



PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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SOARA Spring Auction!

Welcome to Spring Cleaning 2018! 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, fatten your wallet and also help SOARA in the process!

If you have items to auction, bring them EARLY to our regular meeting room at 6pm to get them checked in. Be prepared to complete 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 the email attachment or the SOARA website for the live auction rules.

From the President

“Pausing for any Emergency or Priority Traffic.” How many times have you heard this phrase from the Net Control Station (NCS)? Frequently, I’d guess, if you’ve ever participated in an organized net on VHF, UHF, or HF. It’s something written into most NCS scripts, and something we almost always transmit when participating in nets. Have you ever wondered exactly what it means, and what exactly are the differences between and definitions of each term? I certainly have. Now, while I have a basic concept of these differences, when asking other experienced Hams, I often get very different definitions. This caused me to embark on a short research project.

I have reviewed information and manuals from a number of sources, including the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS), The State of California Model RACES Plan, information from several Area Public Safety (Law Enforcement and Fire) agencies, and the following is what I discovered. While all entities have somewhat similar criteria, there are also significant differences. Depending on what agency manual you reference, you will get many message “precedence” designators. In addition to “Emergency” and “Priority” there are many other terms. You’ll find Flash, Flash Override, Immediate, Urgent, Emergency, and of course Routine, and some others.

While all this may serve more to confuse, than clarify, as it did to me, a couple of things came to stand out.



General Meeting
May 21, 2018
7:00 PM

NP Murray Center
Veterans Way
Mission Viejo

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New Publications Director Needed

I am looking for someone to complete my term of office to next May, starting in July, if possible.

Too much has changed in my life and It's been more than 7 years now that I have been Publications Director, so new blood is needed in this position for the best interests of the club.

Publications is a great way to keep up on the happenings of the club. I use Microsoft Publisher, but I'm sure many others would do. Expect to donate about 8 hours a month of your time.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to SOARA.

73,

Mike
K6MSM

Publications
Director
South Orange
Amateur Radio
Association

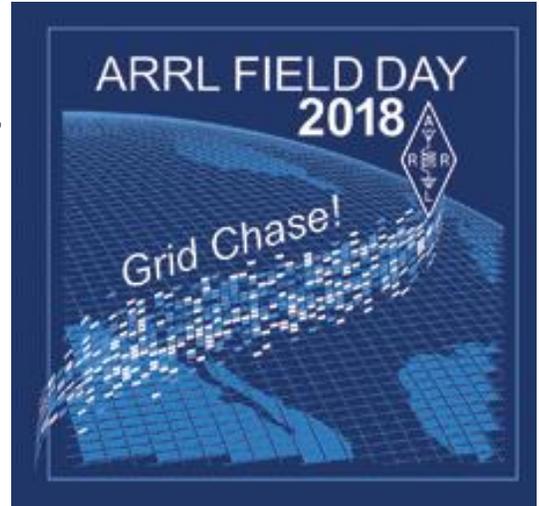
Field Day—Tentative Schedule

WHEN: Fourth Full Weekend in June (June 22-24, 2018)
TIME: 11:00am Saturday - 11:00am Sunday (Friday setup starts at 3om)
WHERE: Gilleran Park, 24960 Felipe Road, Mission Viejo

TALK IN: 147.645- 110.9Hz

TENTATIVE 2018 SCHEDULE:

Fri 6/22 3pm: Setup begins (towers, antennas, tents, radios, etc)
Fri 6/22 6pm: Dinner
Sat 6/23 8am: Breakfast
Sat 6/23 9am: Field day site opens
Sat 6/23 11am: Field day operations begins
Sat 6/23 12pm: Lunch
Sat 6/23 1pm: Education Activity
Sat 6/23 2pm: ARRL-VEC Testing Session
Sat 6/23 6pm: Dinner
Sun 6/24 8am: Continental Breakfast
Sun 6/24 11am: Field day operations cease
Sun 6/24 12:30pm: Lunch
Sun 6/24 2:00pm: Breakdown completes



Field Day 2018 is fast approaching and we need you! There are many opportunities available to help with this event. There is a survey posted online [HERE](#) where you can sign up for specific activities.

This year we will be joined by members from the Laguna Woods Ham Radio club as well as students from a Jr. High School in Santa Ana who are spending their summer studying Rocks, Radio and Space. Let's show our community how awesome ham radio is and allow them to go home with an experience they will not soon forget.

