



*The*

# *Propagator*

*The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association*

*October, 2008*

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**Meeting:**

**Oct. 20**

**7:00 PM**

**N.P.  
Murray  
Center**

**Veterans  
Way  
Mission Viejo**

## TX5C, Clipperton Island Talk

SOARA is pleased to welcome back Arnie Shatz, N6HC, to talk on the TX5C DXpedition to Clipperton Island. Last February Arnie made a delightful presentation on the 3B7C DXpedition to St. Brandon Island in the Indian Ocean. From the planning all the way to the return trip, Arnie's pictures and descriptions gave you the feeling that you were right there on the adventure with them. You won't want to miss this presentation.



Arnie was first licensed as KN3ANU at the age of 13 in Philadelphia, PA. He

moved up to General Class with call K3ANU. He attended Temple University where he earned a B. S. in Biology and an M. D. degree. He attended post medical school UC San Francisco (WB6YHE) training in Urology. He spent two years with the U S Public Health Service on the Navajo and Hopi reservations (WB5ICL). He moved to California in 1967 with his wife (KA6DOW) and son (N6COG). He soon upgraded to Extra Class with his present call N6HC. He retired from full time Urology practice in 2001 which gave him more time to devote to his radio hobby. He could now pursue his desire to be part of a DXpedition team. Arnie has participated in K7C (Kure Atoll) in 2005, 3B7C (St. Brandon) in 2007, and TX5C (Clipperton Island) in 2008.

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## QST , QST de K6SOA

It is a new fiscal year for SOARA and October is the month when dues are collected. In order to keep the clubs costs down the board elected to send the renewal notices by e-mail. Attached to the back of this issue of the *Propagator* is a form you can use to update your information when you send in your dues payment.

Last month's presentation stressed emergency preparedness. Amateur operators can play a special and valuable role in times of disasters - if they are prepared! Dave, KG6QCI, has been active in helping the canyon residents prepare for fire season. See the piece on page 2, and for more information visit SARA's web site.

SOARA members who also are affiliated with RACES, ACS, ARES, the Red Cross, or the Hospital group are aware of the Golden Guardian exercise to be held in November. This will be a major drill of response to a major earthquake (The Big One). If you are not affiliated with an emergency group, this is a good time to look into joining a group and getting some training.

Let's not overlook the fun of amateur radio. On page 2 you will find brief reports of a Moon - Earth - Moon QSO, and of a weekend of contesting. More detailed reports are to be found on the web site. Also note that plans are underway for the Holliday Party in December. It will be held at Peppino's in Mission Viejo on December 7. And next month is the auction.



## Events:

*A hidden transmitter hunt is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month.*

**November 13  
Great Southern  
California  
ShakeOut**

10:00 AM  
Earthquake Drill

**Golden Guardian  
Emergency  
Response  
Exercise  
(Nov 13-19)**

**Dec. 7, 2008...  
Holiday Party**

*Peppino's on  
the lake (MV)  
\$25 per person  
(includes dinner  
and soft drinks  
tax and tip)*

*Limited to first  
50 paid.*

## CQP 2008

Out to capture another top spot, a team of SOARA members spent the first weekend in October at the Roode's contest station in Phelan. They were the top station in their category in 2007 and were anxious to make it two in a row. The team, composed of Dana, K6NR, Brian, NJ6N, Greg, N6REG, Heiko, AD6OI, Mike, KF6HVO, and Richard, K6RBS, did not make quite as many points as last year. They will have to wait for the results to be announced. Read their description and see some of the pictures from the weekend on the SOARA web site.



## EME



You never know how something is going to turn out until you try it. Vlad, W6BVB, and Richard, K6RBS, decided to try working EME (earth - Moon - earth) on two meters. It wasn't too many years ago that it would have required some very extensive and exotic equipment to be successful at that. But, today there are new digital techniques and DSP to help. It can be done.

On September 18, Vlad and Richard took their equipment to a local park, aimed at the moon and — completed a QSO with a station in Russia! They had to be the two happiest guys in SOARA that evening.

You can see from the photograph above that their antenna was modest. Visit SOARA's web site to read the details and see more photographs. There is also a link to a web site where you can see some of the details of the Russian station they contacted. Congratulations guys!

## D-STAR News

D-STAR is alive and well with 5,168 registered users, internationally, as of October 13th. There are now 313 Internet-connected gateway systems around the world with a total of 648 D-STAR repeaters. SOARA now has 40 registered D-STAR users.

