



PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

IN THIS ISSUE

Field Day	1
President's Report	1
FD Schedule	2
Raffle Update	2
More on FD	3
Spencer's Blog	3
License Stats	4
Membership	5
Silent Key	5
HRO Ham Jam	6
Comm. Report	6
HamCon 2015	7
Field Day Map	8
Calendar	9
SOARA Info	10

Meeting

June 15th,
2015

7:00 PM

N.P.

Murray
Center

Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

Get Ready for Field Day!

Monday, June 15

Please join us at this month's SOARA meeting, which will focus on training and planning for Field Day. Besides providing the necessary information to help you to enjoy the event, we will also be looking for volunteers for the remaining volunteer positions.

Saturday, June 20

Please join us at SOARA Saturday, from 9am to noon as we will have fun in the park and try things out a week before Field Day.

Friday, June 26

We will start setting-up on Friday, 3pm, at Gilleran Park... See page 5 for a map. Tents, antennas, coax, radio stations, etc. should be up by 6pm, after which we can enjoy some dinner. We need all the help we can get to build our Field Day "City"!

Saturday, June 27

We are having Breakfast at Hot Off the Grill (25252 La Paz Rd, Laguna Hills) at 8:00am. Please then show up at 9:30am at Gilleran to help make final adjustments prior to commencement of Field Day. Then get on the air! We begin making contacts at 11:00am. Field Day continues throughout the day and night. Those that care to may bring a tent and/or sleeping bag to catch some sleep at the park during the night.

Sunday, June 28

Field Day contacts continue until 10:59 am on Sunday morning at which time we stop operating and begin taking down the tents, antennas, radios, tables, etc. and moving them back to the container. Again, we will appreciate all the help we can get with the cables, antennas, radios, etc. Thank you!



A Message from your New (old) President Ray, AE6H

First off, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Tom, AE6SH, for all his hard work and guidance for the club over the past several years. SOARA has continued to grow and prosper under his leadership. For those of you who didn't know, Tom has had a significant increase in his work load and responsibilities at his regular job. This caused him to look for an alternative position within SOARA, allowing him to still remain in the leadership, but hopefully freeing some time for his other life. Accordingly, Tom decided to leave the Presidency mid-term, and run for the Technical Director's position, to which he was elected. This left a vacancy in The Club president position, and the Board of Directors has appointed me to fill out the second year of the term. I thank them for their confidence in me, and with the assistance of all the club membership, we can continue along the path of growth and excellence that SOARA has become known for. Again, Thank you Tom!

(Continued on page 4)



Field Day Prep Meeting
June 15

SOARA Saturday
Gilleran Park
June 20

ARRL Field Day
June 27-28

HRO Ham Jam
July 11
(see page 6)

VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

&

2pm Saturday—at Field Day

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician Exams

Field Day 2015 — Schedule

Fri 6/26	3pm	Setup begins (towers, antennas, tents, radios, computers, 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	Remaining setup, field day site opens
Sat 6/27	11am	Field Day operations begin
Sat 6/27	12pm	Lunch
Sat 6/27	1pm	Educational 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/Begin Teardown
Sun 6/28	12:30pm	Lunch
Sun 6/28	1:30pm	Approximate leave time

Field Day Location:

Where is SOARA's Field Day?

We will be at **Gilleran Park** which is located at:

**24960 Felipe Road
Mission Viejo, CA 92692**

between La Paz and Oso Parkway.
(Note Felipe Road becomes Olympiad North of La Paz) - see pg. 8 for a map.

