



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

May 2007

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Meeting:

May 21

7:00 PM

N. P. Murray
Center
Mission Viejo

Spring Auction on May 21

Bring your excess gear and convert it into cash. You will need the cash for all the items you will want to bid on. SOARA auctions are always fun—a chance to look over rare equipment, and perhaps to take some home.

In addition to bringing your check book, bring a pen to use in signing up for some aspect of next month's **Field Day**. There are several positions to

fill. We need some one to coordinate the Sunday morning breakfast. We still need some equipment. See Lou, KG6FCT, at the Auction and find a slot where you can contribute to the club's success at Field Day. However you decide to participate, be sure to spend some part of the time at the Field Day site in June. There are opportunities for every ham to have fun and to participate.



QST, QST, de AE6H

This next meeting is the Spring auction, so don't miss it!

Don't forget that **Field Day** is

coming right up: June 22, 23, and 24th. Stay tuned for announcements about some upcoming preparatory events, as well as the big weekend itself.

August 2nd and 3rd are SOARA's days to cover the OCCARO Ham Radio booth at the **Orange County Fair**. We always can use folks who would like to spend a couple of hours greeting the public, and explaining Ham Radio. Included when you volunteer will be free parking, and a general admission pass so you can also enjoy

the rest of the fair! See Lou, KG6FCT for more information and to sign up.

Rounding out the summer will be **HamCon 07**, the ARRL SW Division Convention September 7, 8, and 9. In Torrance! For those of you that attended and remember what a great convention we had in Long Beach in 2003, you should know that the same group is putting the 07 convention together. SOARA will again be presenting the Wouff Hong ceremony. See me for Convention registration, and if you'd like to help with the Wouff Hong. Don't know what the Wouff Hong is? There is no better way to learn about it than by becoming involved.

73 de Ray, AE6H

Upcoming Activities



Events:

May 28
½ Marathon
Volunteers
needed

June 23-24
Field Day
Gilleran Park
In Mission
Viejo

August 2 & 3
O C Fair
SOARA at
the Ham
Radio booth

August 5
SOARA
Picnic

Sept. 7-9
HamCon

October 24
SONGS test
Volunteers
needed

Field Day is just around the corner, and the June meeting will be devoted to information and organization in preparation for that event. SOARA is devoted to making this national event exciting and fun for all members. Attend the June meeting on the 18th and plan on joining in the fun of a full HAM weekend at Gilleran Park, June 23/24.



Calling all communicators. The next special event that SOARA is supporting is **The Saddleback Memorial 1/2 Marathon** and 5K on Monday **May 28th**. Racing starts at Saddleback Hospital at 7:00 AM and should be done by 11:00 AM.

If you would like to help out with this event please e-mail me at

ad6oi@soara.org or call me at (949) 859-3868 and leave a message.

Heiko, AD6OI

SCE is calling all HAM'S. What has 53 sirens and is due to go off **Oct 24th** this year, with a Radio Operator under every one. It's the SCE SONGS warning system, and they need 60 operators to monitor the test. This starts at 9:00 AM goes to 1:00 PM, and they're talking free lunch and swag!

Drop me a line at
DSeroski@MSN.COM
and say, "Count me in!"

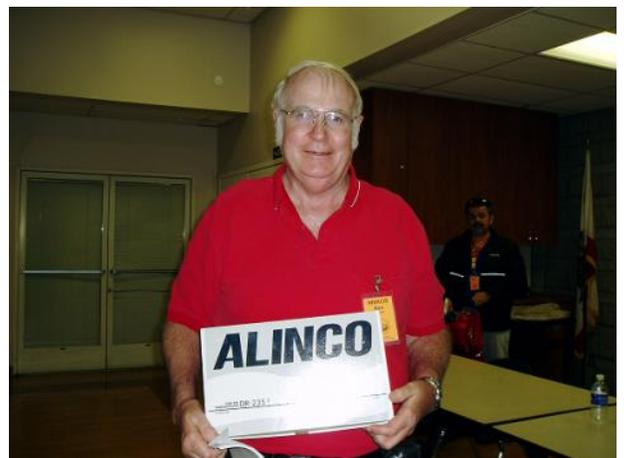
Right now they want to give us 19 sirens in the San Clemente area, but we can get more — IF we have more operators. Hog it up!

Dave Seroski, KG6QCI

Raffle Report

Congratulations to Ken, W6KOS, who was the lucky winner of the Alinco DR-235 222MHz mobile transceiver in last month's five dollar raffle! Many thanks to Heiko, AD6OI who took over my usual raffle duties while I assisted Howard, KG6GI with the discussion and demonstration of D-STAR. As you know, there is no raffle at the May meeting. Raffles will resume in June at the field day planning meeting.

The five dollar prize for the June raffle is a Yaesu FT-60 dual-band handi-



talkie. We'll have lots of good one-dollar raffle prizes as well.
73, NJ6N



Reminder:

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Election results for 2007

The ballots were counted at a special meeting on Friday, May 11, 2007. The slate of Directors on the ballot was approved unanimously, (this doesn't always happen).

The Director's terms begin with the May regular membership meeting.

The Directors elected to new two-year terms on the SOARA Board are:

Repeater Director:
Howard Brown, KG6GI
Technical Director:
Bob Grant, W6CIC

Publications Director:
Dale Griffith, W8RRV
Communications Director:
Lee Krank, KD7QAX
Membership Director:
Ron Weaver, W6OM
Education Director:
Hal Silverman, WB6WXO

Also confirmed with 100% of the vote cast to fill a one-year term as Secretary: Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI.

Congratulations to all of the re-elected and newly elected SOARA Board members.

