



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

January 2012

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Meeting

January
23rd, 2012

7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

Ham Jeopardy

"Come on Down" and join us at the next meeting for game show night. Test your knowledge of ham radio by participating in a game of Jeopardy. Although Alex Trebek will not be there, the game he made famous will be. We will break up into groups, select a category, select a dollar amount, then fight to buzz in for the correct question. Question? Yes, if you are not familiar with the popular game show, it works the opposite from what you think so. We provide the answer, then you have to provide

the "what is..." response in the form of a question. This is a fun way to refresh your memory or study for a license upgrade.

Also, anyone with a self-contained practice code key is encouraged to bring it so we can use it as a buzzer for the game.

AF6GL
Timothy McGowen

QST de AE6SH



The New Year always means "resolutions". Have you noticed all the diet commercials on TV....

One of my resolutions for 2012 is to be more organized and reduce all of the

junk that collects around the house. To that end I have been cleaning out my garage and organizing what I am keeping. This includes of course radio gear so the next auction will see some of the items I have been holding onto for too long. Another of my resolutions is to finish things that I have started and because of lack of space and organization have sat unfinished (taking up space in my garage) way too long. Many of these projects are radio related and so many of them you will be hearing in the months to come. Hopefully you are also having success with your New Years resolutions and that 2012 will be a prosperous and fun year for all.

73's
AE6SH



2012 Palm Springs Hamfest
January 28

SOARA Saturdays
January 28

2012 ARRL Yuma Hamfest
February 17-18

Dayton Hamvention
May 18-20

Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon
May 28

VE FCC Exams

Next session:
January 23rd
before the
meeting.
Contact Mike
[NM6X](#) for info.

Walk-ins ok.
Extra || General ||
Technician &
CW Exam, too!

CW Practice Nets

Even though CW (Morse Code) is no longer a requirement to get a ham license, it seems that it is more popular than ever. Operators with limited antennas and low powered transmitters find that they can easily communicate using CW due to its excellent signal to noise ratio compared to wider modes like voice. In many cases, the only way to work those rare DX stations is with CW.

So, due to the increase in interest in CW, especially within SOARA, we have decided to try running some slow CW practice sessions of our own.

One will be held each **Tuesday** evening starting at **7pm** on the **Trabuco (145.240 Mhz)** repeater. Sean, AJ6B will host the net and send sample QSOs using FM MCW. Speeds will start around 5 WPM and increase to around 15 WPM depending on who is checked in. Characters will be at 15 WPM (i.e., we will use the Farnsworth method of sending). More info on soara.org.

How To Get a New Ham on a 2 Meter Repeater

If you are new to ham radio and are sitting with a brand new HT or 2 meter mobile you got for Christmas but afraid to make a first contact, then we have just what you need. Simply take your web browser to tinyurl.com/new-on-two. That's where you will find a video produced and hosted by Tyler Pattison, N7TFP, of Gig Harbor, Washington that takes you step by step through making your first contact over a local 2 meter VHF repeater.

In his video, N7TFP, explains every aspect of getting on a repeater including what a repeater really is.

In the video, N7TFP is joined in on the air contact demonstrations by Aaron Taht, N7FSM, and Rick Taylor, K7CAH. Together the three show the newcomer what a simple, every day on-the-air contact sounds like. We should add that the lessons taught in this video are applicable to most repeater operation on other bands as well.

Tyler Pattison, N7TFP, has several well produced getting started videos posted on YouTube but at this time of year this one on making a first contact seems very apropos. If you know someone who is new to the hobby and unsure of how to make that very first contact over a repeater, we highly recommend that you send them to this short and friendly video. Again the direct route to it is tinyurl.com/new-on-two. Whomever you send there will likely be happy that you did.
(From ARNewslinet, Southgate)

Palm Springs Hamfest



Palm Springs Hamfest 2012 , January 28 an ARRL Sanctioned Event

Presented by the **Desert RATS Club** of Palm Springs, CA

...you're invited to come to Palm Springs Hamfest 2012 January 28 for a day of fun and fraternalism
we have :

****35 Commercial Vendors****
****Demo's** **Displays** **SWAP MEET**** ****Desert RATS 2nd Hand Consignment Store**** ****Military Radio Museum**** ****Seminars**** and more ...too much to mention here.