Please take a moment to look at the available volunteer opportunities and [SIGN UP!](#)

73, Dana, KM6LZG
SOARA Activities Coordinator

Why 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 on Field Day weekend...

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

AMATEUR RADIO

WWW.ARRL.ORG



COMING
SOON

**SOARA
Spring Auction**
May 21

**SOARA
Saturday**
May 26

**LH Half
Marathon**
May 28

**ARRL
Field Day**
Jun 22-24

**HRO
HamJam**
July/TBD

VEC License Exams

6pm—before
the General
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician

High Altitude Balloon Launch

See videos of the Balloon launch, burst and landing at the below link. Comms were on the SOARA 440 repeater. Thanks to all who helped!

<http://www.scienceheads.org/>

Japanese Award Hunting

By Greg De Hoogh, N6PM

I started award hunting when I got into ham radio back in 1994 and got my first WAS award a year later. I'm still working on the ARRL's WAS and DXCC awards, but a couple years ago I decided to add awards from the JARL (Japanese Amateur Radio League) as well. I already had a bunch of QSL cards from JA's I collected back in the 1990's when I was fairly active on the air, but what really got me going was all the JA's I worked when I started using JT65 in mid-2016.

My first thought was that there must be a Japanese equivalent to the WAS award. I found the JARL's website (www.jarl.org) and, happily, they've got an English language section. What I discovered there is that besides having their own WAS – the WAJA (Worked All Japan Award) – they've got a whole lot of other awards, too. If you want to get off to a quick start, there's the AJD (All Japan Districts) award for confirming contacts with hams in each of Japan's ten call districts. I skipped that one and started off with the JCC-100 award for working a ham in 100 different Japanese cities.

Since that JCC-100 award, I've received four additional awards. My second was the WAJA award that got me going in the first place. I got that with a Digital endorsement since I'd managed to work all the prefectures on JT65. Since then I've gotten the JCC-300 and JCC-400 awards (that award tops out at the JCC-800, since there are currently 813 cities on the official list). My most recent award is the AJA (All Japan Award). For that, you get one point for each city, gun (rural district), and ku (ward within one of the larger cities) per band. The award starts at 1000 points, and you can get endorsements at 500-point levels. I'm still about 300 away from the 1500 point endorsement, which seems pretty feeble when you consider that some Japanese hams have exceeded 30,000 points (you need to work VHF, UHF, and micro-



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Membership

We have 221 active members. The SOARA manual & guide was emailed last month. Let me know if you didn't get it. If you need an official SOARA badge replacement, call sign change, or have a question, email

membership@soara.org

73,
Ed, WA6ED



HRO Visit

You never know who you are going to bump into. Martin F. Ju, K5FLU, founder of MFJ, stopped by HRO Anaheim today on his way to Visalia for the DX Convention. Great individual!

Thanks for your time, Martin!

Jim, W16X



Memorial Day Half Marathon

May 28

We are looking for some more radio operators for the Laguna Hills Memorial Half Marathon. Please get in touch with me at (949) 859-3868 or AD6OI@SOARA.org

Having said that I would like to thank all the volunteers who came out to help with the Orange County Marathon, especially an old friend who is a new ham, Jim Meyer, KM6ROO. Thanks,

Heiko,
AD6OI
Director of Communications for SOARA

Come out May 28 for the 20th Annual [Laguna Hills Memorial Day Half Marathon](#), honoring the U.S. Marine Corps Dark Horse Battalion. Runners of all skill levels are welcome to participate in the event of their choice: Half Marathon (13.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles), 5K (3.1 miles) or Kid's Run (1/2 mile), including a one-day community expo with live music, beer garden and more than 50 exhibitors.

SOARA Elmer Saturday

John Zimmer was kind enough to make a new Elmer's Corner page on the SOARA website. Thank You John! If you haven't seen this page, it's worth a look. It's right off the main page. Nice!

Go to <https://www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/> for more SOARA Elmer Saturday details, like topics, information, links, time, date, location.

The May 26 SOARA Elmer Saturday, 9am-12pm, Murray center, will be focused on the Arduino temperature, pressure, humidity, and optionally gas sensor. Details with links are on the SOARA Elmer Saturday page at WWW.SOARA.ORG. I will demo hardware wiring, software to read the sensor values, and display them on the screen. If possi-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 3) - *Japanese Award Hunting*

wave to get that high). However, the JARL issues separate certificate sequences for Japanese and DX hams, and it turned out that no non-Japanese had applied for the AJA award before, so I ended up getting award #1.

