



THE

October 2015

# PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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## Meeting

Oct. 19th,  
2015

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

## Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network



All are welcome to the next SOARA General Meeting on Monday, October 19 at 7pm at the Norman P Murray center in Mission Viejo. This month's speakers are Joe AE6XE and Don KE6BXT— the topic is about high speed Amateur Radio mesh technology.

"The Orange County Mesh Network, a high speed digital RF network, has grown substantially in the last year. Joe Ayers, AE6XE, and Don Hill, KE6BXT, will give an over view of the OC Mesh technology, the services it provides, and present the longer term plans as they work to integrate with other Southwest region groups to build an RF backbone, an off-grid ham internet, from the Mexico boarder to the Bay Area."

## From the President

October has been another busy month for your club. First, on Saturday, October 10, we held a work party at our Laguna repeater site, making preparations for the coming winter, especially in anticipation of the predicted possible heavy rains of El Nino. We rebuilt the water diversion berm uphill from the building, reinforcing it with sand bags, cleared site drains, added a water diverter to the room drain downspout, and cleaned the roof of leaves and debris to insure it will drain properly. We also graded around the building perimeter to keep water from soaking into the siding, and gave the inside a thorough cleaning. All this was accomplished a=

a relatively short time because of the enthusiastic members who showed up to help.

I want to thank Carter KE6CCC, Garren KB6FAS, George N6SNX, Heiko AD6OI, Jim K6JKB, and Olaf K6BFE. Without them, we would have possibly sustained water damage if the rains are as predicted. Thanks again guys!



On Saturday, October 17 was the South County Disaster Preparedness Expo at the Murray Center in Mission Viejo. In conjunction with the Walk Against Drugs, this was the fifth year that this event has been presented. It was, however, the first year SOARA has participated. The event was projected to have over 5000 attendees, and from my observation, it did. The SOARA booth drew quite a bit of interest, and prospective hams picked up information about classes, testing, etc., and several existing hams learned of SOARA, and were invited to attend our next meeting. We were located immediately adjacent to the Mission Viejo ARES / RACES booth that was staffed by several familiar faces.

Our SOARA booth was staffed by the following members: Ed K6PUB, Bill K6FRY, Heiko AD6OI, Jim K6JKB, Lambert KK6WOW, Steve

(Continued on page 4)



**SOARA  
Meeting**  
Oct 19

**SOARA  
Saturday**  
Oct 24

**CQWW  
SSB**  
Oct 24-25

**Fall Auction**  
Nov 16

**SOARA  
Holiday Party**  
Dec 6

### **VEC License Exams**

6pm—before  
the General  
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |  
Technician  
Exams

## **SOARA Holiday Party**

Mark your calendar! Our annual Holiday Party will be on Sunday December 6 at Antonucci's Ristorante. The cost is about \$25 and the Door prize will be an **Icom IC-718!**

WHEN: First Sunday in December (December 6, 2015)

TIME: 6:00pm - 9:30pm (Dinner at 7pm)

WHERE: Antonucci's (Italian), 24190 Alicia Pkwy, Mission Viejo CA 92691

COST: \$30.00 per person pre-purchase / \$35.00 at the door

MENU: [Here](#)

FLYER: [Here](#)

## **Net Announcement**

I'd like to invite [SOARA] membership with 70cm capability to participate in my 446 MHz FM simplex net each Thursday evening from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. This is an opportunity to try out your HT and join-in with check-ins from as far away as Port Hueneme and Running Springs. And, for those guys with sideband capability on 70, to stay on the air for the 432.120 MHz usb net from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. CU there...

73, John, WO1S/6, T6EE—[john@t6ee.com](mailto:john@t6ee.com).

## **Communications & SOARA Raffle**

From your Communications Director and part time Asst. Raffle Meister

The \$5 raffle prize will be an FT-60 2m/440MHz hand held radio. This is one of the best and easiest to use hand held radios. We will also have the usual \$1 raffle so bring money.

On the communications front we are getting more requests for help out there. Today (Oct 17) and tomorrow the MS-150 ride is using our repeaters to support their event

Last Sunday our operators did a great job in supporting one of my favorite causes "The Cystic Fibrosis Ride". Personal aside, my sister's grandson is going with a young lady with a double lung transplant who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis. The ride went from Irvine Lake to Dana Point and back on a hot day. Our net controls were AJ6B Sean, and his wife KD6CAT Michie, AD6OI Heiko was at station one and moved to station three to replace AD6OH, Patti. At station two and station four (same location) we had KK6WFF Jon, and KK6WOW Lambert and as the event came to a slow conclusion Jon and Lambert took over the reins and finished the event with a flourish rarely seen in new operators.