Celebrity Guest Gordon West, sky view Tram ride (Sunday morning outing) up

Continued on page 4...



Check out Ham Nation on TWIT.tv:

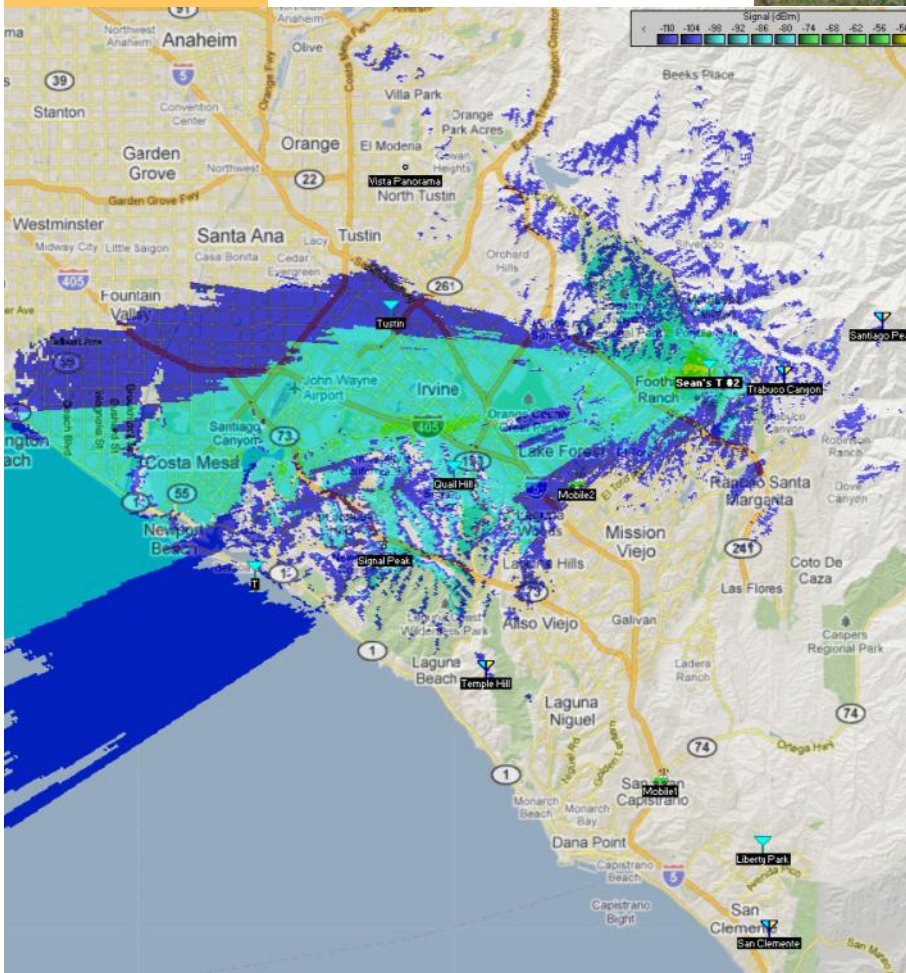
<http://twit.tv/hn>

K7RA Solar Update

The average daily sunspot numbers were up this week by a tiny bit, from 88.1 to 90.6, while the average daily solar flux was down slightly from 136.2 to 134.9.

T-Hunt Report

Sean, AJ6B, hid the T on Sunday January, 8th and he hid it well. The hunt was pushed back a week to accommodate those who preferred to stay home and watch football on 1/1. The turnout for this hunt was considerably higher than the month before and the placement of the T, set back in the hills above Lake Forest (Concourse Park), made for some frustrated and (now more experienced) T hunters. The windy conditions were moving the T enough to make us think Sean was changing the polarity on us. Also, if that wasn't enough, he hid the T far enough down the trail to further confuse the pursuers. Some off-trail footwork was even required! (see picture) In any event, it was interesting (at least in retrospect) and how strong the signal was from Signal Peak and South on the Toll Road. My bearings were consistently off for the first few readings, which lead us up El Toro and then La Paz, only to find all the signal evaporate on us. After doubling back to El Toro, to reacquire the signal, we decided to go up Bake Parkway instead, which proved to be much more fruitful. However, we made a lot more stops as I didn't want to lose the "scent" yet again. There looked to be a likely park that we stopped at (Foothill Ranch Community Park), but alas, the *lack* of car rooftop antennas in the parking lot was a bad sign (already being late). After giving up on



that park, we meandered around the streets above it only to eventually be pointing our hunt T across a canyon to a forlorn looking water tank. It didn't look far, but must have been a 15 minute drive to get around that and eventually find the park that indeed had lots of antennas visible. All but the T of course...