Some of our Antennas:

Beams: 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, 2m & 440

Wire antennas for 40m and 80m

Tri-band beam for GOTA (10,15,20 + 40m dipole)

The "batting cage" vertical

Radios:

CW station: Electraft K3

SSB station: Yaesu FT950

SSB/Digital station: TBD

GOTA: Yaesu FT450

Spare HF radio: Kenwood TS850

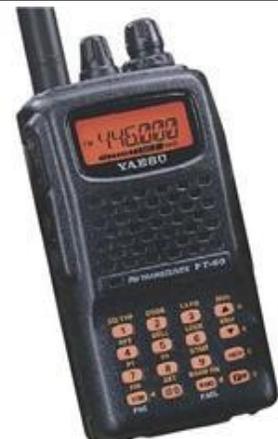
VHF/UHF: TS-570 for 6m and a TS-790 for 2 and 440

SOARA Raffle Update

Hal Silverman

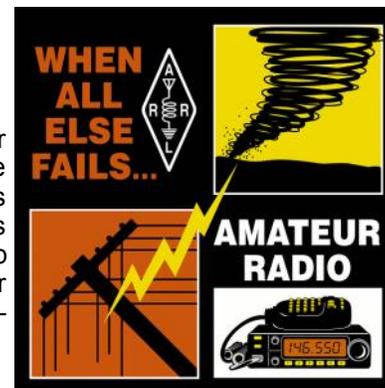
Please join us for the June meeting as the raffle resumes, in addition to Field Day preparations. The \$5 raffle this month is a Yaesu FT-60 2m/440 H.T. The \$1 raffle will consist of items from Harbor Freight and HRO.

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



More About Field Day

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 this weekend.



Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including the California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio's people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 27-28, 2015, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with South Orange Amateur Radio Association's ham radio operators. They will see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as hams across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called “Field Day” is the climax of the week long “Amateur Radio Week” sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. Their slogan, “When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works” is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

“The fastest way to turn a crisis into a total disaster is to lose communications,” said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. “From the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to tornadoes in Missouri, ham radio provided the most reliable communication networks in the first critical hours of the events. Because ham radios are not dependent on the Internet, cell towers or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available. We need nothing between us but air.”

At Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo, the South Orange Amateur Radio Association will be demonstrating Amateur Radio starting at 11am on Saturday, June 27. They invite the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

Amateur Radio is growing in the US. There are now over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free.

Sparky, NG6K, in England

Spencer (now Elder) Ammermon has made it to England and is keeping a blog of his adventures, which he will try to update weekly or as his very busy schedule allows. You can follow his blog here:

[Spencer's Mission Blog](#)

Here is a brief excerpt: “It's already been raining a little here and I love it. Surprisingly, it looks a lot like home with the hills, just the hills are all green and not brown like California.”

We will miss you, Spencer! Field Day won't be the same w/o you and I hope we remember how to put the batting-cage vertical together!



Recent Ham Licensing Statistics



The following report of FCC licenses issued is supplied by Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VEC Manager. Somma notes that, while Amateur licenses issued are down slightly from last year's record-setting pace, they are 8% above the typical totals from previous years. Upgraded licenses are up 9% compared to the same period last year. The total number of U.S. Amateurs has continued to grow each year since the FCC license class restructuring in 2007. As of March 31, 2015 the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 728,146.

NEW and UPGRADED FCC LICENSES ISSUED PER YEAR BY QUARTER

FCC License Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	1st quarter	1st quarter	1st quarter	1st quarter	1st quarter
Technician	5,077	6,654	6,850	7,950	7,381
General	2,527	2,728	2,507	2,810	2,925
Extra	861	974	789	902	1,040
Total Issued	8,465	10,356	10,146	11,662	11,346

(Continued from page 1) - A Message from your New (old) President Ray, AE6H

For the newer club members, you may not know, but like Tom, I was elected and served as president for 4 terms, and I am Tom's immediate predecessor. I welcome the challenge, and also welcome any suggestions, you as members, may have for things you would like to see the club accomplish and those things you feel will make the club better and even more interesting to hams.

June is, as always a busy month for SOARA. In addition to public service activities our members participate in, and three Fire Watch training sessions, we also have ARRL Field Day, the most significant amateur radio activity for any club. Originally conceived as an activity of the American Radio Relay League, ARRL, for US hams, it has officially spread to all of North America, and is now also participated in by many amateurs world wide. SOARA's preparation for Field Day is extensive with our upcoming meeting, as well as the next SOARA Saturday, in addition to the 3 days of events directly connected to Field Day itself. I heartily encourage anyone who has never participated in field day to do so on the last weekend of this month. Come by Gilleran Park and stay as long or as short as you like, and jump in to help set up, operate, eat, or whatever you have time for. You will be welcome, as well as amazed, and I hope to see you there.

