



*The*

# *Propagator*

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

*March, 2009*

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**Meeting:  
March 16  
7:00 PM**

**N.P.  
Murray  
Center**

**Veterans  
Way  
Mission Viejo**

## How to make EME QSOs from South Orange County



The program for the March meeting will be given by SOARA member Vlad Boyko, W6BVB. His presentation will include some of the history of ham radio earth-moon-earth (EME) communication. Adding some theory and practice insights leads up to a de-

scription of a minimum setup for an EME station. He will conclude with operating tips and information sources on EME.

Vlad was born in Kharkov Ukraine and attended Kharkov University of Radio and Electronics. He holds a Masters degree in Telecommunications. Between 1990 and 1995 he worked for different projects and companies. After the Chernobyl disaster

*(Continued on page 2)*



## QST, QST de AE6H

As I sit writing this piece, I am monitoring SOARA's Tuesday evening, 8:00 pm, 2 meter, 220, 440 net. As a number of members and

guests check in, I am reminded of two things. First is about how many activities our full service club provides and the multitude of things our members are involved in. Secondly, even though we have a good number of net participants, I'm still struck by how many SOARA members are not taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with fellow hams via the net.

SOARA is recognized by the ARRL as an official "Special Service Club" which is awarded to relatively few amateur radio clubs. Being designated a Special Service Club means that we provide a broad range of services both to our members, and to the community. While most clubs exist to

provide one or two functions to the membership, such as repeaters, or dx, contesting, etc., Special Service Clubs are required to provide far more. A quick mental review of current SOARA activities and services yields: our meetings, with speakers, demonstrations, raffles, status reports, equipment auctions; website, and more. Our repeater activities cover four vhf and uhf amateur repeater bands in both analog and digital modes, along with world wide internet interface through Echolink, and D-STAR. We hold monthly T-hunts, FCC VEC testing, have an active field day, provide for a summer picnic and winter holiday banquet. There is even a very informal Friday luncheon to which all are invited. We frequently hold educational classes, tech days, and related events. We participate when the ARRL division conventions are held nearby by providing a club booth, and presenting the Wouff Hong ceremony. We have a mentoring, or

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Events:

The General Class upgrade class has ended. It will be offered again in September.

Watch for the announcement of another series of Measurements seminars.

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

The next hunt is scheduled for April 5 2009, at 1:00 PM.

If you would like to receive the e-mail announcements related to the hunts contact Gray Bickford, WA6BJY or Richard, K6RBS, to have your name added to the list of those interested in hunting.

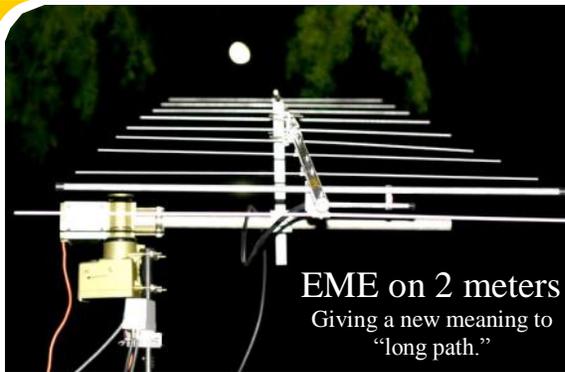
**Repeater Work Day**  
May 2

**Field Day**  
June 27-28

**OC Fair**  
Radio Booth  
July 10 to Aug 9



**March 17**



**EME on 2 meters**  
Giving a new meaning to  
"long path."

*(Continued from page 1)*

he participated in the creation of an all-Ukrainian system of ecology monitoring. From 1995 to 2000 Vlad spent most of his time in radio-broadcasting business. In Jan., 2000, he moved to the US with his wife Kate and son Boris (KI6EPJ).

Pursuing his interest in ham radio, he built his first receiver in 1974. From 1980 to 1984 his on-the-air time was limited to using club station UK5LDE. At that time was very hard to get an individual ham call in the USSR. SWLing was more readily available. His SWL call was UB5-077-1502. Upon moving to the US he obtained the call KI6BLP in 2005. Vlad's current call sign is W6BVB. Not content to keep his electronics activity confined to a hobby, Vlad works for D&B Engineering Inc. in Fullerton.

## Raffle

Congratulations to Spencer, KI6URT, who was the lucky winner of the Yaesu VX-6R in the five-dollar raffle at the February meeting! Congratulations to all of the winners of the one-dollar raffle as well.

