



The

# Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

March 2010

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## Gordon West Presentation at SOARA

SOARA is pleased to welcome Gordon West, WB6NOA, as our speaker this month. Gordon is a regular contributor to SOARA's Tuesday evening net, giving us insight into the latest developments in amateur radio. Gordon is a nationally known speaker and educator. He is best known for his efforts in training both amateur radio operators and commercial operators. The ARRL presented



Gordon with its "Instructor of the Year" award. He has trained about eight of every ten newly-licensed hams with his classes, books and audio courses over the past 35 years.

Plan on attending this presentation and meet Gordon and his wife, Suzy, N6GLF, on Monday, March 15. Bring along any friends who are hams or are interested in amateur radio.

## Meeting:

Mar. 15

7:00 PM

N. P.  
Murray  
Center

Veterans  
Way  
Mission Viejo

## QST, QST, de AE6H



### Elections in April

At the February SOARA Board of Directors meeting (actually held on Monday, March 1, 2010) the Board nominated, as re-

quired by the Club Constitution and Bylaws, a slate of candidates for the upcoming April election. Since 2010 is an even numbered year, the elections are for the Constitutional officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Board nominated: for President, Tom Hobbs, AE6SH; for Vice president, Tim McGowan, AF6GL; for secretary, John Anderson, NJ6A; and for Treasurer, Tom Parks, KI6DDB. Tom, AE6SH, as you know is currently Vice President, Tim, AF6GL is currently serving as activities Chair, Tom, KI6DDB, and John, NJ6A, currently serve in the same positions for which they are being

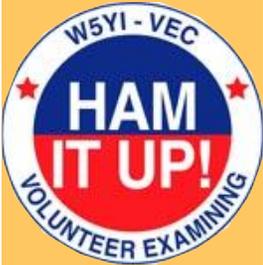
nominated.

We will also be calling for nominations for these 4 positions from the floor, at the upcoming March Meeting. I encourage everyone to consider running for these club positions, if you are interested, or nominating someone else you believe is well suited, providing they are willing to run and serve. The hours are long, the pay is extremely low, but the intangible rewards of helping the club run smoothly are priceless.

### 2010 Orange County Fair

In response to a request from the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO), the board agreed that the club would take on the organization and management of the Amateur Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair for 2010. This booth has been an annual project of OCCARO for many years. SOARA is a member and active supporter of OCCARO; we

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## Testing

Testing Results  
From  
February 22, 2010

Upgraded To  
General

Richard Grifasi  
KI6UMW

### New Technicians

Dwayne Anstead  
KJ6FPV

Steven Barnes  
KJ6FPW

Alan Drayer  
KJ6FPX

David Meador  
KJ6FPY

John Meador  
KJ6FPZ

Joseph Mendoza  
KJ6FQA

Michie Reigle  
KJ6FQB

Deborah Stapley  
KJ6FQC

73  
Ernie W6ETS

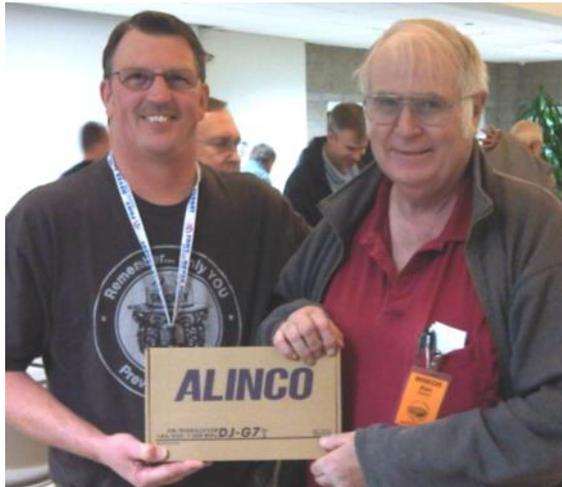
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are taking this on in behalf of OCCARO.

The Fair will run from July 16 to August 15, 2010, but is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. As always, SOARA will also be staffing the booth for a couple of days. Other OCCARO member clubs also staff assigned days. Gordon West, WB6NOA, is working with us as is ARRL Orange Section Manager, Carl Gardenias, WU6D. Mack Garrett, KD6KSP, is SOARA's point person on this project. If you would like to help in the organizing phase, Mack would like to hear from you and has an assignment for you. This is another excellent opportunity to have fun while contributing to Ham Radio.

73 De Ray, AE6H

## Raffle

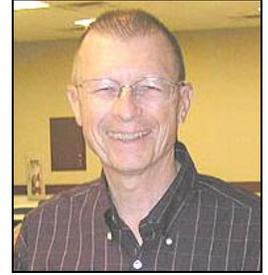


Congratulations to all of the lucky winners of the one-dollar raffle at the February meeting. Ken, W7KOS, was the lucky winner of the Alinco DJ-G7 tri-band handie talkie in the five-dollar raffle. Congratulations, Ken! The March five-dollar raffle prize will be a Yaesu FT7900R, 50W 2m/45W 70cm mobile transceiver. I would like to thank our activities director, Timothy, AF6GL, for his assistance with the raffle at the February meeting.

