



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

August 2007

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WU6D

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by WB6WXO

Orange S.M., WU6D

Carl Gardenias, WU6D, will be the featured speaker at our August 20 meeting. He has been the Orange Section Manager since 2003. While holding that position, Carl has been active in supporting local clubs.

Carl is running for election as the next Director of the Southwest Division.

We can expect to hear what he would like to see the ARRL doing in the coming decade. His interests have been in attracting young people to the amateur radio hobby, energizing clubs, and emergency preparedness.



QST, QST, de AE6H

As many of you know, I have been away to the "Right Coast" for the past few weeks, and arrived home the evening just prior to writing this.

First, I'd like to personally thank Lou, KG6FCT, Knute, K6HIV, and the many other SOARA members listed on another page for their generous donation of time and other resources to staff the OCCARO Orange County Fair Ham Radio booth earlier this month. I'm told that the booth took 1st prize within the Orange County Pavilion building and 2nd Prize in Show. Both are excellent reflections on Amateur Radio, and the efforts of our SOARA members definitely contributed to that. Thanks Again!

Second, kudos to Brian, NJ6N, for the international recognition of his D-Star application "D*Chat" which adds significant functionality for D-Star digital users. We can all be proud that Brian is part of SOARA and is gaining recognition for himself, and for SOARA.

Finally, our next big "Push," if you will, is Hamcon '07, the ARRL SW Division Convention, September 7, 8 & 9, and SOARA's significant participation. As you will read in the next pages, SOARA is hosting and presenting two forums on D-Star, and we are presenting the Wouff-Hong Ceremony the evening of the 8th. I invite anyone who would like to assist us by participating, to advise me at ae6h@soara.org ASAP. By virtue of your participation you will become initiated into this ancient and secret society of elite amateur radio operators!

Thanks, and 73, Ray, AE6H

Meeting:

August 20

7:00 PM

N. P. Murray
Center
Mission Viejo

Upcoming Activities

HamCon 2007

September 7-9

Torrance Marriott Hotel
3635 Fashion Way
Torrance, California



SOARA will be hosting two meetings at the upcoming Hamcon 2007 in Torrance, CA. Don't miss our talk entitled "D-STAR System Demystified" on Saturday. We should also have a booth where we can talk to hams about D-STAR. There are several upcoming new D-STAR repeaters in the southland. The Papa system is putting up several new repeaters on Oat Mountain, Saddle Peak, and Crestline soon. They may have one of their new D-STAR repeaters up on the gateway before the Hamcon convention in September. Check out their web site at <http://papasys.org> for more information.

SOARA will also be conducting the Wouff-Hong induction ceremony at the convention on Saturday night.

Wouff-Hong is a secret society of amateur radio operators, and the ceremonies may only be held at conventions of the ARRL. If you are an ARRL member and have not yet been inducted into this society, you should consider attending the ceremony at Torrance.

Southern California Electronics

Expo is a well attended one day electronics industry trade show put on by the components distributors and manufacturer's reps. Last year we were able to obtain a free booth for Amateur Radio. Knute Josifek, K6HIV, our PIO, is negotiating again this year. So, if you can, set aside some time to do booth duty and see the expo as well. This is a great opportunity to promote Amateur Radio to those already in the electronics industry. **ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EXPO CENTER, COSTA MESA**
September 19, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Free Admission, Technical Programs and Parking. www.socalee.com



Events:

Sept. 7-9
HamCon
Torrance

Sept. 19
Southern
California
Electronics
Exhibition
OC Fair
grounds

October 24
SONGS test
*Volunteers
needed*
Contact
Dave,
KG6QCI

December 9
The annual
SOARA
Holiday party

If you would like to be involved in the planning of the party please contact Lou, KG6FCT

Raffle Report

Congrats to the many lucky winners in the one-dollar raffle at last month's meeting! We did not sell enough tickets to raffle off the five-dollar raffle prize, a Yaesu VX-3R miniature feature-packed handie-talkie. I anticipate selling enough additional tickets to award this prize to a lucky winner at this month's meeting. Good luck and thank you for supporting the club raffles!
73, NJ6N

New Members

Welcome to new SOARA members:

Marcia Brannon	KI6IZA
Abel Consejero	(new ham)
Andrew Holtz, Jr.	KI6IZD
Larry Morris	KI6IZC
Cynthia Scord	KG6VQI
Walter Sparkuhl	KA6JCO

Congratulations on the new call:

Kevin ScordW1CHP

D-STAR and the OC Fair



SOARA members who are active on D-Star are familiar with Brian's D*Chat program. In the September, 2007, issue of **QST**, ICOM has run a multi-page ad which mentions, and includes a screen shot of, Brian's program.

Check it out on page 114 of that issue. Congratulations on the good work Brian.

