



THE

# PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

November 2012

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## Fall Auction

Here we go again. Yes! Temperatures are (finally) dropping, which must mean that it's time to clean out the shack in preparation for storing more food for the winter!

Also known as our green recycling program, this event will offer you the ability to turn the electronic items you no longer use into some cash!

If you have items to auction bring them **EARLY** to our regular meeting room at **6:00pm** to get them checked in. Be prepared to fill out a tag for each item or lot that you want to sell. An example is below:

(1) Call Sign _____	#	
(2) Donate	(3) Minimum Bid	
Yes	No	\$ _____

SOARA takes a small percentage of the sale price as Spring Auction handling fee or you can donate the item to SOARA in which case the club will receive 100% of the profit.

It is always fun to see what there is, whom gets into a bidding war with whom, and of course the biggest challenge of all, see if you actually go home with less stuff than what you brought! Items can be new, used, very used, or very very used.

**Auction Rules** are attached to the last page of the Propagator.

SOARA itself will have several featured items at the auction. Don't miss the chance to bid on these before the club looks to sell them online:

- 1 [Yaesu FT 1000MP](#) with DVR and Heil microphone (\$1000.00 reserve)
- 1 [Yaesu FL 7000](#) solid state HF amplifier (\$1000.00 reserve)
- 1 [Kenwood TS 520](#) complete station w/ radio, speaker, antenna tuner, phone patch and 2nd VFO , manuals and a 2nd set of Final tubes (\$500.00 reserve)



Also available:

- 1 Heathkit SB 200 HF Amplifier (\$375.00 reserve)
- 1 Heathkit SB 201 HF Amplifier (\$350.00 reserve)

these are being sold for IDEC and would be the normal 10% to the club.

Those are the big ticket items. SOARA will have a few radios and lots of other stuff too!

## Meeting

Nov. 19th,  
2012

7:00 PM  
N.P.

Murray  
Center  
Veterans  
Way  
Mission Viejo



Patti, AD6OH, was the winner of the October Raffle. This month the raffle gives way to the Auction. The Raffle returns in January.



**SOARA Fall  
Auction**  
Nov 19

**CQ WW DX  
Contest (CW)**  
Nov 24-25

**Holiday Party:  
Antonucci's**  
Dec 1

## VEC License Exams

Next session:  
(5:30pm), be-  
fore the General  
Meeting  
Contact Sean  
[AJ6B](#) for info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |  
Technician  
Exams

## SOARA Holiday Party



**DOOR PRIZE:** [Kenwood TM-V71A](#)



Please join SOARA for our annual Holiday Party! We will be at [Antonucci's](#) for Saturday, December 1st at 6:00pm.

Guests can choose their meal at the restaurant. (No need to pre-order.) The cost of the event is \$30.00 a person. Payment can be mailed to SOARA (see contact page for address), be made in person at the meeting (cash or check) or through [pay-pal on the SOARA Website](#). There is also a \$12.00 per bottle corking fee if you bring your own wine.

### [Antonucci's](#) Special Occasions Menu

All entrees include soup or salad and soft drinks, ice tea or coffee.

**Spaghetti-Rigatoni-Fusilli-Mostaccioli-Fettuccine-Linguine** - pasta served with marinara or meat sauce (available with homemade meatballs or sausage).

**Cheese Ravioli** - cheese ravioli with marinara or meat sauce.

**Homemade Lasagna** - lasagna noodles layered with meat, ricotta cheese Imported parmesan, mozzarella cheese With fresh herbs, then baked with marinara sauce.

**Homemade Vegetarian Lasagna** - lasagna noodles layered with spinach, ricotta cheese imported parmesan, mozzarella cheese with fresh herbs, then baked with marinara sauce.

**Eggplant Parmigiana** - eggplant layered between mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce and then baked. Served with a side of fusilli marinara.