73, Brian, NJ6N

## Next Month

The program for April will deal with the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS). SOARA member, John Walker, AC7GK, a Certified Hospital Communicator with HDSCS will make the presentation. He has been active in emergency communications for most of his 20+ years as a ham. John has a background as an educator. This is a presentation that you won't want to miss.



## Education

The measurement class was concluded on March 3, 2010. We were able to make measurements on a three stage general purpose amplifier. I took measurements before the class and then re-ran the data with the class. I plotted the data on an Excel spread sheet. Excel has the ability to plot data using a log display on the X axis.

During an earlier class, we measured the frequency and amplitude of the signals in my Hybrid HW32A.

There have also been some inquiries by the class about starting a QRP program. ARRL has a relatively new QRP book on the market. I want to pick up a copy and look at the circuits that are in the book. I have also been in touch with International Crystal for prices and delivery of crystals for a simple QRP CW transmitter. Crystals for frequencies above 4.0 MHz are about \$21 plus shipping. Below 4.0 MHz, the price jumps to above \$50.00 I have also found that Universal Radio has Amidon Toroids for sale at \$1.00 a piece. .

If you have an interest in a particular class or seminar please let me know.

Hal, WB6WXO



## Events:

April 3, 2010  
Field Day exercise  
9:00 AM to 6:00PM

April 4, 2010  
Hidden Transmitter  
Hunt. 1:00PM - - ?



Welcome to  
SOARA.

It is great to have couples joining and we are happy to welcome Gayle and Lloyd Gomez, W9GCG & W9LEG who join 19 other licensed couples in the club. In addition, our newest members are:

Lubos Durcovic  
KJ6EED

Richard D. Grifasi  
KI6UMW

Carrie Harden  
KI6FBS

Matt Parker  
KJ6EKF

Daniel Pinvidic  
KJ6FBW

Gary Woods  
KR4VTS

Horst Zitzmann,  
KD7JHR

Marie Zitzmann,  
KD7JHS  
Membership

# Pre-Field Day Drill on April 3, 2010

## Field Day

*Always the fourth full weekend in June*

One of the secrets of a successful Field Day is being prepared. On Saturday, April 3, SOARA is going to have a day of preparation at our usual Field Day site: Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. The activities will start at 9:00 AM and will continue through the day. We plan to stay no later than 6:00PM. Set aside that day on your calendar and plan on spending a part of the day with us.

The antennas that we will be using in June will be assembled and tested. Missing or damaged hardware will be replaced, all electrical connections will be checked for corrosion, etc. An antenna analyzer will be used to check the SWR on each antenna and the antenna will be tuned if necessary. If you are proficient at antenna work we can use your help. If not,



then come out and see how it is done.

The radios that we plan on using will also be tested to ensure that we do not find troubles during the actual Field Day operation in June. There will be opportunities to operate the radios for members who would like to brush up on operating techniques. In June we want to keep all of our stations busy for the entire contest period. This means an operator and a logger for each. There will be lots of opportunity for participation.

In an actual disaster we might have to set up an operation where there is no commercial power and no existing antennas. Field Day and this preliminary drill may well pay off in our being able to function when communications is needed. Oh, yes, if you are not convinced yet, lunch will be provided.



If I find the T first I will show them what a "hidden" T is.

Mark, KD6WLY, was the first to locate the hidden transmitter in the February hunt, so he had the pleasure of hiding the transmitter (the T) for the hunt on Sunday, March 7. In February, Richard, K6RBS, hid the transmitter and hid in the brush to take photographs of the hunters as they closed in on the transmitter. (The picture of Mark above was from that hunt.)

Mark has a shop in Portola Hills — in an industrial section. But there is a nice little public park tucked away just across a creek from his shop. And along the edge of the park is strip of wilderness area. What a nice place to hide a transmitter. And hide it he did; the antenna was tucked well out of sight in a crack in a wooden fence post. Coax ran from the antenna,

## T-Hunt

about 12 feet to the transmitter, which was buried under a thick layer of dried brush. (where did he get GREEN coax?)

Richard, K6RBS, and Spencer, KI6URT, were the first to arrive at the general area and set out on foot. Shortly afterward Karl, KF6MDF, and Dale, W8RRV, arrived and entered the park. Soon all four were examining the wilderness area in detail. Karl was the first to spot the transmitter in the brush. Soon all had found it and set off for a local coffee shop where Mark and Laura, K6VIX, were relaxing — and observing the action on a laptop computer. He had set up a webcam on the roof of his shop..

The next scheduled hunt will be held on Sunday, April 4. The hunt will start at 1:00 PM. Coordination will be through SOARA's 147.180 MHz repeater.

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					Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	25	22	15	19	17	26 Field Day	19	16	20	18	15	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	7	7	11	2	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												TBA

☛ **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? Postal mail: P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690. 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, 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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