



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

February 2014

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Meeting

February
24th, 2014

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

High Desert Trails Rally

All are welcome to the next SOARA general meeting on February 24 at 7pm at the Norman P Murray Center in Mission Viejo. Our guest speakers will be Christine and Kris Marciniak to talk about off road rallying and to gather communication support for their rallies. SOARA has been a proud supporter of their events in the past and in the future. Please see page 4 of the Propagator for additional information. Thank you for your support for this and other events (see page 2 for additional volunteer opportunities).



From the VP

Another Spring is just down the road and we have many things happening. We have already worked three races and have more coming at us. The weekend of the 22nd of March is the Baker to Vegas race and the last of the Chili Winter Trail Run series. There are always special events coming up for those who wish to improve their communication skills. Please feel free to visit our website at soara.org for more information on all of the above.

If you haven't renewed your membership since September please note that we will be dropping you as a current member and discontinuing your privileges. Please be sure to renew as soon as possible to retain your membership.

We are actively looking for someone to take charge of our Field Day efforts. Please get in touch with a member of the

Board of Directors if you would like to assist us. Field Day, for our newer hams, is many things to many people: fine dining, a contest for points by contacting other stations, trying out our emergency communications equipment, a time to get together and socialize, amongst many other good things. It will be in late June (6/28-6/29) and it is sponsored by the ARRL. For more information, please visit their website, at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Thanks,

Heiko
AD6OI





SOARA
Saturday
Feb 14-15

**Palm Springs
Hamfest**
March 15

OC Marathon
May 4

ARRL Field Day
Jun 28-29

VEC License Exams

6pm before the
General Meet-
ing

Please see our
[website](#) for
more info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA
Website](#)

SOARA upcoming events calendar (volunteers needed):

Have you ever wondered what else you can do with amateur radio? There are so many aspects to the hobby, but perhaps the great of these, and the most rewarding is public service. Here is a list of upcoming events that we need help on. Please mark your calendars and contact Heiko, [AD6OI](#) for more information. Our presentation this month will be on the High Desert Trails event.

- **OC Chili Winter Trail Run:** February 22, 2014 (morning), O'Neil Park, Foot Race
- **OC Chili Winter Trail Run:** March 22, 2014 (morning), O'Neil Park, Foot Race
- **Baker to Vegas:** March 22, 2014 (all day), near Las Vegas, Foot Race (See page 3 for more info)
- **Vision Quest:** April 5, 2014 (all day), Orange County, Bike Race
- **High Desert Trails:** May 3, 2014 (all day), Ridgecrest, Car Rally Race (See page 4 for more info)
- **OC Marathon:** May 4, 2014 (all day), Orange County,



International DX Convention, Visalia CA April 4-6

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Don't forget the raffle prizes which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention! <http://www.dxconvention.org/>

SOARA Raffle:

Hal Silverman

For this meeting, I have tried to get back to more traditional ham radio prizes. I tried to get a 2013 Handbook but HRO was out of them.

The \$5 prize will be a mobile radio that covers 2M and 440 MHz. It is a Yaesu FT7900R with a separation kit. We will have to sell about 65 tickets to break even. The \$1 raffle will be made of an MFJ headphones, power pole connectors, a SMA to PL239 adapter, a repeater guide and a set of flash lights.

The next regular raffle will be at the February 24th meeting

If there are any comments or suggestions for either the \$1 prizes or a future \$5 prize, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org





Propagation de K7RA

Earth's geomagnetic field has been quite active. On February 19 at 0234 UTC the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued this warning: "Increased geomagnetic activity expected for February 19." Then on February 20 at 0439 UTC they issued an identical warning for February 20. This was the result of two coronal mass ejections in two days.

The planetary A index went to 47 on February 19, the result of K index readings of 5 and 6 over most of the day. The high latitude college A index in Alaska was 57, and two of the 3-hour College K index readings were 7.

The next day, February 20, the planetary A index dropped from 47 to 39, and mid-latitude A index from 30 to 27. But the college A index actually increased, from 57 to 59 with one 3-hour period recording an A index of 8.

Average daily solar flux decreased from 171.9 to 158.7 on February 13-19, when compared to the previous seven days, February 6-12.

Over the same periods average daily sunspot numbers declined from 184.3 to 140.4.

March 22-23: Baker to Vegas Update

On behalf of all of the teams, I want to thank you for your interest in volunteering for Baker to Vegas Communications. I hope you can participate in this event. A list of the types of assignments at each stage can be found at this link: <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/volunteer-opportunities>. The application to work as a ham can also be found on the above page. Complete the application and email it to Margie Hoffman at margiehoffman@gmail.com. Be sure to let her know you want to work at Stage 8 or any other stage that may interest you.