My thanks to all who participated.

Heiko, AD6OI  
Director of Communications for SOARA



Patti, AD6OH, presenting the FT-60 from the July Raffle to the winner, Neil, N2URI



### The K7RA Solar Update

On October 15 at 2345 UTC, the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning, which said that continued strengthening of the solar wind stream due to coronal hole effect may lead to isolated periods of minor geomagnetic storms on October 16.

Sunspot numbers during the October 8-14 reporting period were nearly the same as during the previous 7 days. Average daily sunspot numbers went from 37 to 36.9, and average daily solar flux dropped from 93.8 to 87.5. As in previous solar cycles, geomagnetic indicators are high as the cycle trends downward after the peak.

Go to the bottom of [WM7D's Solar Resource Page](#) and note the graph for Ap (planetary A index) progression. If you look at the graph just above that for solar flux, see how the Ap index is high after the peak of solar flux or sunspot numbers.

[WM7D's Solar resource Page](#)

## Membership Report

I really enjoyed the SOARA Fair. I saw many exciting demos. I was especially inspired by the SDR and T Hunt booths. All were good though. I'm sure this event will cost me money! I've already bought a T-Hunt book. Learning new things, meeting interesting people, and most of all having fun are the reasons I renew my membership. I really encourage you to attend as many events next year as possible. I want to learn more about HF too! I also have my 83 year old father-in-law hooked too. He has this tech ticket and he is working on his general. I don't push him. On my last trip to Utah, I set up a HF rig for him. It has to be fun. This trip, I plan to get him going with a base UHF/VHF rig. I do many things backwards. Hehe. I have my reasons! I'm having fun sharing what I learn.

### Annual Renewals

It's time to renew! Ray wrote an impressive renewal letter and it was emailed on October first. If you didn't get the letter for some reason check your spam filter or let me know (email address at bottom) and I will sent it to you. We really need your renewal to keep SOARA going. There are lots of exciting activities coming in the next year. We currently have 35+ dues paid! FYI, I typically update the roster database with your renewal and send acknowledgement emails on the weekends. So, please be patient with me. Also, if you don't plan to renew for some reason, please let me know. I expect your feedback will help us improve SOARA in the future.

### Membership Status

There are 250 active members. Unfortunately, this is down one member due to a silent key. We will miss Elizabeth Zipperman. There are no new members this month.

### Badges

If you need a new badge just email [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org). Make sure to tell me your name and callsign as you want it on the badge. I will make you a new badge with all the handy information on the back. I will have it for you to pickup at the next meeting assuming you give me enough notice to make it.

### Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual

I still have plenty of these manuals. This manual has a wealth of information for easy reference.

### Wouff Hong Pins

If you need an ARRL Wouff Hong pin, I have a few extras at \$6 each. Proceeds go to SOARA. See me at the next meeting if you need a Wouff Hong pin.

If your call sign or ticket changed let me know and I will update the roster. I hope to hear you on the radio and see you at the SOARA events!

73,  
Ed Barnes, KK6PUB  
Membership Director [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)

## Education Report

We had a great technician license review session Saturday 10/10. 2 of 5 people scheduled showed up, and we blasted through a topic list tailored by practice exams and everyone's favorite teacher: YouTube! We also had an A-dubba-R L official observer swing by to give some simple tips on courteous operation and how to avoid the dreaded red-card... Everyone had a great time, and hopefully we'll have two more technicians next week!

-SteveK6UVR

(Continued from page 1) **President's Message**

K6UVR, and Ray AE6h. We demonstrated UHF, VHF and HF operations to the public, as well as go bags, and portable operations. Thanks to all of you who helped set up, take down and staff the booth. Also thanks to the several SOARA members who took the time to stop by and chat.

Finally, on a slightly less positive note: Several times in the last few weeks, members have accidentally transmitted for extended times on our repeaters. In one recent instance, 447.180 was tied up with a strong continuous carrier for over 3 hours! As I said, these incidents are purely unintentional, and accidental, but they do point out a couple of very important considerations we all should make as good operators, and being observant of good amateur practice.

First, very simply, nearly all if not all modern radios have Time Out Timers, sometimes seen as "TOT" or similar nomenclature in the settings menus. This feature exists for two important reasons: First, to protect your radio from overheating and destruction of the transmitting final amplifier(s). Second, and equally important is to prevent unwanted extended transmissions that tie up repeaters, and also that are illegal as they do not comply with the ten minute identifying requirement of Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations for Amateur Radio. Another cause of annoying extended transmissions is the practice of failing to mount and use the microphone hang up clips that come with virtually every mobile or base radio. Similarly mobile microphones or handheld radios can be carelessly placed in vehicle cup holders, seats, or other places where the PTT is accidentally activated. All these occurrences can be avoided simply by adhering to good amateur practice: Use the equipment and features provided with your radio, coupled with good common sense. Our local FCC OO (Official Observer) recommends time out timers be set to one minute, or one and one half minutes tops. This really is plenty of time to say what you need to, especially on uhf or vhf. If you can't finish, then resume with another transmission after catching your breath. Don't become a repeater hog by accidentally tying up a machine when it can be easily prevented.