If you're planning on attending the Pacificon conference in San Ramon, October 17-19th, there will be several D-STAR seminars and events as well as an on-site D-STAR repeater complete with an internet gateway. Check out the SOARA D-STAR web site at <http://soara.org/dstar>. I hope to hear you on D-STAR soon!

73, NJ6N

## Fire Season



This past week Orange county experienced the first Santa Ana winds of the Fall. Several fires started, fortunately none in the local area, but the danger is real. Dave, KG6QCI, lives in the canyon and has reason to be concerned that there is quick action on any wild fires. Dave has been active in organizing radio communications to help the canyon residents and their animals react to the fires.

He monitors the 447.180 repeater and GMRS channel 22 (used by canyon residents). Any hams with information on local fires can provide a valuable service to the canyon residents by reporting current information on fires when they break out. Give Dave a call on the repeater with any information you become aware of. It is important that the large animals be removed early, and it is important for the residents to know when there is danger.

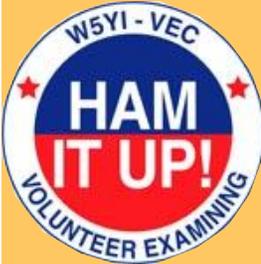
## Welcome

**New members:**  
this month

Welcome to

Richard Heryford,  
WD6ESZ

Vern Vihlene,  
KI6THG.



## Testing

We had two applicants for testing in September. Both took the Technician Exam and passed.

Sara E. Slygh  
KI6THF

Vern D. Vihlene Jr.  
KI6THG

There will be testing October 20, 2008 at 1730 (5:30 PM) before our regular meeting.

Walk ins are welcome

Ernie, W6ETS.

## T-Hunt News

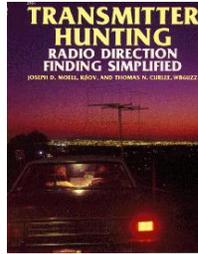
After the weak signal hunt in September, I decided to step it up a bunch of notches for the October hunt. After thoroughly searching several South County locations for the past couple weeks, I decided to "go high" with a transmitter atop the Signal Peak neighborhood in Newport Beach just south of the 73 Toll Road and east of Newport Coast Drive at the far east end of Ridge Park Drive.

Running 50 watts into a 4 element quad for the first hour of the hunt produced a full scale signal over a wide area from Irvine to San Juan Capistrano. After an hour, I cut it down to 5 watts. That didn't matter as Gray, WA6BJY, found himself facing private gates leading into the rich enclave of Shady Canyon just southeast of the UCI campus. The other hunters W8RRV and KD6MDF were both equally as confused.

My plan worked better than expected as the area with the best signal didn't have a direct road to the transmitter. I had fun hiding and here are the results:

WA6BJY, 3:25pm\*\*WINNER!\*\*  
W8RRV, 3:36pm  
KD6MDF, 3:36pm

Richard, N6UZS



## Repeater Report

Recently it was discovered that our San Clemente repeater on 146.025 + MHz had stopped running. After pulling the radio, we determined that we have minimal documentation of the repeater radio, and it appeared that the receiver was not operating properly. Later it was determined that the repeater controller had locked up.

The controller was cleared and seems to be operating OK, although it did lock up one more time on the day we got it running. We are currently monitoring its operation, and if it shows instability, we need to get it refurbished.

Meanwhile we have purchased a fully documented receiver which we'll install as time permits.

Howard, KG6GI  
Repeater Director

## Membership

**Dues:** If you have paid — thank you.  
If you forgot — this is a reminder.  
If you lost the notice — see p. 5.  
If you have questions — ask us.

[membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)

## Raffle Report

Congratulations to all of the lucky winners in the one dollar raffle at the September meeting. The lucky winner of the five-dollar raffle prize, an LDG-200 Pro antenna tuner was a visitor to the club, Scott, KE6MEO.

