



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

October 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

- HF Digital Op** 1
- QST de AE6SH** 1
- T-hunt** 2
- Membership** 2
- Nov. Auction** 2
- Education** 2
- Raffle** 3
- Emcomm note** 3
- Dec. Party** 3
- Coming events** 3
- 2010Calendar** 4
- Club Directory** 4

Meeting:
Oct. 18
7:00 PM

**N. P.
Murray
Center**
**Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo**

Narrow Band HF Digital Operating.

At the upcoming October meeting Malcolm, KO6SY will present a primer on narrow band digital modes as used on HF; topics will include PSK31, JT65 and WSPR. At the end of the presentation you will have all the information to set up and operate a narrow band digital station on the HF bands. If time permits, a demonstration using a remote base will be given.

Malcolm has been a long time member of SOARA, and was very active in club events before relocating to San Bernardino County. His presentations are always informative and highly entertaining. For many years he was the auctioneer at the club's Spring and Fall auctions.

Do plan on attending the meeting on Monday to learn some of the secrets of Digital modes.

Malcolm was first licensed in 1969 as G8CSU, a British VHF only license. He upgraded to full privileges in 1971 with the license G4ACU. He came to the US in 1984 and was one of the first amateurs to use Pactor and from then on has continuously operated on all digital modes.



KO6SY now lives in San Bernardino County and is the Vice President at Giga-tronics Inc a leading RF & Microwave test equipment company. He is also a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (MIET) UK.



QST de AE6SH

I am always amazed by how small our world really is and how it keeps getting smaller. Cars, computers, radios, TVs — all

smaller; you name it, someone, as I write this, is figuring out how to make it smaller. And usually smaller is better except for maybe airline seats and candy bars. SOARA on the other hand is always thinking of ways to get bigger i.e. Bigger field day score, bigger membership, bigger treasury. But while we strive for bigness let's not forget the need for the small groups within the big group. For example: Our VE's, our T-hunters and HF contesters, all small groups, just to name a few. These are what keep Amateur radio interesting and challenging.

I was talking to a club member just a few days ago, and he was saying how he would like to see how many in the club were interested in a particular area of interest and I thought, another opportunity for a small group! And it doesn't have to be directly related to ham radio but may utilize ham radio in the activity or supporting another activity. I know that a lot of hams have other things in common besides radio.

So sometimes bigger is not always better, smaller can be just as good, and if enough people show up for a small group, it doesn't stay small for long. Ask around at the next club meeting, see what others in the club are doing, or start your own small group and invite others to join you. Above all have fun and be safe and enjoy the hobby and the people in it.

73

Tom Hobbs, AE6SH

Do you VFTOM?

Every ham operator needs to be familiar with his or her radios to the point where they can be used in new and unfamiliar circumstances.

One of the more important procedures is setting up your radio to operate on a new frequency and use a new repeater. Modern radios have many features and the programming can be intimidating. Setting the radio to use a new repeater is one you should master.

V - select the VFO mode

F - set the Frequency

T - select the Tone (i.e. the PL)

O - Program the Offset

M - Save to Memory

If you don't know how to do these steps with your radios then dig out the manual(s) and review the procedures. If necessary make the necessary notes and fasten it to the radio. In an emergency it may make the difference between being able to communicate as needed or not.

Based on notes provided by Wayne Barringer, WB6UJW

T-hunt Results

This past t-hunt was lightly attended with only two hunters. Joe, W6BGR, along with his son, was the winner, finding the "T" in about one and a half hours, using the "I hear it now, now I don't" and "it was stronger back there so we need to turn around and go the other way" methods. Karl, KF6MDF, was next in about an hour and forty five minutes.



The transmitter was hidden behind the sound wall facing the 73 toll road located behind the vacant Expo building near Greenfield and the 73. My thanks to Clark, KI6IZE, for taking the pictures and sending them to me.

I hope to see more hunters out there next month. Gray WA6BJY

Membership

Here is our new SOARA member who was accepted at the last board meeting: **Chris Kim, KC6LUV**, an extra class ham from Irvine. Welcome Chris and we look forward to your participation.

Dues letters were sent out before the September meeting and we, in the name of the SOARA board, appreciate the quick response from the 102 members who are paid up through September 2011. If you haven't received a dues letter, please let us know at the meeting or send us an email at membership@soara.org.

73
Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS



HRO has a new webpage (same url: www.hamradio.com) that is much improved. Faster and live stock check for all stores just to mention a few. Check it out. You will appreciate the helpful features. Thanks HRO

Education

At this writing, the first workshop class has been completed. Four of the five people who signed up for the class were present. One of the students completed the first assignment. We measured the frequency response and the gain of the amplifier. The instructions require that the data taken is to be plotted up in Microsoft Excel. The other students have partially completed the assignment.

I am going to provide a solderable breadboard so that the general purpose amplifier can be used as either a microphone or audio output amplifier.

There is also an unanticipated benefit from the class in as much as I have been able to provide some Elmering to the class. Questions like "what kind of soldering iron should I buy", "which component kits should I buy" and "what to look for in an oscilloscope". We will have a short lecture on oscilloscopes this week.