This month's five-dollar raffle prize will be a Yaesu FT-7800R dual-band 2m/440 mobile transceiver. This rig provides over 1,000 memory channels, produces 50

watts output on the 2m band and 40 watts output on 440 band,

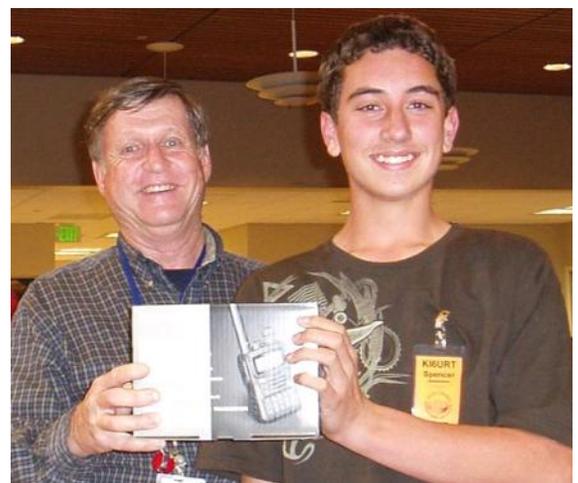


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Elmer" program, and outreach activities for those new to ham radio or those wishing to explore new areas of the amateur radio service. In short, no matter what your current passion or area of interest, there's a safe bet that some other SOARA members share those things with you. What a fantastic resource!

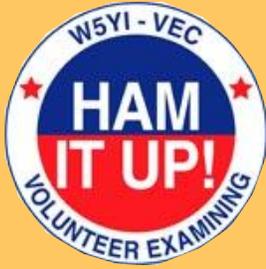
This brings me back to my second observation, and that is, with so much available, why are so many SOARA members choosing to sit by and allow all these resources to simply slip through their fingers? Virtually every ham owns a two meter radio of some sort, so why not, even on occasion, check in on our Tuesday night net, and find out what's going on? Come to a meeting, drop by the luncheon, turn on the radio and monitor one of the repeaters once in a while. You may be surprised by what's going on. For all you meeting and gathering regulars, I really encourage you to make the simple effort to extend the hand of friendship to anyone you may see who is new to SOARA or only participates infrequently.

Let's help everyone learn, remember, and enjoy the magic of amateur radio!



has a detachable front-panel, and many other great features!

Thanks to everyone who supports the club raffles,  
73, Brian, NJ6N



## Testing

Results of testing on February 26, 2009

### Upgraded to Extra

Jeffrey L. Pedersen who also changed call sign to AD7YT

Clynton Yarter KI6UMT

### Upgraded to General

Denis C. Fink KC6STF

Stephen R. Kehoe KI6JZB

Vern D. Vihlene Jr. W6VDV

### New Technicians

Nathan C. Broaddus KI6WLH

Kelli A. Cavaliero KI6WLI

Stephen T. Chen KI6WLJ

Colen P. Gereffi KI6WLK

Bee See Heng KI6WLL

Jean C. Ho KI6WLM

John R. Holt KI6WLN

Mariah Kirkham KI6WLO  
(9 year old female)

Craig J. Leventhal KI6WLP

James C. Righter KI6WLQ

David M. Taylor KI6WLR

Kristen R. Trujillo KI6WLS

Stephen Van Meter KI6WLT

Twenty people sat for tests this month.

73, Ernie, W6ETS

## Education

The general upgrade class is over. It was very successful. Two of the participants took their General Class test last month and have "graduated". Congratulations to them. Eleven more are set to take the exam this month. We did extend the class to one more session than originally planned, and that has been beneficial. I plan to present the class again in September, and will make it a six session class.

I am very much interested in the web site that Brian gave me at the board meeting. I have downloaded the software but have not done anything with it yet.

73...Hal WB6WXO

## WWV voice silent key

The person behind the recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has passed away. Announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch, passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Don retired on August 13, 1991, from announcing for Audichron, the Atlanta company that does time and temperature recordings and supplies the voice for WWV. He was replaced by John Doyle, also an Atlanta resident, and fellow employee of WSB-TV (among others) in Atlanta. John's voice was different enough to cause complaints so his voice was replaced by Lee Rodgers of KSFO-AM in San Francisco.

WWVH still uses the voice of Jane Barbe also from Atlanta. Jane passed away July 18, 2003.