Don't forget to come to Monday's meeting and don't hesitate to come up and say Hi.

Thanks and 73 de
Ray, AE6H, SOARA President



Ray, AE6H and Tom, AE6SH



Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, SK

A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent.

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11 following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP) of Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) (formerly The Westlink Report) ham radio news webcast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions. Pasternak served as Newsline's managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over Newsline during his illness - discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall...

A Brooklyn, New York, native, Pasternak became a radio amateur in 1959 as WA2HVK and once was very active on 6 meters...

[More here.](#)

From Membership

This is my first membership report. For a little background, I'm not retired yet! I manage engineers at Western Digital in the Content Solutions division. We are the folks responsible for the Passport and My Book drives typically sold on Amazon, Best Buy etc. I manage the USB to SATA firmware folks, manufacturing software, Software applications, and the direct attached (DAS) test group.

My education is Computer Science @ UCI. Anybody remember Simula, Dec10 or the Sigma 7? My first job was for 15 years at Analect Instruments. We made lab FTIR Spectrometers. I did DSP software stuff when a vector processor cost \$10,000. The fun part was the magic of phase correction, apodization, deconvolution and other parts that made a laboratory spectrometer. This is why I am a SDR enthusiast. Today's processors are magical. I remember when a 2K FFT took about three seconds.

First and foremost, I want to thank Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR for many years of service. I met Horst for the first time, last October when I applied for my membership to SOARA. I hope I can meet everyone's expectations and help to keep SOARA growing. I "volunteered" for this position as my way for thanking everyone for all their help. I am really impressed with this organization and how members are willing to share their knowledge. I have especially enjoyed the Soara Saturdays. If you haven't been to a SOARA Saturday you really should. There's great conversation and interesting topics. Now to membership business...

We now have 213 active members. This is up 13 members from our April report!

SOARA gives a big welcome to our new members:

Jeremiah Bright, Laguna Niguel, no call sign yet, hopefully soon!
Jeffrey Rivera, KK6OGR & **Dylan Rivera** KK6OGS, Coto de Caza

If I missed you as a new member, please let me know. I'm in transition and I'm not sure that I properly recognized everyone as I should. Going forward, this should not be a problem.

SOARA members look forward to seeing you at meetings, club events, SOARA Saturday's, and hearing you on the radio and the nets.

73, Ed Barnes, KK6PUB, Membership Director

Silent Key

Bill Pasternak,
WA6ITF, SK

1942 – 2015

Amateur Radio Newsline

President & Co-Founder
Producer/Writer





Propagation de K7RA

June 12, 2015

Solar activity strengthened during the past week. Average daily sunspot numbers increased from 34.3 to 112.4, and average daily solar flux rose from 97.8 to 131.4. The middle latitude A index for June 10-11 can only be guessed, due to some sort of outage depriving us of K-index data over a 27 hour period. The outage began sometime after 1200 UTC June 9 and ended sometime before 1800 UTC June 10.

June 8 was the day with the most geomagnetic upset, when the planetary A index rose to 33.

Predicted planetary A index for the near term is 20, 15 and 16 on June 12-14, then 10, 8 and 6 on June 15-17, then 5 on June 18 through July 3. We then see another active period on July 4-9 when the predicted A index is 8, 20, 28, 20, 10 and 8, followed by 6, 5 and 8 on July 10-12, and 5 on July 13 and beyond.

HRO Ham Jam

Saturday, July 11 will be a day of ham radio fun at Ham Radio Outlet in Anaheim from 10AM-5:30PM.

