



The

September 2018

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

In This Issue

**Presidents
Message..... 1**

Raffle Winner..2

**Elmer
Saturday.....3**

**Membership
Report.....3**

EchoLink.....4

**Volunteers
Needed.....4**

OC Parks.....5

Holiday Party..5

For Sale.....5

Q3 Financials..5

General Meeting

**September 17,
2018
7:00 PM**

**NP Murray
Center
Veterans Way
Mission Viejo**

President's Message, September 2018

Disaster Season 2018 is Here

We are entering 2018 the fall disaster season here in the US and around the world. Fire Season is picking up, and although some fire experts argue that fire season is now year 'round, traditionally we have Southern CA Santa Ana wind events, September through December making these months our more vulnerable times. Also, we're starting to see what now portends to be a very active Hurricane, and tropical cyclone year as well. Ocean temperatures off our Southern CA coast are also elevated, and this could lead us into a strong El Nino year, with heavy rains, and accompanying land slides and debris flows from the fire areas.

All these combined factors should urge us as amateur radio operators to be sure to check out the readiness of our stations, portable radios, auxiliary power supplies, batteries, etc. Whether you belong to a disaster preparedness radio group such as ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT, OC Fire Watch, or the like, or just want to be able to help your family and neighborhood in times of a communications emergency, we all need to keep our resources in good order. If you don't currently belong to one of the above or similar organizations or groups, you might consider volunteering for one, and make good use of all that investment we have all made in radio gear.

Aside from our radios, this disaster season is also a good reminder to check and renew our household emergency supplies of non perishable food, water, first aid, flashlights, etc. Maybe a good time to make sure you have a few extra canisters of fuel for our camping stoves too. The list of good things to have on hand goes on, and there are several good guides for what items you should have on hand, so I won't give an exhaustive list here.

Finally, I'd like to remind those of you, especially those who are relatively new to HF operations, that in the times of disaster, the FCC will declare certain amateur frequencies that are temporarily reserved

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for emergency operations by hams within and assisting with the disaster recovery operations. We will attempt to forward, via email, those FCC reserved frequencies as soon as we get notified of them. Frequently check the ARRL website during disasters for announcement of these emergency frequencies and nets to avoid transmitting on. They do offer some interesting listening only opportunities, however. Please do not transmit, even to offer assistance, unless you are directly involved in the disaster ops, and/or are absolutely certain you can render significant assistance.

Typically, the National Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) operates on 14.325 MHz daytime, and 7.268 MHz at night. Other frequencies may also be declared for these disaster nets. The Salvation Army Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) is usually found on 14.265, with 14.312 as an alternate. The additional FCC reserved disaster frequencies as well as a wealth of other related information can be found at www.arrl.org/2018-Hurricanes. Check this site frequently and before you operate HF during a known hurricane, tropical storm, or other disaster event.

Let's hope that the somewhat dire predictions for a serious disaster season are overly pessimistic, but we should always keep our situational awareness and equipment status in a high state of readiness.

Best 73 de Ray, AE6H

[SOARA Raffle Winner, August 2018](#)



**Michael Geoghegan, KX6A, won a Yaesu FT-60R
presented by Ray AE6H**

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[SOARA Elmer Saturday September 22 at Murray Center](#)

SOARA Saturday, Antennas at the Park!

SOARA Elmer Saturday September 22 at Gilleran Park, upper parking lot, coffee and donuts will be provided, 9 am to noon. Coffee & doughnut donations are greatly appreciated to help offset costs by those who benefit from this event.

This month's topic is Antennas. Bring antennas, coax, ground rods, and radios. Demo your cool stuff. All VLF, HF, VHF, UHF, & microwave antennas are welcome. Antennas are one of the few areas most ham's can make, tune, and adjust. So, let's have some fun on Saturday morning.

We often break into different groups and talk about all types of subjects. Go to <https://www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/> for more SOARA Elmer Saturday details, like topics, information, links, time, date, location, photos, etc.

73, Ed, WA6ED

[Membership Report](#)

In October, annual \$50 membership dues are due. You may have a credit on your dues. Be sure to read the reminder email and check if you owe \$50 or something less. If you just pay \$50 and have a credit, I will keep your credit on record forever. Many new members carry a credit due to our prorating of dues. Dues are SOARA's main revenue source and pays the bills to keep the repeaters going. So, please renew promptly once you receive the notification.