If you're interested in chasing JARL awards, you should start out by visiting the award section of the JARL website (http://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/Award_Main.htm). Among the important things

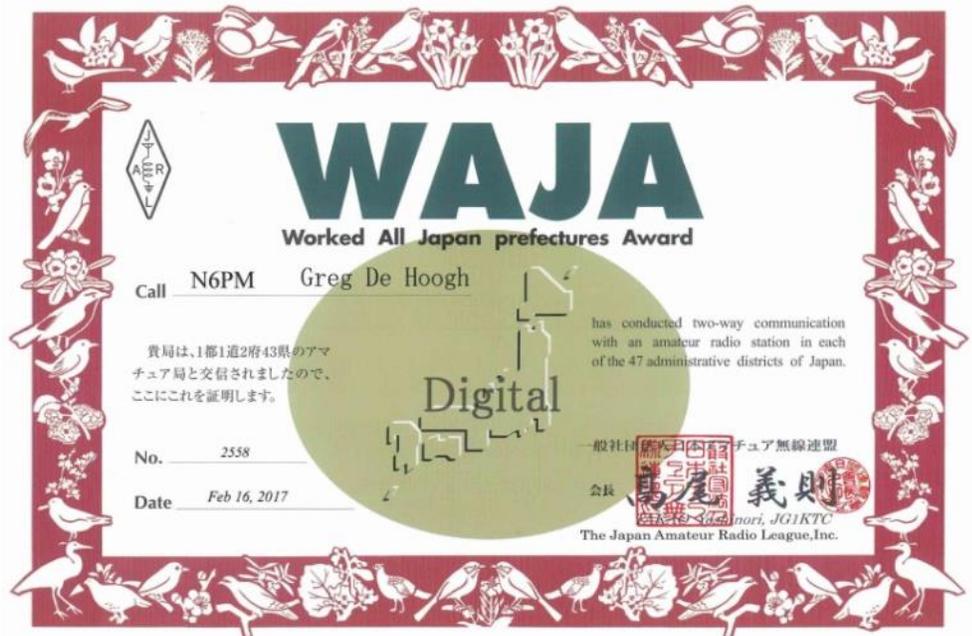
to note is that they don't accept Logbook of the World confirmations. They do, however, accept eQSL confirmations as well as good old QSL cards. There's no need to send in the QSLs, though. The JARL works on the honor system, so you just need to submit your list along with a statement saying you have the QSLs in your possession. They accept payment via PayPal, so you can do the whole award submission electronically. At the current exchange rate, awards cost a tad under \$20 each.

If you look up a Japanese ham on QRZ.com, the information you find there is what's provided by the ham him/herself. So, not all JA hams are listed, and for those who are, the location information often isn't complete (e.g., it may not give you all the info you need for the AJA award) and may be a mailing address instead of a station address. I found that I'd struck gold when I found a website set up and maintained by Ryota "Roy" Motobayashi, JJ1WTL (<http://motobayashi.net/callsign/>). He's got a lot of interesting information on Japanese callsigns, but what's fantastic is his License Data Search (<http://motobayashi.net/callsign/licensesearch.html>). There you can do a lookup and generally figure out the location information you need for a given callsign.

The key to getting JARL awards, of course, is to work lots of Japanese stations, and then get lots of confirmations. As I said earlier, JARL accepts QSLs from eQSL. However, not everyone uses eQSL, so sending QSL cards is my standard backup method, and I use the ARRL outgoing QSL service for that. Since I started this, I've been sending off a package of several hundred cards to the bureau twice a year. That means I get a package from the incoming bureau every so often, too. Not all the cards I get are a result of the ones I sent out, though. Japanese hams are noted for their enthusiasm for exchanging QSL cards. The last package I got from the bureau, in December of last year, included almost 350 cards from Japanese hams. Be ready to spend some time filling out QSL cards if you want to chase JARL awards!

I hope this gets some of you interested in collecting Japanese "wallpaper" and helps you get started. If so, and you've got any questions on some of the details, please feel free to contact me (n6pm@soara.org) and ask away.

73 and Good DX
Greg, N6PM



(Continued from page 1) - *From the President*

1. If you're working the ARRL NTS, then the following are abbreviated definitions.

Emergency Traffic: "Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief to stricken populace in emergency areas. When in doubt, do not use this designation."