Join us and various manufacturer representatives, Gordon West, the Red Cross, Orange County RACES, Hospital Disaster Services, local clubs, and other experts who will be showing us "what's new in ham radio" from C4FM digital to an antenna analyzer with a full color TFT LCD screen. See a 200w mobile HF installation in a Smart Car, and compare notes about what you learned at Field Day this year.

There will be three prize drawings throughout the day, and hot dog lunches to keep you fortified. We will offer license testing for all classes from 11AM to 3PM (be sure to call or email the store for reservations.)

Come join us to learn, to see and be seen, to laugh, to eat, and completely enjoy a day filled with everything ham radio.

Kind 73,
Janet Margelli, KL7MF
Manager
Ham Radio Outlet



An Update from the Communications Director

Hi to all from your new Communications Director. I am replacing Sparky (NG6K) who is off to England as Elder Ammermon and can be followed by checking in to our web site at soara.org.

As many of you know we have ten repeaters at 4 sites as well as a 10M beacon (K6LLL). I would like all of you to become more and better acquainted with all of them and to use them as much as possible.

Our club has many special events that we support with our communications skills. These include The Orange County Marathon, The Laguna Hills 1/2 Marathon, The Chili Winter Trail run series, The Cystic Fibrosis Ride for Life, as well as many others. Our usual reward is a T-shirt and a chance to share a breakfast or a pizza with our fellow hams. Working these events improves your communications skills, and teaches you how to properly relay information under demanding, but non-emergency, conditions. If you are interested in helping with events like these please send me an email at ad6oi@soara.org.

And last, but not least, please join us on Tuesdays at 8pm for our weekly FM net, on Wednesdays at 7:30pm for our D-star net on module C, and on Sunday mornings at 8am on 7.200, + or -, on (40M).

Thanks,

Heiko, AD6OI, ad6oi@soara.org



ARRL SW Division Convention

Ham Radio
A Bridge To
The Future



HAMCON 2015

The ARRL 2015 Southwestern Division Convention returns to the Los Angeles area and explores Amateur Radio's second century.

September 11-13, 2015

**Explore, learn, and meet
amateur radio's future**

See what's new under the Sun at the largest ham radio convention in the Southwestern United States:

Four program tracks looking at the future

- Emergency Communication
- DXing and Long-Distance Communication
- Technical Topics
- Topics for New Hams

Win ham radio prizes

Every paid registered attendee receives four free door prize tickets and has an equal chance to win—no tickets will be sold.

65-booth Vendor/Exhibitor Hall

See and purchase the latest in ham radio equipment, speak directly with many manufacturers and retailers.

**MEET
FELLOW HAMS
FROM ACROSS THE
SOUTHWEST.**

Early-bird registrations get free patch or pin with distinctive convention logo, shown above.

Other things you can do at HAMCON 2015:

Operate ARRL station W1AW/6, participate in a "Fox Hunt," get initiated in the ARRL Wouff Hong, inspect emergency communication vehicles of area government-affiliated amateurradio groups, ARRL QSL checking, get licensed or upgrade at VE session.

Visit <http://www.hamconinc.org/> to register online, download a registration form, make special-rate hotel reservations, or get updated convention program information. Early-bird registration ends August 1, 2015.