Cinco de Mayo Party

The work party at the Laguna Repeater site held on May 5th, 2007 was a great success! Thanks to the 17 club members and guests that showed up, we accomplished all the scheduled maintenance items very quickly. We started around 9:00 AM and every critical task was accomplished by about 11:00 AM.

The projects of the day included lowering the main tower, inspecting all the coax connections, and coating the 3 antennas with "camouflage" paint, and then raising the tower back into normal position. The link Yagi on the building roof was relocated to a new mast. These steps completed the project SOARA agreed to undertake to reduce the visual impact of our antennas to the residential neighbors near the site.

Building maintenance tasks included repairs to the building soffit, and to the doorsill at the entrance. The interior of the building was cleaned and neatened. All attendees interested were given a tour of the repeaters installed at the site. Of special interest were the 4 new D-Star digital repeaters.

If you were present, but didn't sign the sign in sheet, thanks to you also. Attendees signing the sheet are: Bill Ashway, KI6FB; Stu Baker, KF6RCY; Ken Alexander, KI6HUD; William Booher, W6TM; Dale Griffith, W8RRV; Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI; Kriss Larson, KR6ISS; Al Way, KC6LNP; John Anderson, NJ6A; Mike Boyle, KI6DPR; Horst Zitzman, KD7JHR; Marie Zitzman, KD7JHS; Tak Asami, W6SI; Steve Morris, KF6JVI; Richard Saunders, K6RBS; Howard Hawkins, K6BYU; and Ray Hutchinson, AE6H.

Thanks again to all of you for your participation!

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	K6LCS Clint Bradford	W6OM Ron Operatin g DX	Program on D-Star	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

☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. For the months of January and February the third Monday is a holiday and the meeting is held on the fourth Monday.

☛ **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, KG6GL.

- | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|---|----------|---|-----------|------------------|
| | 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) |
| D-Star | 1.2G | — | 1282.600 | — | (K6SOA A) | Laguna Beach |

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

SOARA OFFICERS

- President:* Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-496-8020
ae6h@soara.org
V.P.: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org
Secretary: Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI 949-362-8534
wa6ldi@soara.org
Treasurer: Steve Perluss, KR6CE 949-364-6195
kr6ce@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: Ron Weaver, W6OM. 949-559-6209
w6om@soara.org
Education: Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002
wb6wxo@soara.org
Technical: Bob Grant, W6CIC 951-780-4788
w6cic@soara.org
Communications: Lee Krank, KD6QAX. 949-201-6708
kd6qax@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

- Activities:* Lou Frank, KG6FCT 949-206-1986
kg6fct@soara.org
Testing: Paul Levey, NZ1M 949-481-5454
nz1m@soara.org
Website: Richard Saunders, K6RBS 949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org

Membership Committee – “Your chance to be part of our Success”



SOARA's Membership Director, Ron, W6OM, is seeking members to join a committee to plan ways of expanding the club's membership. Please see Ron for more details if you have any interest in joining their important committee.

As SOARA continues to grow and broaden its base of membership in Southern California area it is clear that we need your help in creating a "Membership Committee" to enhance our approach to the Ham community to insure our continued success.

As a member of the Membership Committee with a special club badge, you will part of a team that attends many local functions to meet prospective newcomers and old timers alike. Sharing the news about Amateur Radio is always fun, plus representing SOARA is an added benefit.

Along with meeting and greeting visitors at our monthly meeting, you will be intimately involved in representing SOARA at Field Day, HAM-COM and the Orange County Fair this year. Sharing the good news of all our activities and the benefits of belonging to a strong and vibrant Amateur Radio Organization.

Plus you will have input directly to the board with regards to new programs and activities the membership would like to see included in our annual plan. As part of this group of eight volunteers, you will be SOARA's eyes and ears to the outside world, and with eight we can set the calendar of events to accommodate almost anyone's busy schedule.

Once the team is established we will have a one night training session at my house to set our direction and schedule, followed by a BBQ and pool party to have a little fun.

Everyone wants to belong to something, it's a fact of life, and everyone wants to be part of something successful, like SOARA. Our mission is simple, our story is clear and our audience is the world. I personally invite you to contact me directly for details on how to join the Membership Committee, together we will make an impact and have a lot of fun doing it.

73, Ron , W6OM

Everyone is a DXer

Spending a lifetime in pursuit of international communications through Amateur Radio has brought me to a point that I understand how the thrill of DX attracts everyone, regardless of the mode or frequency.

It can be heard on our repeaters everyday how with D-Star you can work someone on the east coast or farther into Europe. A quick listen to any IRLP repeater and you will see how even with modest equipment and limited antennas you can "work the world" from your easy chair at home.

It is interesting to listen to first timers and people initially interested in Amateur Radio when they always ask the question, how far will that thing go? 100 times out of 100 times it is the first or second question. Even non-hams want to reach out and extend their circle of friends and are DXer's without ever realizing the term exists.

Contemporary Ham Radio defines DXer's as someone who casually chats with others around the world using their big stations connected to tall towers with large antennas. While that is true in part, a quick search of every Ham Radio magazine will show DX contests and awards for everything in the VHF, UHF and Satellite spectrum along with tips and techniques to become more effective and working that rare DX station.

DX is a relative term and can be from Irvine to Madagascar on HF, or Mission Viejo to Anaheim using microwaves, the same thrill drives us all to expand our boundaries and reach new heights.

DX or extended communications is what drives us to situate our repeaters up high for better coverage, DX is what drives each of us to put up better antenna and buy an amplifier, so we can be heard farther away. Whether looking at a large antenna on top of a tower or a small rubber duck on top of an HT, if you listen carefully you will hear someone say, "I wonder how far that thing will go".

If we put the term DXer into the proper context, everyone is a DXer in one way or another.

Good DX! Ron, W6OM