Jim Stoker AG6EF is the Lead Ham at Stage 8 and will make the assignments. Send an email to Jim at jstoker@it.ucla.edu with your email address and telephone number. He will be sending out a group email soon. Jim is a terrific ham and a very nice guy. I guarantee that you will enjoy working with him and the other hams. Working together, Stage 8 is a great team of hams, Good Sam volunteers and sworn peace officer volunteers and this stage runs smooth as silk.

More information can be found at the Baker to Vegas Communications page: <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/home>

You can learn more about the Baker to Vegas Race by going to: <http://www.bakervegas.com/>

If you plan on camping at Stage 8, plan on arriving early in the morning on the 23rd. Do not set up camp until the Good Sam Crew arrives because you may end up being relocated. There is a Stage Setup Plan that must be adhered to, to facilitate the smooth and safe operation of the stage. There is plenty of room for RV's and tents. Plan for ALL kinds of weather no matter what the weather guessers predict. If you're not planning on camping, you should have no trouble getting a hotel in Pahrump on Saturday night. Email me at W6VGR@soara.org if you have any questions.

BAKER TO VEGAS

2014

**MARCH 22ND
& 23RD**

Radiosport: Make Your Voice Heard During the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)! <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

The SSB weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest is March 1-2 (UTC), and the DX will be looking for you! In this major event on the radiosport calendar, operators in the US and Canada work stations everywhere else in the world. It's not only an opportunity to pit your station and operating skills against those of your peers but to expand your knowledge of propagation on the HF and MF bands and tweak your contesting skills.

W/VE amateurs work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, while DX stations work as many US and Canadian stations in as many of the 48 contiguous US states and Canadian provinces as possible. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province abbreviation. DX stations send a signal report and output power.

There are entry categories for individual operators and multioperator teams as well as a choice of power levels in each category, from QRP to full legal limit.

There's a place for Big Guns, Little Pistols and everyone in between in this contest. The excitement and enthusiasm levels will be high, and it's a terrific opportunity to boost DXCC totals too.



From Membership:

The membership total is 221.

We welcome two new members and one returning member:

Chris LaFlash, KE6ZFI; Extra from Trabuco Canyon

Matt Knebl, N2GPD; General from Aliso Viejo

Scott Dickinson, N6RRV, General from Mission Viejo

Let's welcome them on the radio and at our meetings.

Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS
Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR

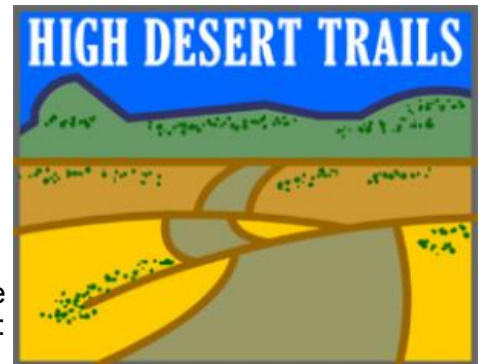
The membership application is available on the SOARA [Website](#)

High Desert Trails Rally

Organizers of the High Desert Trails Rally series are getting ready for the 2014 High Desert Trails Rally on Saturday, May 3rd! Their website is: <http://highdeserttrails.com>. The following is a request for volunteers for the event:

The 2014 event will be much the same as the last few years on the Jawbone area stages near Ridgecrest, CA, but as the event expands we need even more volunteers every year to be able to put on a great event. We need YOUR help! There's lots of positions that we need filled, especially:

- Time Control Workers, including MTC, and Stage Captains
- Communications / Amateur Radio Operators
- Course Set-up (including banners, stakes, and arrows) - before event start (Friday during the day or VERY early on Saturday)
- Course Clean-up - after event finish
- Course closing or sweep vehicles
- Licensed EMTs
- Non-ham road blockages
- Scoring Team
- Spectator Marshals
- Trophy Team (Digital Photography)



For more information and to sign up, please see the volunteer area of our website at: <http://highdeserttrails.com/volunteers>

We will be providing lunch and water for all registered volunteers. As an additional incentive for participating as a volunteer for this year's rally, we are also offering you a discounted entry at the brand new High Desert Trail Rallycross! For more information and to sign up for the rallycross, please visit the rallycross section of our website! (Please note that signing up as a volunteer, which you must do first, does not automatically enter you in the rallycross.)