**Fettuccine Alfredo** - fettuccine noodles sautéed with butter, cream, and imported parmesan cheese.

**Baked Rigatoni** - rigatoni noodle baked with parmesan and mozzarella cheese in meat sauce.

**Homemade Manicotti** - homemade crepes filled with ricotta, parmesan, and mozzarella cheese, and fresh herbs then baked in marinara sauce.

**Linguine with White Clam Sauce** - sanguine noodles sautéed with fresh garlic, chopped clams, and fresh herbs.

**Chicken Parmigiana** - lightly breaded chicken breast baked with marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese.

**Chicken Marsala** - boneless chicken breast and fresh mushrooms, sautéed in marsala wine sauce, served with a side of fusilli marinara.



### From Membership

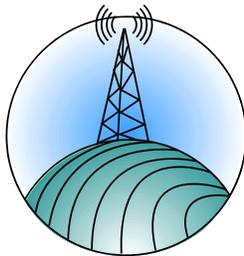
Welcome to our newest SOARA member,

**Michael Butler, W0MTB**, a technician from Rancho Santa Margarita.

Of our present membership, 100 members have renewed for the October through September 2013 year. That's not 50%. We hope to have more renewals at the meeting, or sent via post or PayPal.

We are sad to report a silent key, **Alan Gallagher, WB6T**, a long time member of SOARA and inspiration to many current members. He will be missed.

Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR  
Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS



## SOARA T-Hunt

The transmitter was located at the north end of Moulton Meadows Park in Laguna Beach. It was a little less than 1 watt into a ¼ wave vertical. It was quite loud and I'm sure all of Orange County could hear it. We had reports that it was S9 at Mt. Baldy.

Richard, K6RBS, was first and found the transmitter in about 37 minutes. Tom AE6SH had to leave the hunt early and was the only hunter hunting that we know about.

### Amateur-Radio Emergency Services and Disasters

By: Don Tuite

The second morning after Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast seems like a good time for Electronic Design readers to think about ham radio and emergency response issues.

I got involved in these issues myself when my neighbor, Dave, told me about his experiences after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.

Dave's a lawyer, so he was down at the Courthouse when the quake struck. At the time, the courthouse and the police station were co-located. The police station had (still has) a ham radio station (HF, VHF, UHF) on the premises. Those were both good things, because what there was of a public safety communications structure in Northern California came down with the quake, and for all anybody knew, so had the overpasses on 101 and I-280, the main north-south corridors. (They hadn't, but were rumored to.)

For the first long hours, the mayor and the police and fire chiefs had no idea what was going on. During that period, Dave, who was part of a trained and drilled ham radio emergency services organization, got on the air, into an emergency net and filled them in. You're probably thinking: *That was 1989. All they had was spotty Gen-1 cell coverage. Today, the mayor and the chiefs would be communicating on their iPads before the first aftershocks rippled under their feet.* So here's Important Thing #1:

1. *Even today, the infrastructure for cellular communication runs mostly on underground fiber.* Fiber breaks. I know a place around here where, a few years ago, some persons not yet publicly identified, went down some manholes and cut a few fiber links. In the ensuing hours, people in hospitals, ambulance services, police and fire stations, all thought, "Gee, this is a slow night."

Citizens who were calling those emergency-response guys couldn't get through by voice, so they did what? *They texted.*

Texts looked like they were getting through, but they were actually just being buffered in the cell towers. Fortunately, it a slow night. Eventually, hams did play a part in getting things straightened out, but it took most of the night and into the morning. Now, here's Important Thing #2

2. *Ham radio has changed; many citizens' desire to serve in emergency communications is a big part of that.*

When I got my general license in 1960, I had to take a bus and a subway to the Federal Building in downtown New York, demonstrate an ability to send and receive Morse code at 13 words/minute, draw a Hartley oscillator, and calculate some simple resonances and stuff. Today, the code requirement is gone, and most of the questions are about differences among various

*Continued on pg. 4...*



## Propagation de K7RA

Suddenly this week we see an exciting and dramatic rise in sunspot activity. The daily sunspot number was 188 on Monday, November 12, higher than it has been in over a year. The last time the daily sunspot number was as high was on November 9, 2011, when it was 208.

