



The

# Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

July 2009

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Dayton Trek 1
- Picnic 1
- F.D. Wrap-up 2
- Canyon News 2
- New Members 2
- O. C. Fair 3
- Raffle 3
- Education 3
- Testing 3
- 2009 Calendar 4
- Club Directory 4

Meeting:  
July 20  
7:00 PM

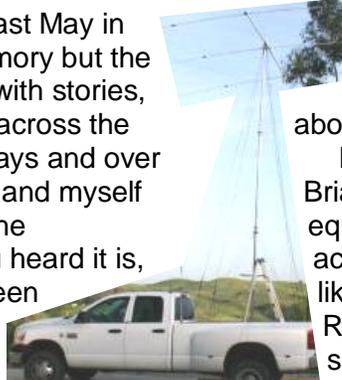
N.P.  
Murray  
Center

Veterans  
Way  
Mission Viejo

## Dayton Trek 2009 Topic for Meeting

Well the Hamvention last May in Dayton, Ohio is but a memory but the junket to and fro lives on with stories, logbooks and QSL cards across the globe. Spanning twelve days and over 6,000 miles Jeff (AD7YT) and myself had the trip of the year. The Hamvention is all that you heard it is, and more. I have never seen a larger convention for anything. I have been to Home and Garden shows and a Star Trek convention in Los Angeles and nothing compares (well there may be a similarity between attendees at the Star Trek convention and Dayton, but I digress).

Aside from Jeff and I having fun, the intent of this trip was to hold a club contest with the intent to get members more active, introduce different operating modes and contesting to newer or inactive hams and to spread the good name of SOARA throughout the land and beyond. I can say that we accomplished all but one of our goals and gained a lot of first hand experience about contesting, operating, propagation and antennas to name a few.



Jeff and I invite you all to attend the July meeting where we will share tall tales, funny stories and lore about the trip.

Before signing, I would like to thank Brian (NJ6N) for the loan of D-star equipment and tutelage that helped us achieve our goals. Additionally, I would like to express a special thanks to Richard (K6RBS) for his endless support and contribution. Richard not only was the official Dayton Trek Webmaster, but was head cheerleader rallying the troops back home. Richard provided a lot of logistical support as well as spotted us on the cluster and local repeaters. Thank you Richard. As a way of expressing our appreciation, the next time you talk to Richard on the radio, ask him if he's in a new county yet?

Oh and why did I say "the trip of the year" in the opening paragraph and not the trip of a lifetime? Because we are going to do it again next year, and this time we want a competing team!

73 for now and see you on July 20<sup>th</sup>.  
de Tim (AF6GL)



The annual **SOARA Picnic** will be held on Sunday **August 2nd** at Baby Beach in Dana Point. We plan to have a phone HF station operating, and a VHF/UHF station

for talk-in. Early bird radio set-ups at 10:00 AM.

**Lunch** will be from noon to 2:00 PM. The club will provide hot dogs, ham-burgers and drinks. Please bring a salad, chips, or dessert to share.

**Activities** from 2:00 to 5:00 PM will include: games, T-hunting, and a chance to visit with club members in an unhurried atmosphere.

## Picnic - Bring the Family



### Events:

The annual SOARA picnic at Baby Beach in Dana Point is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, 3009.



This month SOARA welcomes new members:

Chris Vargas  
KF6TKE

Joshua Avila  
W6KNJ

David Zamder  
K6DAZ

William Hines  
KG6DBL

James Wilson  
KI6ZTG

### Congratulations

Mark Maddrell,  
N6XOV has  
upgraded to general  
class license

At **Field Day**, the  
membership  
committee received  
5 applications for  
membership:

Craig Leventhal,  
Dennis Blough,  
David Althoen,  
Larry Hanks,  
Olaf Kiltbau.

We hope to meet all  
of you at the next  
club meeting.

## Field Day 2009

Well, another field day has come and gone. I have to say that I was very pleased with the number of club members who came out and helped us pull this off. Thanks to all of you. I also want to thank all the team leaders. No one person can organize and pull together an event like this. It really does require a group of people working in each area and this group did a great job.

What we learned: 40 meter bobtail curtains do not fit in the gully. The antenna guy's are already working on ideas for it's replacement. An 80 meter vertical, rocks! A 40 meter sloper is

definitely the way to go. It worked very well. The batting cage vertical ( minus a few tech. problems ) did it's usual good job. Our beams need some maintenance work, which is being planned for this fall.

We need to organize our GOTA station efforts better, make sure the radio operators get fed, and make sure the sprinklers are turned off. ( although it did wake the boys up, LOL )

If I had to sum this field day up in one word, it would be – Great!

Mike Slygh NM6X

See page 3  
**Field Day Scores**

## Holly Jim Fire "Crew" Repeater On Track Again.

After a fairly major set back in the contested elections held in May the Holy Jim Fire Dept split into 2 entities. The entity under the old fire chief trained, practiced and radioed up to fight fires, raise money and become self sufficient. Under the newly elected fire chief the purpose of the dept was to fill pot holes and deliver water to the cabins who, Now, can not get water from the stream under a new federal law. He also decided that there was no need for a radio system requiring a repeater, as did the association president. She felt that if some one used fowl language on the repeater she would go to jail for years

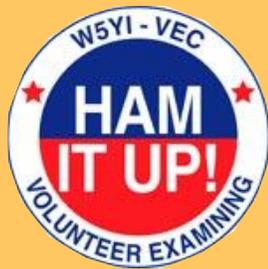
Not wanting all the years of work to go to waste, the old chief and trained firemen, formed a new group to stay together, raise funds with a nonprofit tax exempt statues and erect a business band repeater in that groups name. 1 - 2 - 3, that's what happened in short order! The papers were filed and a DBA was granted under the name: Holy Jim Fire Crew. NEXT order of business was to get that license for the repeater. Those papers have been filed and we are waiting for the

call sign to be issued and frequencies to be issued.

