



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

February 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Feb. Program	1
QST de AE6SH	1
Bylaws Change	2
Membership	2
A Poem	2
Saturdays	3
T-hunt:	3
Events	3
Education	3
2011 Calendar	4
Club Directory	4

Program:

This month please join Kris-topher Marciniak, KI6IUC, for his presentation: "Amateur Radio and Performance Rally"

Kris will be introducing us to the exciting sport of stage rally and will have an action packed demonstration that should not be missed!

Performance rally could not take place in this country without the help of amateur radio. See how communicators keep the rally running on time and the competitors safe.

Learn what little equipment you'll need to become a volunteer.

Amateur Radio and Performance Rally

By Kristopher Marciniak - KI6IUC

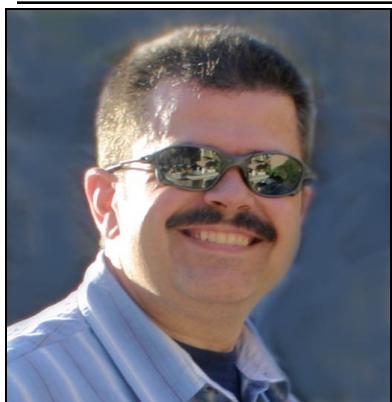


February 28th - SOARA Meeting

Learn what it takes to work an active stage.

Kris is a three time wining national championship driver, rally organizer of the High Desert Trails Rally in Ridgecrest California, and an active member of SOARA.

**Meeting
February
28, 2011
7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo**



How can we get more Saturdays and less weekdays? We have about 52 Saturdays in a year and there never

seems to be enough of them to attend all of the events and functions that we would like too. I know, for me, I could use about a dozen more and a few less Mondays (nobody likes Mondays) except for meeting night Mondays!

And yet we have another Saturday event to

QST de AE6SH

fit into the schedule. "SOARA Saturday's." Yes, the very day we don't have enough of is the day we picked. The Saturday following the General meeting is SOARA Saturday, and I think it is going to be a hit. The next meeting will be the second installment and, if it is anything like the first, it should not be missed. Please look at the web site under "Saturday" and see what it's all about. That is why I would wish for more Saturdays, so we can do all of the other things and still make it to the SOARA Saturday event. Hope to see you all at the meeting **and** on Saturday!

73, Tom Hobbs, AE6SH

Constitution Changes Proposed



We welcome these two new members to SOARA:

Al Wagner, K2DRS, a general from Laguna Beach

Chris Bell, AF6ZV an extra from Lake Forest.

Reminders to those whose dues payments are not up to date are being sent, via electronic mail and if you receive a reminder/request and think you have paid your dues for 2010-2011, please contact membership@soara.org to let us know.

Thanks from

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR

Marie Zitzmann,
KD7JHS

Membership
directors

SOARA's Board is proposing some changes to the club's constitution and By-Laws. In order for these changes to become effective it is necessary for the general membership to vote on them. Within a short time you will receive ballots to vote on accepting the changes or keeping the current Constitution and Bylaws.

Along with this newsletter you received the revised document as a PDF. The document is or soon will also be available on the club's web site. The changes should be easy to locate.

Many of the changes are minor punctuation or grammar changes. The bulk of the other changes update the document to accurately reflect functional changes adopted in the past. An example of this was changing the Membership Directors position to a full voting position and specifies their duties, including maintenance of the

"membership database" previously a hard-copy of a "roster" (previously the Secretary's job). Probably the most significant change was adding the ability to conduct balloting electronically. This change eliminates a significant expenditure while maintaining a secret balloting process. In addition to balloting, the Board is given the authority of breaking a tie.

The current Constitution and Bylaws are printed in your club membership manual, and are on the SOARA website. The proposed revised version is attached with this newsletter and is also available on the website. The Board has approved the new version and after the membership vote has been tallied a new membership manual will be published and distributed to club members who are current on their dues.

Please read over the revised documents and respond to the ballots when received.

Speaking of voting — election of Directors will be held in April. Activities, Education and Publications positions will be open. If you would consider filling a position on the board please let one of the current board members know. Yes, there will be some time and effort involved in serving on the board, but it is a satisfying and valuable contribution to the club.

ODE TO A COMMON CHOKE

by Tony English, KG6PZN

Over the years there's bound to be change.

Our chokes tend to dribble and drift out of range.

Our Q is compromised and our mountings are strange
But there's hope for an upgrade with a permeability exchange.