Prior to last November, we have to go back nine years into the previous solar cycle, November 26, 2003, to find a number this large. Back then the daily sunspot number was 209.

The average daily sunspot number from November 8-14 was 104.9, over twice the previous week's average of 49.7. Average daily solar flux was 129.5, more than 32 points above the previous week's average.

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive/>

## HF News CQ DX CQ DX...

### Notable Contests/Events

- CQ South America SSB (Nov 17)
- SARL Field Day (Nov 17-18)
- ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB (Nov 17-19)
- CQ Worldwide DX, CW (Nov 24-25)
- 10 meter RTTY (Dec 2)
- ARRL 10 meter (Dec 8 - 9)

### Selected DXPeditions

- Brunei, V84SMD (Nov 11-23)
- Lord Howe Is., VK9 (Nov 17-27)
- Lesotho, 7P8D (Nov 23 - Dec 3)
- Mauritania, 5T0SP (Nov 24 - Dec 10)

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SWN/index.html>

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operating modes and regulations. Most people can sit through a cram course and pass the test the same day.

In my experience, the reason many of them are doing that is to get involved with emergency communications. (Amusingly, some of them also go on to become CW DX-hounds for the sport of it.)

Now here's the *most* important thing.

3. *One can't just get a license, wait for a disaster, and show up.*

You're a liability if you haven't had training. The guy behind the glass at the police station won't give you the time of day. This is not a decision you make and sit on until the stuff hits the fan.

You have to work at it. The best place to start is with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. That's because it's more important that you and your neighbors work together to secure your home and neighborhood and collect some information about damage and injuries to communicate to the public safety people than that you show up and immediately get cluelessly underfoot.

CERT training will also introduce you to the Incident Command System, giving you some idea of what might need to be communicated, and by whom and to whom.

There's a choice of potential organizations. The classic is the Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) ARES and RACES organizations. They're explained [here](#):

But that's not the only option, and you may find that, in your area, other groups are better organized, or have better leadership, or for whatever reason are more compatible with you. I'm a member of the local ARES group, which has excellent organization and a wide range of practice activities. (For example, you have no idea how challenging it can be to participate in a networking operation until you have been involved in keeping up with all the groups participating in a city Fourth of July parade. Or with a day-long bicycling event for hundreds of participants over a hundred-mile course with sag-wagons, aid stops, lost bikers, and terrain that challenges the use of repeaters.)

Alternatively, in some areas, the Red Cross may be the most interesting group. When one of our communities had a major gas main explode, killing eight people and leveling 35 homes, there

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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	K6IRD	H.S. Tech	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	DIY	SOARA Fair	T & Fox Hunting		Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	23	27	19	16	21	Field Day	16	20	17	15	19	—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	28	Mar 3	24	—	26	—	—	25	22	20	24	—
SOARA T-Hunt	8	12	4	1	6	3	1	7/29	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	Ham Jam 21	Picnic		Pacifi- con 12-14		Holiday Party 1
ARRL Field Day						23-24						
SOARA Picnic								5				
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 at 5:30pm, **changing to 6pm for 2013**. Prior registration is not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For further information, email Sean Reigle, AJ6B, at [aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org).

#### SOARA Library:

SOARA has many amateur radio related books such as hand books, books about electrical theory, etc. available to lend out to club members. Contact Heiko Peschel [ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org) for more info.

**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.  
Gordo Net (HF 7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Weekdays 8:30AM

#### SOARA OFFICERS

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ARRL Field Day						22-23						
SOARA Picnic								4				
Holiday Party												1

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was a massive evacuation, and the job of the Red Cross was to manage the task of finding food and shelter for all those people. It was a massive logistics effort that the trained Red Cross hams executed brilliantly.

Locally, we also have a special unit of volunteer communicators who work with the county Sheriff's organization, particularly on Search-and Rescue activities. These are all good alternatives, but you wouldn't have time to work with them all. It's a good idea to look around before you decide where to commit your good intentions.

