



# The PROPAGATOR

November 1999

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## SOARA Members Give Time to Help

You may hear them on one of the repeaters on a weekend — relaying messages, checking on lost runners, or giving progress reports. They are often SOARA members giving up part of their weekend to provide communications for an athletic event.

On Saturday Oct.23 a bunch of intrepid communicators made their way to Caspers Wilderness Park to provide communications support for a Horseback ride. Marty, KF6TIR, and Rebecca his sidekick ran the net from the gazebo. Helping them were Lou, KA6BJO, and Muriel, KA6BJP, John, KB7LWW, Earl, KF6EUO, and Sherry, KF6UTX(Marty's wife). They worked from daylight until the afternoon to make sure that no horses or riders became lost. Other than one minor mishap (broken antenna mount) the ride was a rousing success. Our operators all had a good time and allowed as they might be back next year.

Saturday the 30th of October provided the opportunity for our hams to show off their communications skills again. After several tries to find the headquarters of the Saddleback Mountain Marathon the intrepid hams showed at the Blue Jay Campground to distribute themselves amongst all the aid stations. Marty, KF6TIR, and Rebecca stayed in the campground to run the net. Ray, AE6H, took his trusty 4-wheeler all the way to Bear Springs. John, KB7LWW, and his wife went in their sedan to the upper Trabuco trail head and set up camp there. Gary, KI6DB, followed the main divide road out to the upper Horsethief trail head and worked from there. Sean, KD6SXQ, had the unenviable task of finding his way to the Lower Trabuco /Holy Jim trail head at the upper end of Trabuco Canyon. Once all the operators were in position they relayed all the numbers of the runners as they went by to net control. The event was considered a success because no runners were permanently lost or injured. Baz Hawley the race director is very

## County EOC Hosts SOARA Meeting

SOARA held their October meeting in a rather unique location. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Mullard, KF6HVO, and Doug Northern, N6GNS, we were invited to visit the Orange County Emergency Operations Center. Control and planning during a major emergency would be conducted from this location. This center is also the operational site for OC RACES.

Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, hosted our visit and gave a presentation on the operations before conducting a tour of the facility. Robert not only heads up the OC RACES group, but he has responsibility for the counties emergency communications. Several members of the OC RACES group acted as guides for the tour.

About forty SOARA members made the trip to the remote site for the meeting. Activities started with a brief business meeting of the club. After club business was taken care of our host was introduced and the operation of the EOC was explained. The center has capabilities for continued operation even if all public utilities are disrupted. Provisions have been made to house and feed the county emergency personnel if necessary.

Of course communications is a major part of the operation. One of the most active operations is the 911 center for cities that are served by the county sheriffs. This section of the EOC is always a center of activity. Other

happy the way it all turned out.

More than anyone else Heiko and Patti, KD6SBI & KD6VKS do the recruiting and coordinating of volunteers for these events. If you have some free time and think you might enjoy working one of these events when they come up, talk to Patti or Heiko. They will be glad to have any new volunteers to add to their roster of "special event communicators".

areas are used for training or are simply ready for the day when a disaster strikes.

One notable feature of the facility was the extent to which all of the equipment was installed to withstand a strong earthquake and remain functional. Equipment racks were braced to the ceiling, all radios were either mounted in cabinets or strapped to table tops.

RACES equipment included repeaters on most VHF and UHF bands and even amateur TV. Several VHF / UHF operating positions and one HF position adorned the OC RACES room.

The evening provided an excellent overview of how a good emergency operations center is equipped and run.

## Auction to be Held at November Meeting

It is November, and that means the regular monthly meeting will be dedicated to the Fall Auction. Yes, it is time to dig out all of that old gear that you have tucked away, not being used, and turn it into cash.



If you are bringing items to sell then you should arrive early. The room will be available at 6:30 PM to give sellers time enough to set out and tag their items. Everything to be sold needs to be tagged

with the seller's name and a minimum selling price (optional) before the auction starts.

Malcolm, KO6SY has agreed to be the auctioneer again. He always adds a touch of humor and manages to get the bidding going.