HOTEL INFORMATION

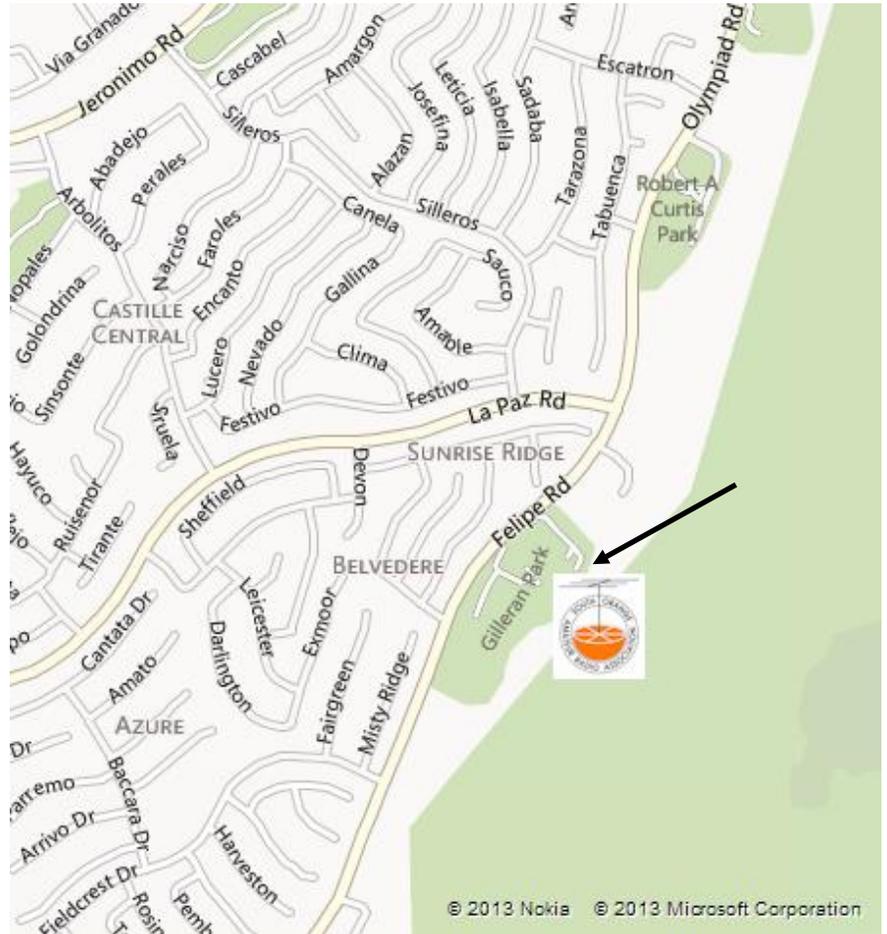


The Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel

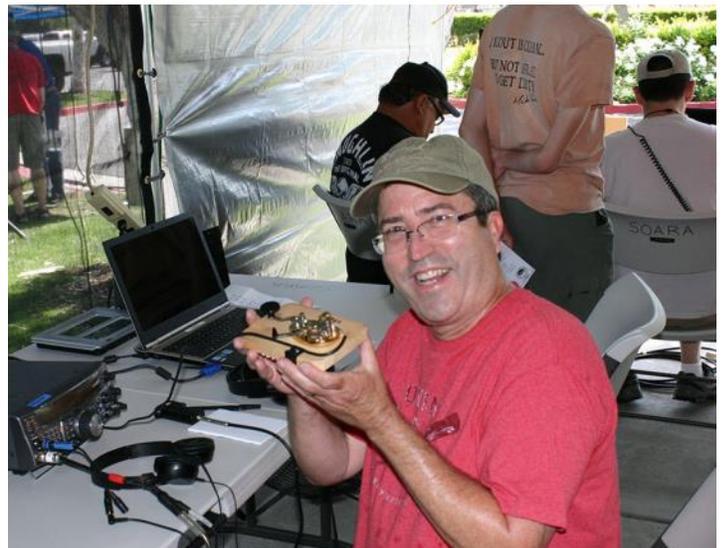
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503

Our convention site is one of the area's top hotels. A special discounted \$119 per night rate (including free in-room high-speed internet and discounted \$5 per night parking) is available to HAMCON 2015 attendees. Online reservations at this special rate can only be made through Marriott's link on HAMCON's website, www.hamconinc.org then click on Hotel Reservations in the Main Menu. Or call Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 and say, "HAMCON Convention." Act now: This special rate is only available for reservations made by Aug. 15, 2015.

Field Day Map & Pictures



Gilleran Park—Site of SOARA's Field Day Activities.
 24960 Felipe Road, between La Paz and Oso Parkway in Mission Viejo
 We are in the ***upper*** part of the park.
 TALK IN: 147.645- 110.9Hz



9 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	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 27-28		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 27-28		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/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 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 [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.

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



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