Priority Traffic: "This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief to stricken populace in emergency areas. When in doubt, do not use this designation."

More detailed definitions can be found at ARRL.org, Public service. National Traffic System Manual.

2. If you're working with ICS, The ICS Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1 States: " Emergency Traffic. The term used to clear designated channels used at an incident to make way for important radio traffic for a fire-fighter emergency situation or an immediate change in tactical operations".

3. Lastly, and importantly, if you plan to work ARES, RACES, Red Cross, SATERN or as an Auxiliary or Reserve Amateur Radio Communicator for another entity, you need to take the time to learn the message precedence designations used by that served agency. They may differ significantly from what you may have typically used in the past.

Hope this was at least a little enlightening, and encourages you to inquire further.

73,
Ray, AE6H, SOARA President

(Continued from page 4) - *SOARA Elmer Saturday*

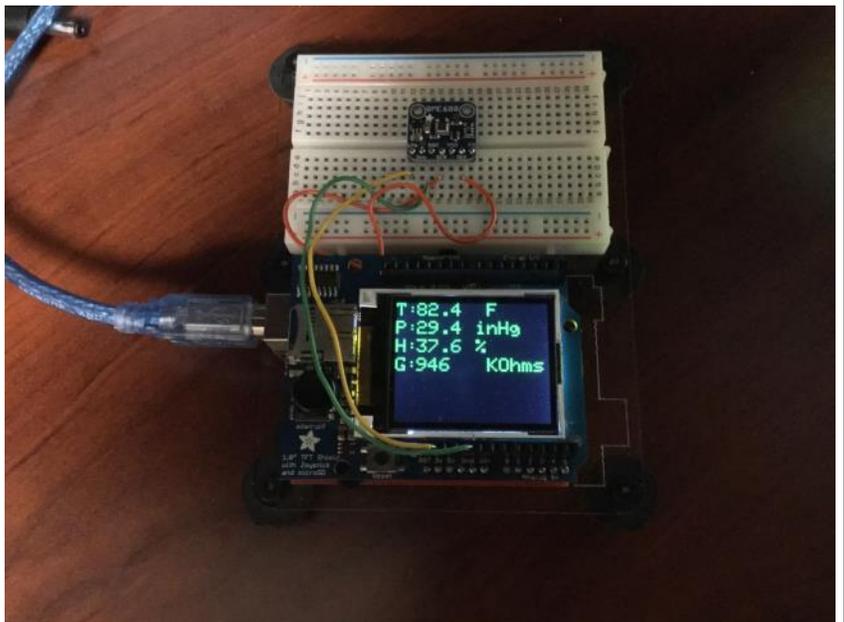
ble, bring your laptop with the Arduino IDE installed, also a SD or USB drive will be handy to get a copy of my code. Here's a photo of the breadboard with a BME680 sensor:

These meetings tend to be very busy and I need all the Elmer help I can get. So, if you could help with Arduino programming, IDE, and or breadboard, it would be appreciated! I can also make you a green Elmer badge. Just email me at membership@soara.org.

If anyone wants to practice T-hunting around Murray Center, let me know and I can bring the SOARA T.

The June 23rd SOARA Elmer Saturday will be at Field Day! I plan to demo an idea for a modular battery box incorporating past ideas from Ray AE6H and Tony W6TNY. It should be fairly easy to make.

73, Ed, WA6ED



5 Ways to Gather Intel After a Disaster

By Jason Hanson, Spy Escape and Evasion, spyescape.com, On Aug. 25, 2017

Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas as a Category 4 storm.... Bringing 130 mph winds and over 50 inches of rain. Meteorologists claimed the storm created a 1,000-year flood event. Within days, one-third of Houston — America's fourth-largest city — was underwater. Over 37,000 people were forced from their homes and relocated to shelters. At least 88 people died. Initial estimates calculated over \$125 billion in damages.

First responders rescued over 10,000 people who were trapped in their homes or on highways. The Houston Police Department's Dive Team rescued 3,000 people in just four days. Officer Austin Huckabee said he and four other officers saved 40 people in the first 24 hours.

And, I'm sure there are hundreds more incredible stories of survival and rescue that we will never hear about.

Twitter to the Rescue

In the aftermath of this devastating storm, stranded residents desperately tried of any way they could think of to communicate with others. Many people came up with some pretty ingenious solutions. One family used Twitter to ask for help. They were able to tweet the number of people stranded on a roof and the exact address where they were located. This was shared by other Twitter users, which led to the family's rescue.