Gordon West, WB6NOA, obtained an ID-800 D-STAR transceiver from ICOM to use in demonstrations for the duration of the OC Fair. I programmed the 25 or so most active D-STAR repeaters around the world and many were contacted during the Fair. This was a great way to show the public our new technology and was a great success. For those of you thinking of buying a D-STAR radio, I should mention that the ID-800 price has been reduced so you might want to check that out at your favorite ham radio retailer.

I enjoyed several tours of duty at the Fair booth teaching kids how to send their name in Morse code and helping them build electronic circuits using the snap circuit kit. It's always fun to see their somewhat amazed faces when you copy their first attempts at sending code loud

and clear! One young boy asked me if I knew "all of the letters," and I got a kick out of that. It was nice to see that there is still youth enthusiasm for ham radio and electronics.

73, NJ6N.

Many thanks to the SOARA volunteers who served at the amateur radio booth at the fair:

Don (KE6BXT),	
Brian (NJ6N),	Dave (KG6QCI),
Lee (KD6QAX),	Tom (AE6SH),
Knute (K6HIV),	Tom (KI6DDB),
Karl (KF6MDF),	Dale (W8RRV),
Lou (KG6FCT),	Jim (KB6OUM),
Horst (KD7JHR),	Marie (KD7JHS),
Marc (KI6APG) and Ken (KI6HUD).	

Ask the Professor

Hal Silverman WB6WXO
SOARA Education Director

I have been associated with SOARA for a relatively short period of time. During that time, I have heard monthly presentations that cover a variety of subjects. Some are technical and some are service oriented.

I have been approached by some new members asking to have some technical seminars. What I would like to propose to is to have one or two evening technical discussions with demonstrations that would cover a single topic per seminar.

The topics that come to mind are:

- Hands on D-Star demonstration. How do we use D-Star?
- Setting up an APRS station. Can we actually set one up at the Murray Building?
- How to use the Echolink Repeater. It doesn't get used very much these days.
- Do a simple home brew project. It can be a one tube or transistor transmitter.
- When was the last time members built their own coax cables? Do we remember how?
- Do the DX presentation again and focus on propagation and how it affects skip.
- The A B C's of antique radio restoration

I would like to keep the seminars limited to 6 to 8 people, and if necessary, repeat it if we have a larger audience. This would allow for more audience participation.

If you have any other suggestions or have an interest in one of the topics listed above, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org

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 Operating DX	Program on D-Star	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep.	KI6ICU Rally Racing & APRS	WU6D			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.

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Ham Radio 101: Rules and Regulations

By Hal Silverman, WB6WXO
SOARA Education Director



One of the common threads that are in all three of the license exams is the requirement to understand FCC Part 97-**Amateur Radio Service**, rules and regulations. It is the understanding and application of these rules that allows the Ham Radio community to police itself.

It would be too long for me to go into all of the rules here, but I thought that if there were a set of concepts and guidelines for each license class, that would help point the direction of a prospective ham or a ham that was studying to upgrade his class license

Technician Class License:

This is the entry level license, and the prospective ham must know the allowed frequency bands and what modes are available in what sections of each band. Be aware that there are limited sections of the HF bands that are now available to the technician class license holder.

A second important item is to know the duties and responsibilities of the control operator of a repeater. Are there any cases where a control operator is not required? How often does the repeater need to identify itself? Can this be done automatically or must it be done by a live voice? Under what conditions may a unlicensed person operate a ham radio station?

Another question that is on exams is, How often does a ham radio operator have to identify his or her station call sign? What is the term of an amateur radio license? What happens if a license expires and is not renewed? There are several ways to ask these questions but understanding the above rules will go a long way to passing the exam.

The ham should know that no business may be carried out on amateur radio. However, there are several exceptions to this rule. As an example, you may use a club's repeater to announce a radio swap meet. But, you may not call a client on an autopatch and make a business appointment.

General Class License:

With the successful completion of the general class license exam, the new general will have privileges in the HF portion of the band. It is important to know what portion of each band is allocated to general class license holders. It is also important to know the allocation of modes on each band. Some bands are broken up into voice, CW, etc.

As with the technician class license holder, the general must identify the station call. The question is how often must the station be identified? Can a station in the general class portion of the band allow a non-ham to operate the station? If so, under what conditions?

While the following item is listed in the General Class section of this article, it is a common practice that exists for all hams. Be patient! Remember that neither you nor any other ham owns a particular frequency. Willful or harmful interference is not permitted under any condition. The ham must also make sure that his equipment does not to transmit spurious signals that cause interference to other stations.

While this next section is mentioned in the technician class question pool, it is appropriate to point out that hams may participate in third party traffic. It is important to know what countries permit third party traffic. I mention it here because the general class ham has access to a portion of the HF spectrum and will contact hams in other countries. I suggest that you review the section of the license manual that covers third party communications.

Review the sections in the license manual that cover who may be a volunteer examiner (VE) and who may be a volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC).

Next month we will look at the rules applicable to the Extra Class License examination.