



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

October 2011

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Meeting
Oct. 17,
2011
7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

US Amateurs Now 700,000 Strong!

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licenses. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

- December 1971: 285,000
- December 1981: 433,000
- December 1991: 494,000
- December 2001: 683,000
- September 2011: 700,221

More at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/us-amateurs-now-700-000-strong>

QST de AE6SH



Not too much from the president's desk this month. Your Board has been hard at work trying to come up with a budget for the upcoming year and we will have more on that later. I can tell you that just as it is in most financial situations things are very tight and there is always more to spend it on than there is to spend. Please consider this when renewing your membership in SOARA. Also please let us know if you have any ideas on how to increase membership or ideas for fundraising we can use all the help we can get.

Some of you may have noticed that the San Clemente repeater sounds a little different (or maybe you didn't). The reason for this is that the repeater itself (radio) has been upgraded.

The 30+ year old former machine was starting to show its age and rather than keep fixing an antique, a much newer "commercial grade" machine was acquired for a reasonable price and installed by our own KG6GI and NJ6N. My thanks to Howard and Brian for all the hard work in getting this up and running!

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting!

73'
Tom
AE6SH



**T32C
DXpedition**
Sep 28 - Oct 26
www.t32c.com

Pacificon
Santa Clara

October 14-16

SONGS Siren Test

October 19

EM Prep Expo
Murray Center
October 22

Fall Auction

November 21

**SOARA
Holiday Party**

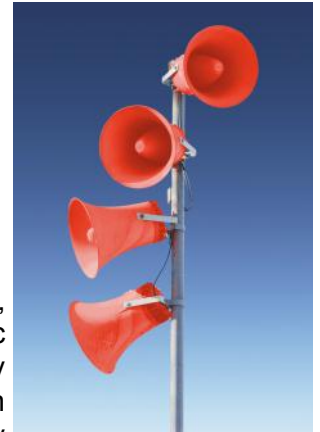
December 3

SONGS Siren Testing



SONGS siren testing this year will be on October 19 from 9am to noon.

Please contact Heiko at
ad6oi@soara.org or
Call 949 869 3868
to sign up.



However, because of some recent upgrades, all of the sirens in the system will have public address capabilities. As a result, the cities (and county) may decide to test the public address function on more sirens than have been tested in the past. The impact of this is that there may be more bodies needed for a longer period to verify all of the siren locations.

Radio Merit Badge Day and FCC Exam

The El Camino Real District Radio Merit Badge Day was a Great Success!! Scouts came from surrounding counties Los Angeles and Orange County.

Total registration for the "single" event was 42. Thirty Two Scouts earned their Radio Merit Badge. Outstanding!! 10 adults (adults/parents/scout leaders) were in attendance over the two days of instruction and a few took the challenge to earn their FCC License and DID! Congratulations!

Eagle Scout,
Ham Operator (KI6SHE - Extra),
NESA President
Ryan Pugh was present to assist scouts and

adults in demonstrating proper radio communications, provided classroom/facility, security of scouts and assisted in various instructional formats necessary to earn FCC license and Radio Merit Badge.



Continued on page 4...

Gorman Rally

August 2011, SOARA members Gary KR4VTS and Greg K5MGH braved the 101 degree heat and joined a small army of Hams (including our president Tom AE6SH) who volunteered to monitor the 2011 Gorman Ridge Rally.

The Rally consisted of three gravel/dirt loops, each of which is approximately 15 miles. The cars would



each leave the starting position at 60 second intervals and race for time. The race consisted of four runs on each of the three tracks. Two runs in one direction and then 2 more runs in the opposite direction.

Our station was at a position where we could physically block one of the entrances to the track. Since we were the 12th station on the track our call sign was "Block 12". While the cars zoomed around the track, our job was to report the car number to a net controller as each car passed our station. This allowed the rally officials to monitor the position of each car to make sure they continued their progress.

Continued on page 4...



From the
Membership
directors:

Welcome to our
new member,

John Livingston,
KI6ZTD,
a Technician
from
Mission Viejo.

Dues are Due!

Thank you to the
41 members who
have renewed
their membership
and paid their
dues.

If you have ques-
tions regarding
your dues status
please email us,
at:
membership@soara.org.

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann,
KD7JHS
Membership
Directors,
SOARA

OA1/K6DMT in the Amazon!

Sidney left for the AMAZON on Thursday 10/6/2011 for 2 weeks.

He has HF with him in the form of an IC7000, solar panels, batteries and a Buddy Pole, tuner and wire.