Wow! 244 active members. Please let me know if someone wants to join SOARA and I will help. If you need an official SOARA badge replacement, call sign change, or have a question, email membership@soara.org. I hope to hear you on the radio soon! Make the most of your membership, get on the air and become radioactive!

Be sure to test your SOARA email occasionally by sending a test email to: <your-callsign>@soara.org. Another observation is if you no longer receive SOARA emails and others do. I will try to help. I can correct any email address errors in the database. I can also change your email address to a different email address. You will need to investigate if your junk or spam filters are blocking your email. If you discover a different problem, please let me know what caused the problem and maybe the information will help others.

Member Changes:

1. April, new callsign WA6PRL
2. Tim, new callsign W6AHI

73, Ed, WA6ED

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[SOARA Temple Hill Repeater - Now With Echolink](#)

Echolink (al la svxLink) is now available on the 147.645 Temple Hill repeater!

You may have heard the new Echolink node in action on the Temple Hill 2m machine. The system was built using a Raspberry Pi 3 model "B" single board computer, high endurance micro SD card, and USB audio dongle. The system runs a variant of the Debian Linux operating system for Raspberry Pi called "raspbian". The echolink application software is called "svxLink" and was written by Tobias Blomberg, SM0SVX. This sophisticated software is capable of providing full repeater control along with repeater to repeater linking and echolink support. The hardware is interfaced to the RLC-3 8-port repeater controller and appears as another repeater transmitter & receiver.

The call sign for the node is "K6SOA-L". The "-L" designation is normally reserved for "links" and "-R" designation for repeaters. However, K6SOA-R is already in use on the San Clemente 146.025 machine. To remember which is which, you can think of the "-L" as "Laguna".

To use the system from your smart phone, tablet, or computer, search for "K6SOA-L" or node # 177360 from your favorite Echolink client application. From the repeater side, sending a single asterisk (*) will cause svxLink to respond with its status, along with Orange County weather.

To connect the repeater to an EchoLink node, use your DTMF keypad to send the command to invoke Echolink (2), followed by the pound key (#), followed by the node number, and another pound sign. For example, sending: "2#133376#" would connect the Laguna Repeater to Node 133376 which is our Echolink node number on our San Clemente machine. The system will respond with "Activating Echolink, connecting to Kilo Six Sierra Oscar Alpha Repeater... Connected" To disconnect, send a single pound sign (#). Note: the pound key (#) is like the "return" or "enter" key on your computer.

If you want to hear how you sound on the repeater, you can invoke "Parrot" mode by sending "1#". Once activated, anything heard will be echoed back by svxLink. To exit this mode, send a single pound key (#).

More information about svxLink can be found on the web at: <https://www.svxlink.org>
<<https://www.svxlink.org/>>

Vy 73, Brian NJ6N

[Volunteers Needed - October 2](#)

We are looking for some hams to support the Cystic Fibrosis benefit ride on Saturday Oct. 2 starting and finishing in Costa Mesa. If you are interested please get in touch with me at (949) 859-3868 or ad6oi@soara.org

Heiko AD6OI, Director of Communications

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[OC Parks Volunteer Celebration](#)

On September 7th OC Parks held their 2018 Volunteer Celebration. Tony Pointer the Fire Watch Coordinator presented Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, the #Excellence in Volunteerism# Award for his participation in OC Fire Watch Program.



**Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ
RACES Radio Officer & ARES
Emergency Coordinator**

[SOARA Holiday Party - December 2 - Claim Jumper](#)

Save the Date!