As difficult this hunt was, we may be in for another treat when Richard K6RBS and/or Mike NM6X hide the T next month!

Thanks, Sean! (I think...)

73,
de K6MSM

K6RBS/NM6X	1:47pm
WA6BJY	2:18pm
N6MJN	2:32pm
KJ6SON	2:45pm
K6MSM/Esthela (no call)	3:20pm
KR6ISS	3:44pm
W6BGR	3:44pm
KD6WLY	3:44pm



CONGRATS!

Congrats to Jeff, NR7E for taking first place in Rookie category for the USA in the 2011 CQ WPX contest! He scored 1,083,656.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

The membership directors need information from the approximately **55 members** who haven't renewed their membership for the Oct.2011-Sept.2012 membership year.

Please send us an email to inform us if you are not planning to renew your membership for this year.

Our email address is: membership@soara.org.

Thank you!
Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS
Membership Directors

...continued from page 2 **Palm Springs Hamfest**

10,000ft Mt. San Jacinto for those hanging around for the weekend sign in at registration.

-- come in your regular set of wheels or in your **RAT Rod**, or Classic car (special parking to show off your beauty) or Golf Cart (it is Palm Springs) so bring your golf clubs.

Desert RATS XYL home cookin' Food Concession / All Day Raffles / Seminars and more at this one of a kind Special Event!

Entry fee \$2 includes a raffle ticket... Raffles will be held every 20 minutes

You'll be guaranteed to come away having had a great time with us under the Palm Trees in warm Palm Springs. Palm Springs is noted for it's nostalgia and this event brings you back to by-gone days of the old time Classic Hamfest with our unique twist of a High Tech Hamfest. The Desert RATS gift to the Ham Community.

see our web site **Forum** then follow the links for more information it will be updated daily till the event day!

<http://desertrats.x.am>

Web site for general information:
<http://desertrats.am>

General Upgrade Class

SOARA is happy to announce that we will have a General upgrade class for all Technicians starting Thursday February 2 and every Thursday for the next eight weeks at the Norman P Murray center in Mission Viejo from 7pm to 9pm.

Please get in touch with Heiko
ad6oi@soara.org
or call me at
949 859 3868
Thanks
Heiko

EMI Sounds Page From ON4WW

ON4WW in Westham, Belgium, has created a web page with sound clips that covers the many cases of interference he's dealt with over the years. The sounds cover everything from a rain gutter noise to plasma TV interference and even L-E-D lighting. The ON4WW RFI audio page page is on-line at
www.on4ww.be/emi-rfi.html (Southgate)

Raffle Report

The monthly raffle will start up again with the January general meeting.

I have put together more ham radio prizes than we have had in the past few months.

I purchased a 2011 ARRL Handbook and a 2011 ARRL Antenna Compendium. One of each will be offered in January and February. In addition, I have a MFJ set of headphones and speaker for both January and February. That will make up the bulk of the \$1 raffle prizes.

The \$5 raffle is a Yaesu VX-6R hand held 2M/220Mhz/440Mhz radio. I want to feature radios that have 220Mhz and /or D-Star. The hope is to promote those repeaters that the club has invested in.

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

Year 2012	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	23	27	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	—
Program	Ham Jeopardy	T32C DXPed Report			Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	23	27	19	16	21	Field Day	16	20	17	15	19	—
SOARA Saturdays	28	Mar 3	24	21	26	—	—	—	22	20	24	—
SOARA T-Hunt	8	5	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Board Meeting	30	Mar 5	26	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	—
Special Events	Palm Springs 28	ARRL Yuma 17-18			Dayton 18-20	Field Day	OC Fair Booth	Picnic				Holiday Party
ARRL Field Day						23-24						
SOARA Picnic								4				
Holiday Party												1

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 (447.180, 147.645 & 224.640): 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.

CW Nets: Tuesday—7pm (2m—Trabuco) & Thursday—8pm (10m)

SOARA OFFICERS

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