Listen for him at these times and frequencies:

2300z (16:00 pacific) at 28.540MHz - Primary
2330z (16:30 pacific) at 24.987 - Backup #1
0000z (17:00 pacific) at 21.447 - Backup #2
0030z (17:30 pacific) at 18.165 - Backup #3
0100z (18:00 pacific) at 14.344 - Backup #4
0130z (18:30 pacific) at 7.250 - Backup #5

SOARA Saturdays

Thanks to all who joined us at the last "Saturdays" event on 9/24. Even though the sun didn't cooperate, we had plenty of fun showing off our emergency prep gear, including solar panels and some very high capacity batteries. Pictured are Sidney, K6DMT and Bill, K6ACJ.



SOARA Saturdays is off for October (10/22) as the Murray Center is having an Emergency Prep expo that day. Please stop by the MV Races booth!

Raffle Report

The \$5 prize is a Kenwood TH-F6A tri-band (2m/220/440) hand held radio. The September general meeting produced 44 tickets sold, which wasn't enough. The good news is that we only need to sell about 20 more tickets at the October meeting.

When the 2012 handbook and antenna compendium is released, I will try and purchase the 2011 version of the handbooks for the \$1 raffle prizes.

October will be the last raffle of the year. We will resume the raffle at the January meeting.

If you have any comments or suggestions for either the \$1 or \$5 raffle, please let me know.

WB6WXO@SOARA.org



A journey of 976 miles started with a Pringles can...



From Steve,
KD6MHL

...So the package arrived sorely beaten to a pulp, torn, taped together, and basically battered beyond believable bounds. The equipment inside

appeared trashed. One SGC SG-231 smartuner and QMS system; a normally worthwhile trade for 'shelf' components which were gathering dust. After dismantling the partially ripped-apart QMS mobile enclosure, I removed the SG-231 antenna coupler, ran a hose over it to clean off the red-desert mud that had collected over the

Continued on page 5...



For Sale:

YAESU 8800
FOR SALE
BRAND NEW
STILL IN THE
BOX FOR
\$300.00.

Please contact:

Lou, KA6BJO@soara.org

T-Hunt News:

Sean, AJ6B was the first to find the T on 10/2. It was a 5W 3 element T hidden next to the Richard T. Steed Memorial park on Avenida La Pata in San Clemente. About 8 hunters found the T.

Sean will be hiding it for the next round on 11/6. I'm sure he will make it an interesting hunt.

Radio Merit Badge Day and FCC Exam ...continued from page 2.

We had at over 16 Scouts earn their FCC Technician License and 9 more are scheduled to take their FCC Exams next Monday.

Our primary sponsor for the location and providing FCC Examiners - The South Orange Amateur Radio Association - was extremely pleased with the FCC Exam Testing Results and praised our program, scout spirit and contribution to this important community resource. THE SOARA club provided 12 FCC Volunteer Examiners on Sunday. Most stated they rearranged their personal schedules just because it involved "Boy Scouts"! I was very proud to hear that for our scouts and all scouts.

All scout traditions were followed with this event: Flag Salute, prayer, Class "A" Uniforms, Leave No Trace and Scout Spirit. What made Saturday an exceptional day - a book signing event was also in full swing at the same time - with hundreds and hundreds of visitors throughout the day. Our scouts and their uniforms showed we were all that we should be - Proud, well mannered and continuing the traditions of Scouting in the 21st Century.

With our new Scout HAM Operators, our ability to provide future emergency communication during times of disasters has been greatly enhanced. So when you see a scout with a HAM Radio, know they are going to help someday assist during times of emergencies, may be even save a life. Just know that radio is part of their uniform and represents the Radio Merit Badge they earned - for LIFE!

I wish to thank each and every SOARA VE that assisted this event and Mike Slygh (NM6X) Testing Chair for overseeing the FCC Licensing process. Special thanks to Heiko (AD6OI - SOARA Education Director) for sharing his time, talent, expertise and support to all scouts. Next time it will be bigger, better and More fun! We might even offer the General FCC Exam"! 73's Mark Pugh - KI6SHD



Gorman Rally

...continued from page 2.

There were several breakdowns that had to be reported during the races as the track and the heat took their toll.

Primary communication at our station was made up of a Yaesu 1900 running off a 12 volt car starter battery. The antenna was a diamond 2 meter aluminum antenna positioned at the top of three 5-foot masts supported by a large tripod. Secondary communication was supported by two Yaesu FT-60R hand-helds. A Yaesu

857D was also employed as a backup to the backups. Our station's configuration consisted of an easy-up for shade, sun block, hats, and plenty of ice cold water!



Pringles can...continued from page 3

years, and proceeded to hook it up just to see (because I may seem like a pessimist some times, but typically I am the opposite).

One wire, two, three, and four (Where were those wire-nuts, anyway?) power and a 'tuned' indicator LED - it sprang to life! Coaxial cable was connected, but no available antenna to load it down existed.