(submitted by WA6RUZ)

## Membership

Five new members have been accepted by the board. We welcome:

**Joe Ayers, AE6XE**, an Extra from Mission Viejo;

**Jeff Cowell, KW1SKY**, a Technician from Mission Viejo;

**Nancy Howell, KI6IYY**, a Technician and **Les Howell, KI6IYX**, a General both from San Juan Capistrano; and

**Steve Kehoe, KI6JZB**, a General from Mission Viejo.

We're glad you've joined us and look forward to your involvement and talking to you on the radio. Your badges and handbooks are ready for you to receive at our meeting on the 16th.

Our membership total is 206. If any new members or new hams would like to have people to contact for technical help or general radio help, please send us an e-mail at

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

or talk with us at the meeting and we'll give you the names of people who are happy to give personal support to our new members.

Horst and Marie Zitzmann KD7JHR; KD7JHS

## Net News

Have you ever thought of working as Net Control for the Tuesday SOARA net? It is good experience and since you are provided with a script for all of the "boiler plate", it is not a difficult task. Talk to Lee, K6QAX, about what is involved and the times that are available.

73, — See you on the net.

## Welcome

New members:  
this month

Joe Ayers,  
AE6XE;

Jeff Cowell,  
KW1SKY

Nancy Howell,  
KI6IYY

Les Howell,  
KI6IYX and

Steve Kehoe,  
KI6JZB

If you hear any of the new members, or any visitors, on the repeaters, be sure to spend a few minutes getting to know them.

At the general meetings keep an eye out for the temporary visitor badges. Lets make our visitors feel very welcome.

## What is *Field Day* And Why is it Important



In preparing this article I realized some and perhaps many may not know the history of the annual ARRL Field Day. The first Field Day was held in June, 1933. That year W9ZZAL won the contest with 98 QSO's. Note the "ZZ" in the call, that was the FCC indicator for a special portable station license in the 1930's. In 1937 the "Field Day Message" bonus was conceived and continues to this day. In 1940 the ARRL instituted "The Rules" for Field Day to allow an even flow of competition and participation. For more on the history of Field Day see:

[www.arrl.org/pio/press\\_releases/9912028.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/pio/press_releases/9912028.pdf)

Fast forward to today and you will find that in the United States field day is the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year.

The [American Radio Relay League](http://www.arrl.org)/[Radio Amateurs of Canada](http://www.rac.ca) Field Day is held annually on the fourth full weekend in June (June 27-28 in 2009). Sponsored by the ARRL and RAC (but organized primarily by the ARRL), Field Day is open to all Amateur Radio operators covered by these two IARU member organizations.

It is important to point out that this is an event for North America only, and although DX (International Stations) may be contacted during Field Day, it is for

the USA and Canada.

As humans we are competitive by nature and competition abounds to see who can be the best at field day in every category. Emergency preparedness is serious business, and as such we all compete to see who can handle the most messages in a 24 hour period of time. Hence, the scoring system for Clubs.

Who among us does not want to be part of a winning team. This is what drives us to stay up all night, freeze our rears off, pound the keyer, yell in the mic and push the computer buttons until we are blurry eyed when the sun comes up in the morning.

If you want to capture the passion, the fire and the competition of field day, I invite you to join SOARA for the "All Night Fight" during field day.

For this writer it happened at age 12 when I persuaded my Father to drive me to the top of the mountains in Pasadena to operate Field Day with the local club. Armed with only my CW key, a tuna sandwich, can of coke and a sleeping bag, I was transfixed by the smell of the oiled canvas tents, the lights of the big rigs at night, signals from all over the world and the smell of diesel fumes in the damp night air.

With all the veterans asleep in their tents, I operated all night long, my key smoking hot, my head wet with the sweat from the headphones, my fingers sore from writing down calls. That Field Day forever changed my life as the sun rose over the mountains in Pasadena.

Next month we will look at each category and how the ARRL scores them, then find a place for you to fit in.

Till next month,  
Ron, W6OM

Year 2009	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	26	23	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	—
Program	Antenna W6OM et al. part 1	Antennas W6OM et al. part 2										—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	27	20	17	21	19	16	—
SOARA T-Hunt	4	1	1	?	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	28
Special Events		General upgrade class Thursdays		Earthquake Preparedness Month	2: Repeater Work Party 13:HamCon Dayton, OH		O C Fair Radio Booth					
ARRL Field Day						27-28						
SOARA picnic								2				
SOARA Holiday Party												6

☛ **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

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[kd7jhr@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhr@soara.org) or [kd7jhs@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhs@soara.org)

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### SOARA COMMITTEES

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