Thanks and 73 - Ray, AE6H

## T-Hunt News

The next [Homing In] Southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, October 24, 2015 at El Dorado Park in Long Beach. If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters, set by Joe Moell K0OV. Once you're proficient at finding these nearby foxes, try the 5-fox two-meter international-rules course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. One or two optional 80-meter fox transmitters may also be on the air.

A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). Bring the kids and grandkids, then go out on the course with them! All ages are welcome, but young children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it. Make sure all batteries are fresh. A limited amount of RDF gear will be available for loan.

For those who want to build RDF gear for use with their own two-meter hand-held radios or scanners, Marvin will have kits for measuring-tape yagis and active attenuators. There will be tools and soldering stations for building. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be experts to help you. Send e-mail to Marvin ([marvin@west.net](mailto:marvin@west.net)) to pre-register and get more information about equipment. The building session will only take place if there are sufficient advance registrations. If you already have equipment and just want to hunt transmitters, you don't need to pre-register.

If it takes place, the building session will start at 9:30 AM. Please be prompt. Beginner transmitters will be on the air at that time. The main 5-fox hunt will start about 10:30 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM.

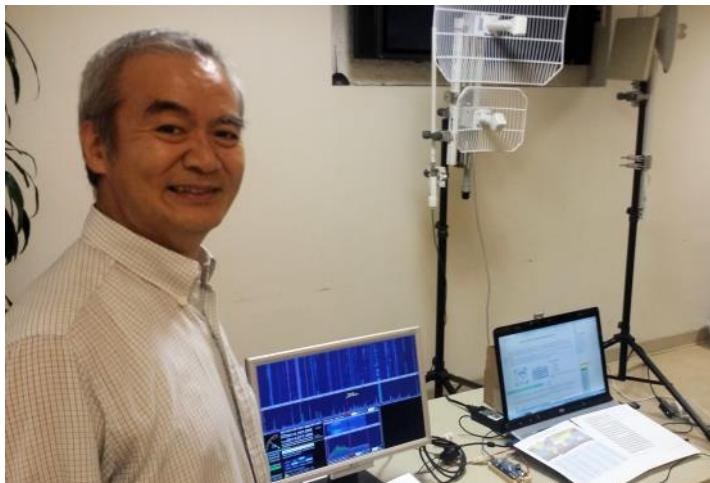
For the advanced 2-meter course, electronic scoring will be used. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. A \$5 donation is requested for the advanced course to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps. The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt are free of charge and e-punch is not required for them.

El Dorado Regional Park East in Long Beach, California is bounded on the west by the San Gabriel River and on the east by the 605 Freeway. From the 605 Freeway, take the Spring Street and Cerritos Avenue exit, go west on Spring about 0.2 miles and turn right (north) at the traffic signal into the park entrance. (There are park entrances on both the north and south sides of the road. Talk-in is on Raytheon Employees repeater K6QEH/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5. If you can't bring up the repeater, use simplex on the output (146.97) [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)

## SOARA Fair Pictures

SOARA thanks the attendees and especially all of the presenters at the annual fair last month, including:

- Tak W6SI, SDR Radios
- Charlie WA6RUZ, Emergency Communications / RACES
- Steve K6UVR, Wire Antennas & Antenna Tuners
- Dave K6DBW, HF on Long Wire Antennas and QSLing
- Olaf K6BFE, How to set up HAM Radios in your mobile
- Joe AE6XE / Don KE6BXT, HAM Mesh Networking (AREDN)
- Gray WA6BJY, T-Hunting
- Heiko AD6OI, Event Communications
- Frank AG6QV, Microwave Communications