The SOARA holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 5:00 pm at Claim Jumper in Mission Viejo. More details to come soon.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Dana Wresch - KM6LZG SOARA Activities Director

[SOARA Equipment for Sale](#)

SOARA has an used Astron RS-50M power supply for sale for a \$150 minimum bid. If you would like to bid on this piece of equipment, send an email stating your bid to SOARA President Ray Hutchinson, ae6h@soara.org

[SOARA Q3 Statement of Revenue and Expenses](#)

The following is SOARA's Q3 Statement of Revenue and Expenses, for the period ending June 2018. Our fiscal year begins in October and ends with September. As most of you are aware, the Board has been diligently pursuing cost reductions the past few years to bring our expenses in line with our revenue. Below are few items of note, some which aren't shown in the Q3 period ending in June because they took place in July and August:

- Field Day expenses came in just barely over budget after a \$50 donation from Laguna Woods ARC. Thank you, we hope you had a great time and look forward to having you join us again next year! Food expense for Field Day was \$719.74 and

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generator expense was \$494.63, for a total of \$1,214.37 against a budget of \$1,200.

- We budget \$100 for the Annual Picnic and rely on leftovers from Field Day (frozen hamburgers and non-perishables). This year all costs associated with the Annual Picnic, including boat rides, were donated by Erik and Dana Wresch. Thank you for your generosity!
- After a review of our insurance policies by Mike Mahan, the Board voted to cancel one of our policies earlier in the year due to overlapping coverage. This will save us approximately \$600 per year.
- Thank you to the SOARA Saturday crowd - in past years we were spending \$50 per month on coffee and donuts for SOARA Saturday. Thanks to your donations, our YTD expenses are \$68.

We will be solidly in the black this year, mainly due to the disposal of a \$900 asset, donations of \$1,190, and the fact that we've barely touched the \$1,000 budgeted annually toward Equipment & Repeaters Repair and Maintenance. I will be working on SOARA's 2018-19 Budget over the next several weeks and will submit to the Board for approval at our September meeting. In preparation I made the following proposals to the Board at our August Board meeting and both were unanimously approved:

- Since we have some projects on the table (eliminating the phone line at Trabuco being a top priority due to the escalating expense which currently comprises 20% of our annual budget) and some aged equipment that needs replacing - and since we have the funds to do so - the Board has approved rolling over the unused portion of the Equipment & Repeater budget into 2018-19. This is in addition to Restricted Donations of \$275 that were donated specifically for repeater repairs.
- Ticket purchases for our 2017 Holiday Party exceeded the cost of the event by \$360. The board voted to use the excess funds toward additional door prizes for the 2018 Holiday Party.

I look forward to sharing SOARA's 2018-19 budget with you as soon as it has been approved by the Board.

73 de NI6X Lori Carey, Treasurer

3Q YTD ending 30 June 2018

Revenue:

Membership	11,627.69
Activities:	
Auction Commissions	321
Donations - Unrestricted	915
Donations - Restricted	275
Asset Disposal	900
Total Revenue	14,038.69

Expenses:

Site Rental:

Santiago Peak	3,150.00
City of San Clemente	0

Utilities:

Internet DSL	635.94
Telephone Lines	1,966.43

Website:

Linode	112.5
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Insurance

Hartford	623
Mercer	240.44

Post Office Box	94
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Activities:

SOARA Saturday	62.09
Field Day - Food	592.88
Field Day - Other (Generator)	0
Picnic	0

Equipment and Repeater Maintenance	0
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Other/Miscellaneous	0
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Total Expenses	7,477.28
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Net Revenue	6,561.41
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2018 SOARA Calendar

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	ARRL Section Mgr	SOARA Fair	Science Heads HAB	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	-I	-	-
SOARA Elmer Saturday (9 am)	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	At Field Day	23	27	24	22	26	-
Special Events	Quartz-fest	Yuma Ham fest		Visalia Intl DX	Ohio Ham-vention	ARRL Field Day 22-24	HRO Ham Jam 7	SOARA Picnic 6		JOTA		SOARA Holiday Party 2
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 Baker to Vegas	Dessert Storm Rally Vision Quest	HD Trails OC Marathon	ARRL Field Day 22-24	MV Fire-works 4			OC Cycle fo Life OC Prep Expo		Run for a Claus

Dates subject to Change - Check the SOARA Web Site (<http://www.soara.org>) to verify locations and times

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SOARA Information

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



SOARA OFFICERS

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ae6h@soara.org

V.P.: Erik Wresch, W6INE w6ine@soara.org

Secretary Greg De Hoogh, N6PM n6pm@soara.org

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SOARA APPOINTMENTS

Past President: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
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Activities Coordinator: Dana Wresch, KM6LZG
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Ambassador: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
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