This month's five-dollar raffle prize is a Yaesu FT-1802 50-watt 2M mobile transceiver with 221 Alpha-numeric memory channels. This modern 2m mobile rig even features a CW trainer feature that helps you practice your morse code! Best of luck to everyone who par-

ticipates in the club raffles. I hope to see you all at the next meeting,

73, NJ6N



Year 2008	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	No meeting
Program	Red Cross	DX trip N6HC	OOP Dan Welch W6DFW	EmmCom Wayne Berringer KB6UJW	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep.	H F Ron Weaver W6OM	HF 2 Ron Weaver W6OM	Emm Prep Knutie, K6HIV	TX5C Arnie Shatz N6HC	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	28	25	17	21	19		21	18	15	20	17	
SOARA T-Hunt	6	3	2	6	4	1	13	3	7	5	2	7
Board Meeting	2/4	3/3	24	28	6/2	23	28	25	22	27	24	29
Special Events												
ARRL Field Day					17 Work Day	28-29						
SOARA picnic								3				
SOARA Holiday Party												7

☛ **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 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Prior registration is encouraged, but walk-in applicants are welcome. For information call Ernie Senser, W6ETS, at 949-458-2504.

☛ **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, 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 UHF/VHF 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](mailto:ae6h@soara.org)

**V.P.:** Tom Hobbs, AE6SH . . . . . 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Secretary:** Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI . . . . . 949-362-8534  
[wa6ldi@soara.org](mailto:wa6ldi@soara.org)

**Treasurer:** Tom Parkes, KI6DDB . . . . . 714-224-2982  
[ki6ddb@soara.org](mailto:ki6ddb@soara.org)

### SOARA DIRECTORS

**Repeater:** Howard Brown, KG6GI . . . . . 949-581-2634  
[kg6gi@soara.org](mailto:kg6gi@soara.org)

**Publications:** Dale Griffith, W8RRV . . . . . 949-830-3767  
[w8rrv@soara.org](mailto:w8rrv@soara.org)

**Membership:** Horst(KD7JHR) & Marie(KD7JHS) Zitzmann  
949-768-8552  
[kd7jhr@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhr@soara.org) or [kd7jhs@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhs@soara.org)

**Education:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO . . . . . 714-897-5002  
[wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org)

**Technical:** Brian Roode, NJ6N . . . . . 949-495-5336  
[NJ6N@soara.org](mailto:NJ6N@soara.org)

**Communications:** Lee Krank, K6QAX . . . . . 949-201-6708  
[k6qax@soara.org](mailto:k6qax@soara.org)

### SOARA COMMITTEES

**Activities:** Open . . . . .  
[kg6fct@soara.org](mailto:kg6fct@soara.org)

**Testing:** Ernie Senser, W6ETS . . . . . 949-458-2504  
[w6ets@soara.org](mailto:w6ets@soara.org)

**Website:** Richard Saunders, K6RBS . . . . . 949-770-5099  
[k6rbs@soara.org](mailto:k6rbs@soara.org)

**South Orange Amateur Radio Association**

Post Office Box 2545  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690  
[soara@soara.org](mailto:soara@soara.org)

Dear member,

October, 2008

SOARA's fiscal year ends on September 30. This notice is included with the October news-letter as a reminder that dues are now due. If you have already sent in your dues it is greatly appreciated. If not, then please attend to this as soon as possible. Your membership is valued by the other club members and we hope you find it to be equally valuable.

This year the board opted to send the membership dues renewal notice by e-mail. You should have received your notice indicating the amount due for 2009. If you did not receive that e-mail or have lost track of it contact Horst or Marie Zitzmann for the correct amount. The annual dues for Regular Members is \$50, and Student or Family Members are \$25. The most common exception is for members who have joined within the last year. They are credited with the portion of the initial payment which carries over into next year.

Please send your check (made out to "SOARA") to:

**SOARA, P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690**

If you prefer you may use the PayPal button on the SOARA web page ([www.soara.org](http://www.soara.org))

SOARA's primary source of income is your membership dues. You can support your club by paying early. Thank you for paying promptly.

**South Orange Amateur Radio Association**  
SOARA Member Information Form  
Please Return to Membership Directors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (If not sure see Horst or Marie)

Help us keep our membership roster up to date by providing the following information:

License class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in participating on any committees or groups?

**Please check one or more:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting community events | <input type="checkbox"/> VE Testing                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social events               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Transmitter Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications                | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly VHF/UHF and HF nets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elmering                    | <input type="checkbox"/> County and community fairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something we missed?: _____ |   |

Suggestions for improving the Club to be more enjoyable to all members:

\_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to return your completed questionnaire by email, postal mail, or hand it to one of the membership directors (or any board member)

Sincerely,

Horst and Marie Zitzmann, Membership Directors  
KD7JHR KD7JHS [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)