



THE

May 2015

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

May 18th,
2015

7:00 PM
N.P.

Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

Spring Auction

Welcome to Spring Cleaning 2015! We have a lot of new hams in the club and seasoned hams that would be glad to take an antenna or two off your hands. So, please bring in your ham-related items, regardless of how new or old and help your house look a little cleaner, help your pocket-book and also help SOARA in the process.

If you have items to auction, bring them EARLY to our regular meeting room at 5:30pm to get them checked in. Be prepared to fill out a tag for each item or lot that you want to sell.

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

Please see page 2 of the Propagator for the live auction rules.



Orange County Fire Watch Ham Radio Recruitment

As California enters its fourth year of a record breaking drought, communities within the wildland urban interface of Orange County

are up against a growing threat from wild-fires. Wind-driven embers can destroy homes and neighborhoods miles from the actual flame edge of a wildland fire. To help combat this threat Volunteers with the Orange County Fire Watch Program deploy during Red Flag Warning and high fire danger days to strategic locations surrounding Orange County's Parks and wilderness areas.

Volunteers serve as visual deterrents against arsonists, provide early reporting of fires, and help educate the public on fire prevention. Many of these Volunteers utilize their HAM Radios skills to maintain situation awareness during deployments, and OC Fire Watch is looking for more HAM Operators who are interested in helping protect Orange County against the threat of wildfires.

Fire Watch Training Matrix:

- Volunteer Orientation / Public Interaction Workshop
- Fire Watch Workshop
- CPR/First Aid Workshop

We have many training opportunities coming up; we ask that you please share this information to any interested individuals within your organization. For further information, please feel free to contact me. I would be more than happy to come and present to your RACES/ ARES/ or club meeting as well.

[Please see page 4 of the Propagator for a flyer with more information on Fire Watch]

Thank you. 73!
Kevin McArthur
Program Coordinator
Orange County Fire Watch
KK6JSG
kmcarthur@irconservancy.org

SOARA Live Auction Rules



WHEN: Third Monday of May and November
 TIME: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 WHERE: Norman P Murray Community Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

At the May and November general membership meetings SOARA holds a live auction. The purpose of this auction is to have a fun way for its members and other Amateur Radio operators 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 club functions and purchase additional 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 as there is typically not enough 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. Items not marked with a minimum bid or donation status will be considered to have no minimum bid and NOT a donation to the club.
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 make any guarantee or warranty on any item or lot. 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 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 software. At the end of the auction all bidders shall pay the club Treasurer or his agent. All sellers shall be paid minus the club's 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 direction 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 receive 10% of the proceeds of lots not marked as a donation and the seller shall receive 90%. SOARA shall receive 100% of the proceeds of lots marked as donation.
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.
8. 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.



Antennas in the Park
May 16

SOARA Saturday
May 23

Weather Spotter Training
May 26

ARRL Field Day
June 26-28

VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician Exams

[SOARA Website](#)

Field Day—Tentative Schedule

WHEN: Fourth Full Weekend in June (June 27-28, 2015)
TIME: 11:00am Saturday - 11:00am Sunday
WHERE: Gilleran Park, 24960 Felipe Road, Mission Viejo

TALK IN: 147.645- 110.9hz

TENTATIVE 2015 SCHEDULE:

Fri 6/26 3pm: Setup begins (towers, antennas, tents, radios, etc)
Fri 6/26 6pm: Dinner
Sat 6/27 8am: Breakfast at Hot Off the Grill (25252 La Paz Rd, Laguna Hills)
Sat 6/27 9:30am: Field day site opens
Sat 6/27 11am: Field day operations begins
Sat 6/27 12pm: Lunch
Sat 6/27 1pm: Education Activity
Sat 6/27 2pm: ARRL-VEC Testing Session
Sat 6/27 5:30pm: Dinner
Sun 6/28 8am: Continental Breakfast
Sun 6/28 11am: Field day operations cease
Sun 6/28 12:30pm: Lunch



Despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark. Earthquakes, fires, storms, tornadoes, ice and even the occasional cutting of fiber optic cables leave people without the means to communicate. In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been Amateur Radio. These radio operators, often called “hams” provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station. SOARA “hams” will join with thousands of other Amateur Radio operators showing their emergency capabilities on Field Day weekend...

SOARA T-Hunt moved back to 1st Sunday of each month

The SOARA T-hunt was moved back to the first Sunday of the month, starting in May. This month's hunt was last Sunday (5/3), with the winner being Ron, WA6CYY, in a time of forty-five minutes. I definitely need to pick a better places to hide.

Gray WA6BJY

SOARA Raffle Update:

The winner of April's \$5 raffle, an Alinco DJ-500 VHF/UHF handheld, was Jerry Bright. Congratulations, Jerry!

The raffle takes a break for May due to the Spring Auction.



Volunteer HAM Operators Needed for Fire Watch



Orange County Fire Watch is looking for dedicated HAM operators to volunteer to help prevent catastrophic wildfires in Orange County.