Our RF has peaked and our loading collapsed.

Our differential mode is as common as prolapse.

Our color codes now a bar-coded synapse
But with a little conformal we could ward off the relapse.

If Henry had known what we have to go through
He would have gone straight to the chips and avoided Hi Mu.

Well Micro old Henry and Digi his bridge, saturate his flux to levels new.
There's still lots of current in the old timers too.

So pull up your bootstraps and take your Oersteds in stride.
Warm up your Curies and send the parasites for a ride.

Tighten your gap; stay in Q with great pride,
Keep your frequency centered lest the QRM overrides.



SOARA Saturday

What: A chance to deepen your understanding of Ham Radio topics with hands-on experience.

When: The Saturday following the regular Monday meeting

Where: The Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center.

Why For fun, information and experience.

Who should attend? You!

March 5 between 9:00 AM & Noon

March T-Hunt

SOARA's March T-hunt will be held on Sunday, March 6, starting at 1:00 PM

If you have not been participating in the SOARA hunts and would like try your hand at it contact Gray, WA6BJY, to be receive e-mail notices of the hunts or to arrange to ride along on a hunt.

T-Hunt News

Since the first Sunday of the month was "Super Bowl Sunday" we decided to run the hunt the day before so that everyone had plenty of time to get to their parties before kick-off.

Mike NM6X and Richard K6RBS hid the T in spot that Mike had found that was a short distance from his house in Mission Viejo. The location was at the edge of O'Neill Park but road access was from Valley View Way off El Toro Road. The T was under an oak tree that the local kids had made into a tree house and the antenna was a log periodic horizontal beam pointing SSW hidden in the branches.

There were hills on three sides so that the transmitter could only be heard from the SSW, from high spots or from reflections off Santiago Peak. We had intended to run 50 watts but due to technical difficulties (the transmitter power was too low to key my amp), we were only putting out about 1 watt making the coverage weak and patchy at best.

Karl, KF6MDF was first on scene after about an hour followed soon after by his partner in crime, Dale, W8RRV. A few minutes later the WA6BJY team arrived. Gray admitted that he had once hidden a T close and was very familiar with the area.

Joe, W6BGR, and Lou, KG6FCT, were the final hunters to arrive after getting some major clues as to our whereabouts. As usual, every hunter had plenty of stories to share about where they had heard it, where they didn't hear it and the convoluted route they took to find it.

The next hunt is on Sunday, March 6th starting at 1PM. The T will be on 146.565 MHz and coordination and confusion can be found on the 447.180 repeater.

Richard – K6RBS

SOARA Saturdays

Our first **SOARA Saturday** was successful with about 16 people showing up over the 3 hour period. Handhelds were programmed, a K3 learned how to do rtty and some good HF contacts were made on a YAESU 950 with a Polomar amplifier.

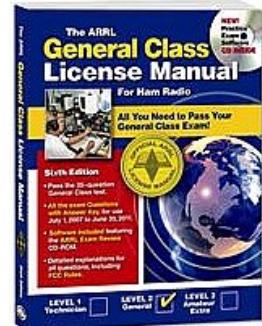
The next Saturday get together is on March 5th from 9 am to 12 pm. The location is the Norman P. Murray Center (the location of the regular monthly meetings). For those interested, help in building G5RV antennas will be available, and a YAESU 897 and an amp will be operating and I think we are going to be doing a mobile install. There should be enough to keep everyone busy and having fun.

For more details please see the section on SOARA's web site on "SATURDAYS", or speak to me at the meeting on Monday.

Mike, NM6X

Education

In early April we will start a six week Technician to General upgrade class. The class will meet on Saturdays. Heiko, AD6OI, will team teach with me. We will use the ARRL General Class License Manual. Participants may supplement the text by using Gordon West's book. I have the PowerPoint handouts from the last class.



For those interested in taking the class can contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org.

This class will conclude my term of office as Education Director. I do not plan to run for another two years of office.

73.....Hal WB6WXO

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	21	—
Program	It's Your Club AF6GL	Rally KI6IUC			Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	24	28	21	18	16	25 Field Day	18	15	19	17	21	—
SOARA Saturday		Mar. 5	26	23	21	Field Day	23	20	24	22	26	
SOARA T-Hunt	2	6	6	3	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	4
Board Meeting	31	Mar 7	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	
Special Events					20-22 Dayton				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 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

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Treasurer: Tom Parkes, KI6DDB 714-224-2982

ki6ddb@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

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