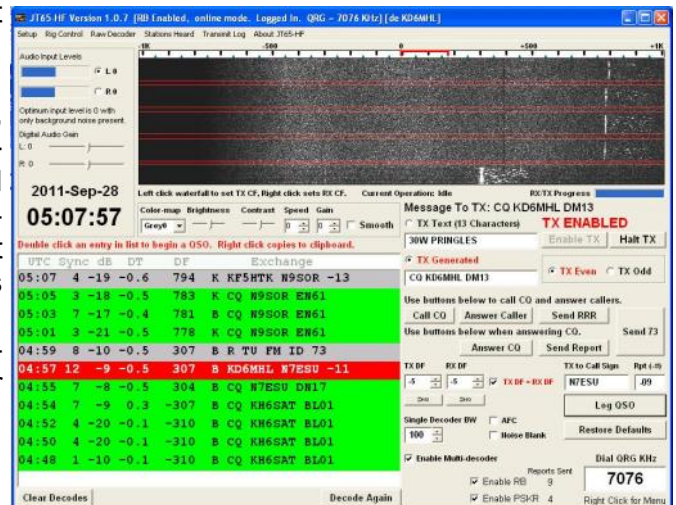


One of my 'wire storage' Pringles cans later (Thanks for the wire at Field Day, Tom!), and RF applied - it didn't tune. Did the post office win? Not if I could help it. A few stainless nuts and washers later, the cover was removed, and the source of the problem remedied - the miniature co-axial cable had popped off its board connection! Re-attachment brought hope. A little packing tape later, and the Pringles can with 49 feet of wire coiled around it was securely fastened to the couple base plate, and I was ready to test again... SUCCESS! 10M tuned flat, 160M tuned flat, as did EVERY band in between! This was the best Smartuner I'd ever used, with 4 million tuning combinations making my HF-life that much easier.

Just for kicks, I set the unit on top of my storage cabinet, and let loose on 40M JT65 - one CQ just to see if it would hold tuning. Not like I was expecting anything, but a reasonably strong (given the indoor Pringles can wrapped in wire antenna) return signal appeared on the waterfall! Waiting the 48 seconds with baited breath, N7ESU is returning my query with fantastic results! The QSO was completed, and at that point I knew the tuner was functioning.

Sure, If I had a tri-band beam on a tower, that wouldn't be much to smile about. Personally, I still enjoy taking random items, mashing them together, and seeing how well they perform! With other SGC couplers, I've used lawnchairs, cars, a bicycle, and a number of other odd objects to make viable HF antennas. Keep in mind that in an emergency situation, it may be all you have!

In the attached cel-phone picture, note there are two coils on the can - the lower coil is not connected (When i did that, the RF performance dropped significantly). It may be the metallic inner lining is acting as the core of a transformer, and the end-cap is a capacitive coupling to the ground plate. I wonder what the schematic would look like?



Year 2011	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	24	28	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17 Dues!	21	—
Program	It's Your Club AF6GL	Rally K16IUC	Contest Fun AF6GL	D-STAR NJ6N & KG6GI	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	QSL'ing AF6GL	Ham "Career" Fair	DXpedition Report N6HC	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	24	28	21	18	16	25 Field Day	18	15	19	17	21	—
SOARA Saturdays		Mar. 5	26	23	21	Field Day	-	-	24	-	26	
SOARA T-Hunt	2	6	6	3	1	5	3	7/31	4	2	6	4
Board Meeting	31	Mar 7	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	
Special Events					20-22 Dayton		16 & 24 OC Fair booth		9-11 SW Div Hamcon			
ARRL Field Day						25-26						
SOARA Picnic							7					
Holiday Party												3

☛ **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 Peak. (C)
D-Star	440	—	445.660	—	(K6SOA B)	Laguna Beach
	440	—	447.180	—	(131.8)	Santiago Peak. (C)
D-Star	1.2G	—	1282.600	—	(K6SOA A)	Laguna Beach

☛ **Nets:** UHF/VHF (.180, .645 & .640): Tuesdays 8:00 PM
D-Star (146.115 C module): Wednesdays 8:00pm
40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays 8:00 AM.

SOARA OFFICERS

<i>President:</i> Tom Hobbs, AE6SH	949-830-8131
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ki6ddb@soara.org	

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nj6n@soara.org	
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nr6e@soara.org	

SOARA COMMITTEES

<i>Activities:</i> (OPEN & accepting applications)	
<i>Testing:</i> Mike Slygh, NM6X	949-305-1374
nm6x@soara.org	
<i>Website:</i> Richard Saunders, K6RBS	949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org	
<i>Ambassador:</i> Heiko Peschel, AD6OI	949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org	