During extreme weather events such as strong Santa Ana winds and Red Flag Warnings, volunteers are deployed to strategic locations throughout wilderness areas and County parks to help prevent wild fires. Volunteers act as visual deterrents against arsonists, provide early detection of fires, and educate the public to help reduce the risk of human caused wildfires.

All volunteers serve as part of the OC Parks Volunteer Program. Volunteers will receive training in Fire Safety, Public Education, and CPR/First Aid. To participate in upcoming training workshops please visit www.ocparks.com/volunteer or contact Kevin McArthur, at kmcarthur@irconservancy.org



ORANGE COUNTY
FIRE
WATCH



Please visit www.OrangeCountyFireWatch.org for more info



Weather Spotter Training

National Weather Service

Alex Tardy, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

and

Tsunami Education

California Geological Survey; Rick Wilson, Senior Engineering Geologist



Tuesday May 26, 2015

6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

**San Clemente Community Development Building
910 Calle Negocio, 2nd Floor Conference Room
San Clemente CA, 92672**

Please RSVP to CarpenterK@san-clemente.org

Learn about Southern California Storms and Fire Weather at this free training opportunity sponsored by the City of San Clemente!

After attending this training and education opportunity, participants will be able to become official Weather Spotters for the National Weather Service (NWS) and learn about Skywarn. These NWS programs help keep local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. The California Geological Survey and California Emergency Management Agency will also present important information about tsunamis.



Photo by NASA



Photo by Explorers Guide Maritime Training

SOARA Saturday Pictures



Thank you to all who attended SOARA Saturday on April 25th. Here are some pictures of the event. Steve, K6UVR, is at the controls in a few of these pictures, though it looks like he wished that he could have played radio longer. SDR (Software Defined Radio) was demonstrated at the last Saturday.

Please join us for our next edition of SOARA Saturday, on May 23rd.



Antennas in the Park

Every spring, hams in Orange County organize an outdoor day in the park where they operate radios and find hidden transmitters. The annual "Antennas-in-the-Park" (AITP) event is organized by the Fullerton Radio Club. This year, AITP will take place at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton on May 16.

All ages are welcome, so bring the family. AITP transmitter hunts are suitable for beginners, but advanced hunters can treat them as a "sprint." There will be no charge for participation in the hunts, which will begin around 11 AM and continue until 2 PM. Be sure to bring your two-meter handi-talkie and know how to program it to any frequency in the two-meter band.

If you don't have the antenna/attenuator system for on-foot foxhunting on two meters with your ham radio handi-talkie or scanner, a limited amount of equipment will be available for loan. Better yet, you can easily make your own during this session. Beginning at 10 AM, Marvin Johnston KE6HTS will conduct a clinic for building his kits for measuring-tape yagis and for 90 dB offset-type attenuators. An assembled/tested attenuator in a special housing that goes inside the boom of the yagi is also available. If you want one or more kits, please register in advance by sending e-mail to marvin@west.net, so he will have the kits reserved in your name waiting for you.

At least one optional 80m transmitter will be on the air for you to try. Besides the transmitter hunts, AITP participants will probably have at least one HF station on the air. The traditional Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend cake will be served to participants in the transmitter hunts. A few canopies and tables will be set up, but for eating and sitting around, please bring your own lawn chair.

Hillcrest Park in Fullerton is bounded on the west by Harbor Boulevard, on the north by Brea Boulevard, on the east by Lemon Street and on the south by Valley View Drive. From the 91 Freeway, take the Harbor Boulevard exit and go north about 1.8 miles to Valley View Drive.

The hunt will begin in the Lower Picnic Area. Park in the lot north of Valley View, midway between Harbor and Lemon. (Map at www.homingin.com) Look for the orange and white orienteering flag at the entrance to the parking lot. Walk north through the playground into the lower picnic area. Talk-in is on K6QE/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5. Send inquiries to homingin@aol.com.

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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	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	At Field Day	20	17	21	19	16	—
Educational Classes (Starts)												
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	31	28	21	25	23	20	25	22	26	24	21	—
SOARA T-Hunt	11	8	8	12	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	—
Special Events	Quartzfest 18-24	Yuma Hamfest 20-21	Palm Springs Hamfest 14	Visalia Intl DX 17-19	Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17	ARRL Field Day 26-28		SOARA Picnic 2	ARRL SW Division 11-13	JOTA 16-18		SOARA Holiday Party 6
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 21-22 CQWPX RTTY 14-15	ARRL DX-SSB 7-8 CQWPX SSB 28-29		CQWPX CW 30-31	ARRL Field Day 26-28		CQWW RTTY TBD	CQWW SSB 24-25	CQWW CW 28-29		
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 24	Paws Fur Pink 14 OC Chili Run 21	OC Chili Run 14 Baker to Vegas 28-29	Ride for Rwanda 25	HD Trails 2 OC Mara- thon 3 Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon 25	ARRL Field Day 26-28	4th of July Fire -works			Vision Quest 24	Stache Dash TBD	

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



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, or repeater@soara.org.

	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 — 445.705 —
(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 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

President: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H
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