Using social media probably isn't the first thing you would think of in an emergency. But clearly, it's a solid way to share information and learn what's going on in your area. With that in mind, here are a few other ways to gather intelligence and share information after a disaster.

Hopefully, these techniques will help you and your family get the information you need to stay safe if a disaster strikes your town.

Ham Radio — A ham radio is just one type of quality long-range two-way radio. One popular example is the BaoFeng UV-5R.

A ham radio can serve multiple purposes after a disaster. You can use it to listen to weather reports, monitor emergency broadcast channels and stay in contact with friends and family members. Keep in mind you do not need a license to listen to amateur (ham) radio frequencies, but an FCC license is required to transmit on them. However, during a crisis situation this will be the least of your worries.

CB radio — A CB (citizens band) radio is another type of two-way radio. It is most commonly used by truckers. However, it can be used in either a vehicle or home. Most CB radios come complete with a mounting bracket, microphone and power cord for around \$200. Not only can it help you communicate with people nearby but one of my favorite features of a CB radio is the public address horn — which acts like a megaphone. For example, if you had a CB radio in your car, you could drive around and use it to alert your neighbors of an incoming threat. Or you could use it to warn someone approaching you to stay away.

Satellite Phone — After a disaster, cellphone towers may be completely damaged or so overloaded that you won't be able to make a call. This is why a satellite phone is a worthy investment if you want to maintain the ability to make phone calls. Typically, a satellite phone will work as long as it has a clear view of the sky. Many first responders and military personnel depend on satellite phones to keep communications open even when there is no cell service. However, even an inexpensive satellite phone will cost around \$500, so this isn't a small investment.

Drone — Drones fly best in ideal weather conditions. Even a little bit of wind can throw a drone around and render it useless. So, depending on the situation, you may or may not be able to fly a drone. However, if you can use one, they can be very helpful when bugging out. You can fly a drone in advance of your planned bug-out route so you can prepare for any obstacles or threats. This way you can adjust your route accordingly and stay safe. Also, a drone is perfect for flying around the exterior of your home or neighborhood to be on the lookout for impending danger.

The reality is, after a disaster, accurate intel is the key to surviving and finding safety. You need to be able to get real-time information as the crisis unfolds. There are many different ways to do this depending on the situation and your limitations — you should definitely prepare more than one way to get information and stay in touch.

I highly recommend you start crafting your intel and communications plan today.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	22	26	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	-
Program	Science Heads	Power werx	OC Fire Watch	NCG	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	-
FCC Ham Exam	22	26	19	16	21	At Field Day (2pm)	16	20	17	15	19	-
Educational Classes	Tech 20	Gen 24	-	Tech 14	Extra 19	Tech 16	Gen 14	Tech 18	Tech 15	-	-	-
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	27 Murray	Mar 3 Gilleran	24 Gilleran	21 Murray	26 Murray	23 Gilleran	21 Murray	25 Murray	22 Gilleran	20 Murray	24 Murray	-
SOARA T-Hunt	7	11	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Board Meeting	29	Mar 5	26	23	29	-	23	27	24	22	26	-
Special Events	Quartzfest	Yuma Hamfest		Visalia Intl DX	Ohio Hamven- tion	ARRL Field Day 22-24	HRO Ham Jam	SOARA Picnic		JOTA		SOARA Holiday Party
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW CQWPX RTTY	ARRL DX-SSB CQWPX SSB		CQWPX CW	ARRL Field Day 22-24			CQWW RTTY	CQWW SSB	CQWW CW	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run	Paws Fur Pink OC Chili Run	OC Chili Run Baker to Vegas	Desert Storm Rally Vision Quest	HD Trails OC Mara- thon Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon	ARRL Field Day 22-24	MV Fire- works			OC Cycle for Life OC Prep Expo		Run for a Claus

*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 — (pvt)	Santiago Peak. (C)
	440 — 445.660 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
D-STAR	440 — 445.705 — (K6SOA B)	Laguna Beach
	440 — 447.180 — (pvt)	Santiago Peak. (C)
D-STAR	1.2G 1282.600 — (K6SOA A)	Laguna Beach

Nets:

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

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

40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays @ 8:00AM

10 meter HF (28.410 +/-)
Sundays after the 40m net.

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



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