# 6 2015 SOARA Calendar

THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	26	23	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	—
Program	N6HC DXped.	Old Time Radios	Gordon West	Light House/ Ship	<a href="#">Spring Auction</a>	<a href="#">Field Day Prep</a>	Arecibo	Satellite HT	<a href="#">SOARA Fair</a>	<b>AREDN</b>	<a href="#">Fall Auction</a>	—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	At Field Day	20	17	21	19	16	—
Educational Classes								8 Tech	19 General	10 Tech	14 TBD	—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	31	28	21	25	23	20	25	22	26	24	21	—
SOARA T-Hunt	11	8	8	12	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	6
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	—
Special Events	<a href="#">Quartzfest 18-24</a>	<a href="#">Yuma Hamfest 20-21</a>	<a href="#">Palm Springs Hamfest 14</a>	<a href="#">Visalia Intl DX 17-19</a>	<a href="#">Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 27-28</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Picnic 2</a>	<a href="#">ARRL SW Division 11-13</a>	<a href="#">JOTA 16-18</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Holiday Party 6</a>
Major HF Contests		<a href="#">ARRL DX-CW 21-22</a>	<a href="#">ARRL DX-SSB 7-8</a>		<a href="#">CQWPX CW 30-31</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 27-28</a>			<a href="#">CQWW RTTY 26-27</a>	<a href="#">CQWW SSB 24-25</a>	<a href="#">CQWW CW 28-29</a>	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 24	Paws Fur Pink 14	OC Chili Run 14	Ride for Rwanda 25	<a href="#">HD Trails 2</a> <a href="#">OC Mara -thon 3</a> <a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon 25</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 26-28</a>	4th of July Fire -works			<a href="#">Vision Quest 24</a>	Stache Dash TBD	

\*Dates subject to change. Check the [SOARA website](#) to verify locations and times.



# 7 2016 SOARA Calendar

THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	25	22	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	—
Program					<a href="#">Spring Auction</a>	<a href="#">Field Day Prep</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Fair</a>			<a href="#">Fall Auction</a>	—
VEC Testing	25	22	21	18	16	At Field Day 25	18	15	19	17	21	—
Educational Classes												—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	30	27	26	23	21	18	23	20	24	22	26	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	14	6	3	1	5	3	14	4	2	6	11
Board Meeting	Feb 1	29	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	—
Special Events	<a href="#">Quartzfest</a>	<a href="#">Yuma Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Palm Springs Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Visalia Intl DX</a>	<a href="#">Dayton Hamvention</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 24-26</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Picnic 7</a>	<a href="#">ARRL SW Division</a>	<a href="#">JOTA</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Holiday Party 4</a>
Ham-Related Swap Meets												
Major HF Contests		<a href="#">ARRL DX-CW</a>	<a href="#">ARRL DX-SSB</a>		<a href="#">CQWPX CW</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 24-26</a>			<a href="#">CQWW RTTY</a>	<a href="#">CQWW SSB</a>	<a href="#">CQWW CW</a>	
		<a href="#">CQWPX RTTY</a>	<a href="#">CQWPX SSB</a>									
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run	Paws Fur Pink	OC Chili Run	Ride for Rwanda	<a href="#">HD Trails</a> <a href="#">OC Mara -thon</a> <a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 24-26</a>	4th of July Fire -works 4			<a href="#">Vision Quest</a>	Stache Dash	

\*Dates subject to change. Check the [SOARA website](#) to verify locations and times.



**SOARA** meets at the [Norman P. Murray Center](#), 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA on 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, except June. **Exams are at 6pm.** Prior registration is not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For June, exams are held at Field Day. 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, or [repeater@soara.org](mailto:repeater@soara.org).

2m — 147.645 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
2m — 146.025 + (110.9)	San Clemente
2m — 145.240 — (110.9)	Trabuco
<b>D-STAR 2m — 146.115 + (K6SOA C)</b>	<b>Laguna Beach</b>
220 — 224.100 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
220 — 224.640 — (123.0)	Santiago Peak. (C)
440 — 445.660 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
<b>D-STAR 440 — 445.705 — (K6SOA B)</b>	<b>Laguna Beach</b>
440 — 447.180 — (131.8)	Santiago Peak. (C)
<b>D-STAR 1.2G 1282.600 — (K6SOA A)</b>	<b>Laguna Beach</b>

#### Nets:

UHF/VHF (447.180, 147.645 & 224.640): Tuesdays 8:00 PM

D-STAR (146.115 C module): Wednesdays 7:30pm

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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**Secretary:** Lambert Matias, KK6WOW 312-545-2270  
[kk6wow@soara.org](mailto:kk6wow@soara.org)

**Treasurer:** Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794  
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[kk6pub@soara.org](mailto:kk6pub@soara.org)

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[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Communications:** Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868  
[ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org)

#### SOARA APPOINTMENTS

**Past President:** Tom Hobbs, AE6H 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Activities:** **VACANT**—Please contact us if you are interested.

**S. Saturdays:** Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794  
[ag6qv@soara.org](mailto:ag6qv@soara.org)

**Raffle:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002  
[wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org)

**Testing:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
[aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org)

**Website:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
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**Ambassador:** Spencer Ammermon, NG6K [In England] Blog  
[ng6k@soara.org](mailto:ng6k@soara.org)