#### 4. *You will learn useful stuff.*

Quick! What's the most unexpectedly dangerous kind of common vehicle in a highway crash? My CERT trainer, a Sheriff's deputy, says it's a pool-services truck. Mix those chemicals and you can send out a cloud of chlorine gas across a whole neighborhood. That's good to know any time you're out on the freeway.

Maybe more importantly from a ham radio perspective, is that you learn where stuff is. Most of our local hospitals, schools and firehouses, even the manager's office at the local general-aviation airport, have ham antennas, at least for 2-meters and 440-MHz. Where are the antenna drops? The local volunteers know, and without that knowledge, the drops are useless.

Then, what's the drill for getting into the police station? What do you say at the intercom by the door? Once you get in, where's the ham radio equipment? How does it work? How do you run a net with simplex, if that's what's called for? What are the fallback plans when Plan A is a bust? What's it like to "shadow" a politician or an incident commander during an event? There's stuff you learn from being taught and stuff you learn from doing.

If you're reading this blog, you're probably an alpha geek. You may or may not have a ham license, or if you once had one, it may be defunct or out of date. Or you may be young enough to have decided that ham radio is just too "twentieth-century," too much "getting the serum through to Nome" to be relevant. Well, yeah. Until the next time the text messages start backing up in the cell-tower buffers and the freeways are blocked by fallen overpasses. . . Give it a thought. You're needed.

# SOARA Auction Rules

At the May and November general membership meetings the South Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) holds an auction. The purpose of this auction is to have a way for its members to find and sell ham radio equipment. Also this is a way for SOARA to increase its revenues for the maintenance and repair of our repeaters, fund our club functions and purchase equipment for the club. In order to facilitate this we put forth the following rules for all members to follow to insure everyone shall have a fair and equitable chance at bidding on items up for auction.

1 Prior to the start of the auction a tag will be placed on each lot (this can be one item or a group of items). Each tag will have a unique circled serial number on it assigned by the treasurer. A lot can be one item or a group of items. If you have many small items for auction, please consider grouping them into a lot of 10 or more items. We do not have time to auction numerous small individual items. The seller must neatly write their (1) Call sign, (2) any minimum bid and (3) whether the lot is a "donation" or "not a donation". All items that are not indicated as "not a donation" will be counted as a donation

2 The lot will then be placed on display for inspection by prospective bidders. Once submitted for auction an item cannot be removed prior to the completion of the auction (No private sales). Any known problems with the lot should also be noted on the tag attached to it.

3 SOARA does not guarantee or warrant any lot consigned or donated for sale. BIDDERS BEWARE of what you are bidding on. **All sales are FINAL and no refunds will be given.**

4 When a lot is sold a separate sticky card shall be marked with the winning bidder's call sign or name and the final bid dollar amount. This card will be given to the treasurer to be logged into the auction tracking spreadsheet. At the end of the auction all bidders shall pay the club treasurer or his agent. All sellers shall be paid minus the clubs commission at the end of the auction. Any lot not sold or that did not get its minimum bid shall be removed by the seller at the close of the auction.

5 During the auction the person conducting the auction shall take bids from the floor on the lot until the highest bid is reached. Once the auctioneer has declared a lot sold they shall move to the next lot. If for some reason a dispute over the winner of a lot occurs then the lot will be auctioned a second time. If a lot has a minimum bid on it, the owner of the lot may, at his/her discretion, agree to a lesser minimum bid prior to the end of the bidding on the lot. If the owner is not present then the minimum bid shall be the lowest bid accepted to sell the lot.

6 SOARA shall keep a 10% commission of all commissioned lots sold and 100% of all donated lots sold.

7 Once a lot for auction enters the building it is no longer available for private sale. The seller is also prohibited from having "second thoughts" once the auction has started. Again, all sales are final and no refunds will be given.

A copy of these rules shall be posted in the auction area and given to each seller upon placing an item or lot in the sale. Only the President and Vice President can make an exception to these rules after both have discussed the issue. Their decision shall be final but both must be agree on the matter or the rules shall stand.

Adopted: October 25, 2010.