What a help this will be for fire, police, the residents in Holy Jim and for us HAMS. Many parts of the forest are dark to 800 MHz, both police and fire. Even to us HAMS we are in the dark because we are too close to the Santiago peak repeaters. Catalina repeaters? OK we can hit them, but do we want to hog their repeater during fire, or search and rescue operations? That wouldn't be fair or appreciated by them much. How many times are we asked to operate in the forest for different events? Lots! And how many times have we seen smoke and fire going on back there with the question, what's going on? Only to read the truth a couple of days later in the paper. Those are days past, my radio friends. This will be a repeater that is solar and wind powered. A true stand alone.

More later as this as this, now on track, new repeater story unfolds in quick order.

Dave Seroski  
KG6QCI



## Testing

Results of Testing  
on 6/27/09

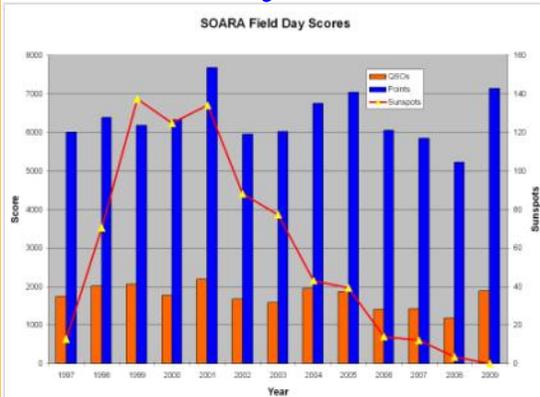
The June testing session was scheduled for Saturday, June 27 rather than the evening of the June meeting. SOARA has been having a testing session at the Field Day site for several years.

A sizable group showed up this year for the testing session. Of thirteen applicants eight passed the Technician class license test with one of those going on to take the General class test and passing it. One applicant holding a Technician license was grandfathered to General class.

Those who did not pass the Technician class test at the Field Day session were invited to prepare to take the test at the session on Monday evening just prior to the upcoming meeting.

Thanks to the SOARA VEs who devoted their time to help with our testing sessions.

## Field Day Scores



As you can see from the above plot (thanks to K6RBS) SOARA has consistently had pretty good scores. But this year the sun spot numbers were quite low. Despite the poor propagation our QSO count and score were almost as high as at the sunspot cycle peak.

The final results for Field Day 2009 are:

Mode	CW	DIG	PH
QSOs	765	84	1145
Points	1530	168	1145

Total QSO Points:	2843
Power Multiplier:	2

Score:	5686
--------	------

Bonus Points:	1530
---------------	------

Total Score:	7216
--------------	------

## Raffle

Congratulations to Phil, WA6LDI, who was the lucky winner of the ICOM IC-91AD D-STAR handie-talkie at the June five-dollar raffle! Many other great prizes were claimed at the one-dollar raffle as well. The five-dollar prize for the July meeting will be an MFJ Antenna/SWR/RF analyzer. Antenna analyzers provides a wealth of information about the performance of your antenna and feed line as well providing a frequency counter, RF signal generator, Capacitance and Inductance meter.

73, NJ6N

## Education

Now that Field Day is over and the equipment has been put away, we can now think about setting up another upgrade class. I am planning a 6 week class that will tentatively start September 10, 2009. The classes will be held at the Murray Center, Mission Viejo.

If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will hold a seat for you. I will also send you my notes from the last class. The notes are written in Microsoft PowerPoint.

I also use the ARRL General Class Manual. There are other Q&A manuals available. There are sample test on line at the FCC web site. The ARRL Q&A manual has questions and answer in the same format as the FCC tests.

There is no cost for the class except for the cost of the manual.

If there any comments or corrections, or to reserve a spot in the class please let me know, at [WB6WXO@SOARA.org](mailto:WB6WXO@SOARA.org)

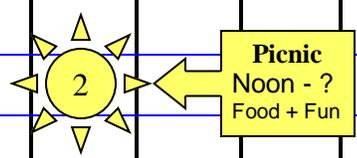
73, Hal, WB6WXO, Education Director

## OC Fair

SOARA provided booth staffing for the opening weekend of the Orange County fair at the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO) booth. The booth is located in the new "Exhibit Promenade breezeway" next to the "Home Arts & Crafts Gallery". Howard, KG6GI, Tom, AE6SH, and I were on the early-evening to closing shift on Sunday. Kids stopped by to tap out their name on the Morse code keys. Inquisitive fair-goers asked us about everything from ham radio satellite communications to the recent analog to digital TV conversion. We had quite a few licensed hams stop by and sign the guest book. The booth is an excellent opportunity for us to tell others about our fantastic hobby and the important public safety services we provide.

Brian, NJ6N

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	EME Vlad, W6BVB	Red Cross Tom, KI6GOA	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep	Dayton Trek Report					—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	27	20	17	21	19	16	—
SOARA T-Hunt	4	1	1	5	3	7	<del>5</del>	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	13:HamCon Dayton, OH		O C Fair Radio Booth					
ARRL Field Day						27-28						
SOARA picnic												
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**

*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:* Robin Whaling, KG6MCA . . . . . 949-395-4049  
[kg6mca@soara.org](mailto:kg6mca@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:* Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC . . . . .  
[ki6iuc@soara.org](mailto:ki6iuc@soara.org)

**SOARA COMMITTEES**

*Activities:* Open . . . . .

*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)