. Reductions in the CW portions were offset by gains in the phone portions. Changes were made to the 15 and 10 meter bands related to General or Novice/Technician portions of the bands.

A PDF version of a band chart is available on the ARRL web site. Both color, black & white, and text only

REPORT AND ORDER AND ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION

Adopted: December 15, 2006

Released: December 19, 2006

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IV. CONCLUSION

30. In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the amateur service rules to **eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement.**

Extracted from FCC WT Docket No. 05-235

see:

jump in and lend a hand.

This year, we have once again been asked to participate in the organization and presentation of the 2007 ARRL South West Division Convention (Hamcon 2007). SOARA will be conducting the Wouff Hong ceremony just as we did at Hamcon 2003 in Long Beach. The challenge and opportunity is for SOARA members to get involved participating either as cast or support members. It will require about 20 people to make this a first class presentation as we did last time.

As usual, SOARA did well at Field Day 06, so well, in fact, that being first in class in the SW Division, and even in the 6 call area is within reach. The gauntlet has been thrown down, and under the tutelage of Ron, W6OM, we have been challenged to make this happen. There will be many opportunities for all to be involved on this effort at FD 2007.

With the changes in the FCC regulations removing Morse code as a requirement for any class of license, we can safely expect many hams, new and otherwise, wanting licensing upgrade classes and testing once

these changes become effective, probably next month. There will be many opportunities for our more experienced members to either be class instructors or mentors to the folks who want to upgrade and enjoy their new privileges.

And, with history as a reference, we can safely count on more projects and developments to arise throughout the year just to keep us on our toes. There are always emergencies and scheduled public service events needing communications support, needed equipment repairs, or other unforeseen developments to be dealt with.

Perhaps by now you've noted a recurring theme in this piece. That is: that there will be many opportunities for as many of our members who can, to become involved in some or all of the challenges and activities of 2007! It will be this participation of many that will enable SOARA to grow, meet the challenges, and continue to be the finest Ham Radio Club anywhere. Together, we can make it happen!

73, Ray, AE6H,
SOARA President

versions are available at:
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>

On the same day that these new rules became effective the FCC released a not unexpected Report & Order eliminating the Morse Code requirements for all classes of amateur licenses. This change is expected to become effective some time in February. Technician class licensees will have all of the privileges of the Tech Plus class when the R&O becomes effective. There are no changes in the privileges of any other class. Hams who have passed the written portion of the General or Extra

exam (elements 3 or 4) and have not passed the code test can upgrade as soon the R&O becomes effective IF their CSCE is less than 365 days old.

The question pool for the General class exam will change on July 1, 2007. So if you plan to upgrade, make sure you are studying the pool that will be in effect when you take the test. Information and the pool questions can be found at:
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>

If you have an interest in a General or an Extra training class let Heiko, AD6OI, know of your interest. He will be making plans for classes soon.

| Year 2007 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|------|------|-------------------|------------|------|------|-------|------|-----------------|------------|
| General Meeting 7:00 PM | 22 | 26 | 19 | 16 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 19 | No meeting |
| Program | KI6BLP Sat. trk ant & APRS | | | | Spring Auction | F.D. Prep. | | | | | Fall Auction | — |
| VEC Testing | 22 | 26 | 19 | 16 | 21 | 23 | 16 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 19 | — |
| SOARA T-Hunt | 7 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| Board Meeting | 29 | 3/5 | 26 | 23 | 29 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 24 | 22 | 26 | |
| Special Events | | | 24 | 25 | 19 | | | | | | | |
| ARRL Field Day | | | | | | 23/24 | | | | | | |
| SOARA picnic | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | |
| SOARA Holiday Party | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 |

D-Star News

Excellent progress is being made on the D-STAR repeater project! All of the repeaters and the repeater controller have been installed in a new swing-out rack at the Laguna Beach repeater site. We have received test frequency coordinations for 2 meters, 1.2GHz digital voice (DV) and digital data (DD), and permission from SCRRBA to use our previously analog FM coordination on UHF until such time as a permanent coordinated repeater pair becomes available. Two of the three D-STAR digital voice repeaters are up and running and ready for use. The 2 meter repeater is on **146.115 +** and can be accessed with a RPT1 setting of "K6SOA^^C" (^ represents a "space" character). The UHF repeater is on 445.660- and may be accessed with a "RPT1" parameter of "K6SOA^^B". If you need help programming your radio, quite a few club members are using the D-STAR repeaters and are available to help!

The next step will be to install and configure the gateway server that will enable us to tie into the national D-STAR system of repeaters located around the country.

The SOARA D-STAR web site is located at: <http://www.soara.org/dstar>

73, NJ6N ☐

Casting Call

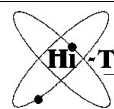
Wouff Hong, that mysterious ceremony that takes place only at midnight and only at amateur radio conventions, will be conducted by SOARA at the 2007 HAMCON in Torrance.



Plan on attending the convention at the Torrance Marriot on September 7, 8, and 9. And consider what part you can play in this solemn indoctrination to the secret order of Wouff Hong. There are many ways to participate. You will lose sleep! You may even enjoy it. ☐

Sunday T-Hunt

Matt, KE6ALM, hid the transmitter on January 7. It was located in a wild life preserve close to the intersection of University Dr. and Harvard. The first hunters to locate it were Richard, K6RBS, and Dave, KG6QCI. Right behind them were Karl, KE6MDF, and Dale, W8RRV. Next month, on February 4, Richard and Dave will do the hiding. ☐



Hi-Tech LIQUIDATORS

2060 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627

A very special thanks to Hi-Tech Liquidators for their monthly donations to the club raffle.

Located at 2060 Placentia Ave, in Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Phone: (949) 646-1686

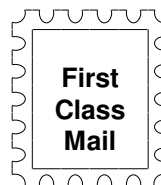
Raffle News

Happy New Year! It's time to resume the regular monthly raffles! This month's five dollar prize is a Yaesu FT-60R dual band handie talkie! There will be a one dollar raffle with great prizes as well.

I wish you all the best of luck in the new year and in the raffle! I hope to see everyone at the meeting.

73, NJ6N ☐

The PROPAGATOR



South Orange Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 2545
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

FLASH

Late news from the Laguna Woods ARC

The Laguna Woods Radio Club has a new 2 meter repeater on the air under the call sign W6LY.

147.615 – (136.5)

They will be holding a net on the repeater each Wednesday at 7:00 PM.
Visitor check-ins are welcome.

Meeting: January 22, 2007, at 7:00 PM Vlad, KI6BLP, Home Brew Sat. Ant.

☛ **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, 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.

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|---------------|-----|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2m | — | 147.645 – (110.9) | Laguna Beach |
| 2m | — | 146.025 + (110.9) | San Clemente |
| 2m | — | 145.240 – (110.9) | Trabuco |
| D-STAR | 2m | — | 146.115 + (K6SOA_C) Laguna Beach |
| | 220 | — | 224.100 – (110.9) Laguna Beach |
| | 220 | — | 224.640 – (123.0) Santiago Pk. (C) |
| D-STAR | 440 | — | 445.660 – (K6SOA_B) Laguna Beach |
| | 440 | — | 447.180 – (131.8) Santiago Pk. (C) |

☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater open net is held Tuesday 8:00 PM
D-Star net on the 447.180 repeater is held Thursday 8:00 PM
40 meter HF net (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 8:00 AM.

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