At this writing, I am still tinkering with the 1.5W transmitter. The transmitter is working but the output is low. The article that this circuit was taken from is supposed to get 1.5 Watts out but so far I am only getting 0.125Watts of RMS power as measured into a 50 W load. I feel that the output tank circuit may have to be adjusted. The next task is to isolate the output tank circuit and drive it from a signal generator.

If we continue on the path of lecture and lab, as we have, we will reconvene after the first of the year on Saturdays.

If there are any comments, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org

November Program

The Fall Auction will be held at the regular meeting on November 15. If you are bringing equipment to sell, please try to arrive early in order to set up your offerings for display and to tag the equipment. You may want to arrive early to see all the goodies that others are willing to part with. Official starting time for the meeting is 7:00 PM, but the room is available any time after 6:00 PM. The auction is always a good place to pick up good used gear. Dig out all of that forgotten gear and bring it next month.

2010 Holiday Party December 4, 2010

SOARA 2010 Holiday Party

Saturday December 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Casta del Sol Golf Course
27601 Casta del Sol Road
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

No host bar will be available

Tickets \$25.00 each with a dinner choice of beef, chicken, or fish.
Includes choice of baked potato, stuffed potato, or rice.
Also includes salad and dinner roll.

Ticket sales and ordering information to follow.

There will be NO ticket sales at the door.

Mark your calendars now, don't miss the fun.



Pacificon 2010
October 15-17
San Remon Marriot
Hotel, San Remon,
CA

November T-hunt
November 7
At 1:00 PM

Fall Auction
November 15
Dig out that old gear
and bring it to sell!

SOARA Holiday Party

December 4, 2010
6:00 PM — ?
Casa Del Sol Golf
Clubhouse in
Mission Viejo



Welcome to our new member:

Chris Kim,
KC6LUV,

Welcome, and please come to the meeting on October 18th to pick up your badge and handbooks

Raffle

Congratulations to Larry, KI6ZTA who was the lucky winner of the five-dollar raffle prize, a Kenwood TH-F6A tri-band handie talkie! Congratulations to the lucky winners of the one-dollar raffle at the September meeting as well.

Thanks to all of you who support the clubs raffles. Proceeds from the year of raffles are used to purchase the holiday party door prizes. This year's holiday party door prize is a D-STAR DV Access Point Dongle AND Icom dual-band FM/D-STAR capable ID-80H Handie Talkie combination! With this combination you'll have access to local and distant repeaters and will be able to link to and monitor any one of the hundreds of gateways and reflectors around the world!

I would like to thank Hal, WB6WXO for his help with the raffle at the September meeting. If you are interested in helping out with the club raffles, please let me know.

Good luck to all of you who participate in the raffles and I hope to see you at the October meeting.

Vy 73, Brian, NJ6N

Emcomm Recap

September's presentation by Knute, K6HIV, dealt with the important topic of emergency communications and being prepared to be effective in the services we offer. September was both National Preparedness month and marked the 75th anniversary of ARRL sponsored ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service).

Many SOARA members are involved with ARES or RACES emergency groups dedicated to serving one of the local cities, or an agency like the Red Cross or the Salvation Army, or the hospital group. These groups all provide training and exercises to help the members prepare for emergencies. All of these groups welcome new members.

Aiding Knute in his presentation was Wayne Berringer, WB6UJW. Wayne is very involved in volunteer communications and emergency preparedness. He presented some pointers on sharpening skills and on some of the supplies to have ready to go when called upon to aid in an emergency. See the sidebar on page 2 - "Do You V-F-T-O-M?" for one basic skill to ensure that you are prepared.

Year 2010	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	25	22	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	—
Program	Midway Atoll N6HC	AE6SH Disaster Comm	Digital Modes WB6NOA	Hospital Group AC7GK	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	Candy Store KL7MF	DaytonTrek Report AF6GL	ARES 75 years K6HIV	WSPR, etc. K06SY	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	25	22	15	19	17	26 Field Day	19	16	20	18	15	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	7	7	11	9 ?	6	11	1	5	3	7	5
Board Meeting	Feb 1	Mar 1	22	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	TBA
Special Events				3 Pre-F.D. Exercise	14-16 Dayton		O C Fair Radio Booth		17-19 SW Div Hamcon			
ARRL Field Day						26-27						
SOARA picnic								1				
Holiday Party												4

☛ **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 Mike Slygh, NM6X, at 949-305-1374.

☛ **Contacting SOARA:** Questions about SOARA? Postal mail: P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690. 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, KG6GI.

	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 (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 8:00 AM.

SOARA OFFICERS

President: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org

V.P. Tim McGowen, AF6GL 760-310-7634
af6gl@soara.org

Secretary: John Anderson, NJ6A 949-581-9847
nj6a@soara.org

Treasurer: Tom Parkes, KI6DDB 714-224-2982
ki6ddb@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: Horst(KD7JHR) & Marie(KD7JHS)
Zitzmann . . 949-768-8552
kd7jhr@soara.org or kd7jhs@soara.org

Education: Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002
wb6wxo@soara.org

Technical: Brian Roode, NJ6N 949-495-5336
nj6n@soara.org

Communications: Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC 949-680-9906
ki6iuc@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Tim McGowen, AF6GL 760-310-7634
af6gl@soara.org

Testing: Mike Slygh, NM6X 949-305-1374
nm6x@soara.org

Website: Richard Saunders, K6RBS 949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org

Ambassador: Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org