



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

November 2010

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Fall Auction Nov. 15

The last general meeting of 2010 is just days away. The fall auction will start at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 15. There is no general meeting in December.

Our auctioneer will be Kris, KI6IUC, who has done a fine job for the last few auctions. The auctions (we hold on in the Spring and one in the Fall) have seen good turnouts lately, and the quality of items offered for sale has been good. There have been a lot of happy buyers with new "toys" to play with. We have also had some serious high quality equipment show up, providing some members to upgrade their shacks for bargain prices.

So dig out the gear you no longer use and bring it to the meeting on Monday. Oh, and bring some money, there is apt to be something there that you have been wanting to get and you wouldn't want to miss out on it. Bring plenty of money so you don't lose it to a higher bidder. It is a fun meeting even if you don't buy anything, but do bring some money just in case.

Field Day 2010

The 2010 Field Day results have been published. See the December 2010 QST. Page 72, second column under the heading 3A you will find SOARA's score. We were 16th in the country, and only one CA group beat our score in the 3A class. Good job gang!

SOARA Party

It is almost here — the SOARA year end party — so make your meal selection and get your tickets now. This is a family social event and you won't want to miss it. See page 3 for details. Do take note that the event is being held on a Saturday this year (this is a change from prior years). There will be fun and fellowship, some reminiscing about the year's accomplishments, and a door prize. Tickets must be purchased by November 22. Don't miss out. If you have any questions contact Timothy McGowen, AF6GL. He can be reached by e-mail at af6gl@soara.org.

More in page 3.

Meeting:
Nov. 15
7:00 PM

N. P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

QST de AE6SH



Ah the holiday season is upon us. Or as my family has taken to referring to it as "the Eating Season". And that means that new radios and other new ham gear could soon be appearing under a tree near you. Why not make room for that new gear early and be ahead of the rush by bringing your valuable seasoned gear to Monday night's

meeting. It is that time once again to do our part to keep the landfills free of E-waste and our garages full of good "Stuff". Yes it is the fall edition of the SOARA auction. For this edition we will be debuting our new SOARA auction rules. Nothing crazy, just a few guidelines to help make the process smoother and the record keeping as simple as possible. You should receive a copy with the News letter and copies will be available at the door on Monday night. Speaking of eating... The SOARA Holiday party is just around the corner as well so get your tickets early and join us for some Holiday spirit. Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

Tom Hobbs

Ham Radio is Alive and Well

An editorial in the October, 2010 issue of *Microwaves & RF* discussed Ham the current growth trend in Amateur Radio. You can read it at: <http://www.mwrf.com/Articles/Index.cfm?ArticleID=23065>.

It is not unusual to find references to amateur radio in the trade magazines of the electronics industry. After all a lot of engineers and technical workers in that field got their first interest and experience in electronics through their Ham radio hobby.

Raffle

There is no raffle at the auction meetings

Congratulations to the winners of last month's raffle and the raffle will resume at the January, 2011 meeting.

Reminder for 2011

The January and February general meetings are held on the 4th Monday due to holidays falling on the 3rd Mondays of those months.

T-hunt Results

The SOARA T-Hunt was a great time had by all . . . well by most.

The weather was great sunny and just a bit cooler than usual. The five hunters were looking for their prey Joe W6BGR and his son Gabriel. Gabe helped find it last month and it was only fair that he was part of the hiding. Unfortunately his schedule changed and he had a baseball game on the day of the hunt.

His game started at 1:30 and I would have had to miss the game if I were hiding. So we found a way to do both. I hid the transmitter at the Del Obispo Baseball Park in Dana Point. Searching all the places on the property I found a location that would provide some shielding of the signal to the north by tying it up behind the scoreboard of one of the fields. About 10 feet off the ground the signal was forced around this 10' x 40' metal sign.

Helping me hide also was Drew Croisette KI6IZD and a special thanks to him because we looked like a couple of terrorists strapping this metal ammo box to a little league scoreboard while games were in progress.

First to find it was Gray Bickford WA6BJY and his T-hunter in training, Clark Croisette KI6IZE. They found the box 10 minutes after arriving and after walking directly under the hanging several times.



Then Karl Miljevich KF6MDF arrived and found it about 20 minutes later. Almost as soon as Karl arrived, Richard Saunders K6RBS the "gold standard of SOARA T-hunting" arrived and quickly became the third place finisher. Mark Hergesheimer KD6WLY arrived and also found the transmitter wedged between the scoreboard and the building. Also hunting and having fun that only a SOARA hunter could was our President Tom Hobbs AE6SH.

Thanks to all who came out and are still talking to me after the location I chose.

Joe Lopez, W6BGR

Education

As of this writing, the first phase of the workshop has been completed. There were some measured successes for a first time class.

The breadboards that I furnished as samples met the intent of the class. Not all members finished the three projects. Business and school commitments reduced the class participation. We will meet again after the first of the year and continue to refine the projects.

The wide band amplifier can be assembled in a suitable enclosure and can be used as an audio output circuit or as a microphone input circuit. If it used as a microphone input circuit, then a circuit will have to be developed to energize the T/R relay for transmit. There are several circuits that come straight out of the Heathkit single band transceiver that are suitable.

The VFO requires some tweaking to get the frequency to actually tune from 5.0Mhz to 5.5Mhz. This would require a variable inductor, a panel mount variable capacitor and a small trimmer capacitor. These adjustments are also out of the Heathkit single band transceiver.

A future addition could be a 9.0 MHz crystal controlled oscillator and a mixer circuit. When combined with the VFO, it would yield either or both 14.0 Mhz or 3.5Mhz. I still need to develop a good mixer circuit. I also need to find an inexpensive source for 9.0 Mhz Crystals.

While the transmitter also meets the initial criteria of 1.5W output into a 50W load, I am adding a side tone generator using a 555 timing chip. I would also add a change over relay circuit to mute the receiver when the transmitter is on.

All in all, I would like to run the class again in 2011 and do it on Saturdays. We are going to reconvene after the first of the year during January. If anyone wants to join the class at that time, let me know.

If any other members want to try their hand at these circuits, then get in touch with me and I will furnish a schematic and parts list.

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

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.

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