We have a great reduced host hotel rate for all suites at the SpringHill Suites Marriott. Please be sure to book your rooms with the host hotel soon! Call Brooklynn at (760) 428-6003 for reservations, and be sure to mention "The High Desert Trails Rally" to receive the same great reduced rate as last year of \$109 (plus tax) per night (before the rate expires on April 12th). You can also use the following link to make your reservations: <http://cwp.marriott.com/iyksh/highdeserttrailsrally/>. There are many additional hotels in town to choose from with rates ranging from \$50-\$150 per night.

If you have any questions that are not answered on the website, please feel free to email us at:

rally@highdeserttrails.com

Thank you in advance for your participation, Christine & Kristopher Marciniak Co-Organizers, High Desert Trails Rally

<http://highdeserttrails.com>

Urban T-Hunting

I started from my house for this T-Hunt and was pleasantly surprised that I could hear the T. From my initial bearing, it appeared to be coming from the Irvine area. This turned out to be quite accurate, not that I found it in 20 minutes, but I was close in 20 minutes (does that count?!). I took the I-5 North from home and decided to take the 405 towards Irvine. I was getting S9 signals from the Freeway, so off I got at Irvine Center Dr.

At that point, I had visions of traversing the mall with my tape measure beam, but thankfully, the hiders, Gray, WA6BJY & Alan were nice enough not to do that! But was it easy? No. Easy to hear, but not easy to find. My 2nd bearing was from a parking lot behind the below building pictured (I used to work in that building when it was the AT&T building years ago). The bearing did not point in the direction of the T, but to the left of the building. Thinking the T could have been in the Great Park, I went across the freeway, but the signal rapidly experienced picket-fencing and got weaker.



See the T? It was cleverly hidden on top of the SUV.

Circling around, I found a spot overlooking the Irvine Spectrum again. The bearing this time pointed directly at a parking structure. Uh oh, that could be fun. (it was). After winding my way up the many levels of the parking structure, I parked at the top and set out on foot. I quickly noticed another T-hunter, Karl, KF6MDF, making the rounds, a good sign that I was in the right place! Well, after a few transmissions we both seemed to decide it probably wasn't on the roof and that wouldn't have been enough fun, right? Why not sandwich the T in the middle of the parking structure somewhere, right? Well, as you can see from the above that's exactly what they did. It probably would have taken us longer to find the T if Karl hadn't heard suspicious laughter as he was investigating some cars. The hiders were trying to conceal their presence, but the close up view of a T-hunter swinging around his antenna was too much for them to bear. I wasn't too far behind Karl and before they could reset and regain their composure, I was on the scene as well. We were rewarded with drinks and goodies for our efforts, but I tried to remind myself that finishing second is almost as good and it means I get to hunt again next month.



The View from the T. It was a cool, windy day and I was wishing I had my jacket after I got out of my car.

Richard, K6RBS, Mike, NM6X & Tom AE6SH arrived soon after I did with Joe, W6BGR, making quite a respectable showing despite starting late and riding a bicycle through the structure looking for suspicious hams, which he eventually found, but he found my car first and thought my HT and temporary antenna were the T. I'm just glad he didn't open my window the hard way to find out it wasn't the T!

Please join us next month for what is sure to be an exhibition of trickery from Karl and Dale, W8RRV.

73,

Mike
K6MSM

6 2014 SOARA Calendar THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	27	24	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	—
Program	Baker to Vegas	Rally	TBD	TBD	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	27	24	17	21	19	At Field Day	21	18	15	20	17	—
Educational Classes (Starts)	Tech 8		General 5		Tech		General		Tech		General	
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	Feb 1	Mar 1	22	26	24	21	26	23	20	25	22	—
SOARA T-Hunt	12	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	—
Board Meeting	Feb 3	Mar 3	24	28	Jun 2	23	28	25	22	27	24	—
Special Events	Quartzfest 19-26	Yuma 14-15	Palm Springs 15	Visalia DX 3-6	Dayton 16-18	ARRL Field Day 28-29		SOARA Picnic 3	ARRL SW 12	JOTA 18-19		SOARA Holiday Party 7
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 15-16 CQWPX RTTY 8-9	ARRL DX-SSB 1-2 CQWPX SSB 29-30		CQWPX CW 24-25	ARRL Field Day 28-29			CQWW RTTY 27-28	CQWW SSB 26-27	CQWW CW 23-24	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 25	Paws Fur Pink 15 OC Chili Run 22	OC Chili Run 22 Baker to Vegas 22	Warriors Society 5	HD Tr. 3 OC Mar. 4 Memorial Day 1/2 26						Stache Dash TBD	



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 6pm.** Prior registration is not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For further information, email Sean Reigle, AJ6B, at 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 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)
	440 — 445.660 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
D-Star	440 — 445.700 — (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

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