## 500 kHz — The Passing of an Era.

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### Part 5. A minor diplomatic incident.

One evening while sitting the 500kHz watch and daydreaming of those lucky operators onboard their ships scattered about the Pacific my pleasant thoughts were shattered by a broadcast from a Soviet ship:

```
TTT TTT TTT DE UBEX UBEX UBEX
BT 170930Z ALL SHIPPING WITHIN
200 KM RADIUS 030-060 DEG FROM
37.42N 174.11E USE CAUTION DUE
TO MISSILE TESTING DURING THE
HOURS OF . . .
```

Oh gad, he was going to send the entire text on 500 — that's a no-no for just a safety broadcast. Okay, time to earn my pay as the Central Pacific 500kHz cop — I'll just break in by sending a couple of breaks:

BT BT

but he kept right on going. Okay, I'll hold my key down for a few seconds (but not too long for long dashes will activate auto alarms on board ships):

<long dash>.

Ah, silence. I'll be nice:

```
UBEX DE NMO NMO GE OM PSE QRT
ON 500 PSE QSY 512 OK IMI K
```

After a few seconds of silence he proceeded to send:

```
TTT TTT TTT CQ DE UBEX UBEX
UBEX BT 170930Z ALL SHIPPING ...
```

This guy gets the Lid-Of-The-Night award. Now I'm not happy. The Cold War on 500kHz!  
I send another:

<long dash>

and silence results. Let's try it again:

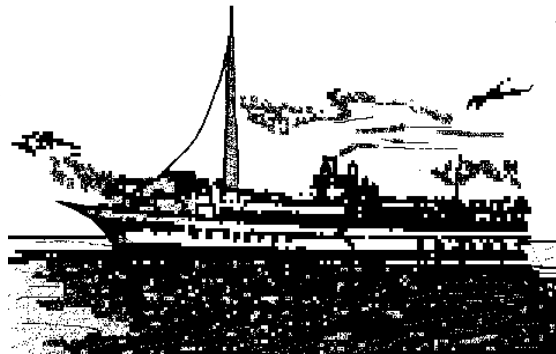
```
UBEX DE NMO QRT ON 500 QSY 512
K
```

only to be followed by:

```
TTT TTT TTT CQ DE UBEX UBEX
UBEX BT 170930Z ALL SHIPPING ...
```

Now, with only 30 seconds until the silent period my concern for his unlawful broadcast is quickly growing. —15 seconds, 10 seconds, —5 seconds; my log:

```
BEGIN SILENT PERIOD
500 0945Z
OPNOTE: UBEX CONTINUING TO
SEND SAFETY BCST DURING SP.
```



```
SPVR NTFD. 0945Z
```

Having told my supervisor, I proceeded to send:

```
QRT QR<long dash> SP SP
```

but the lid kept right on sending. Now my mates on the West Coast were losing their patience too. First up is NMC (San Francisco Coast Guard):

```
UBEX DE NMC QRT SP SP
```

and he stops! But a few seconds later (still during the silent period):

```
TTT TTT TTT CQ DE UBEX . . .
```

Oh man, this nut's got seaweed for brains. In jumps NMQ (Long Beach Coast Guard):

```
DE NMQ QRT SP SP.
```

Even NOJ up in Alaska jumps in the brawl:

```
DE NOJ QRT SP
```

Followed by Power House:

```
DE KPH QRT SP SP.
```

But the fellow kept right on sending his broadcast. Finally at minute :47 (still within the silent period) he finished. I had logged everything; but one thing I didn't log was my `QSL to him after the silent period:

```
UBEX UR A LID
```

without my callsign, and in A1 (I always kept our 500 transmitter in A2, so with it in A1 no one would know it was me). So much for diplomacy with the Soviets.

For the most part every ship and shore station worldwide followed the international procedures. The discipline on 500 around the world was amazing. During Coast Guard Radioman school we were reminded that what was being taught to us were not Coast Guard nor US Government policies, but rather international rules set forth by the UN's ITU, and that every shipboard operator, spanning many decades, had been taught the exact procedures being presented to us. This instilled in us an unbroken chain of tradition with those ship's radio operators since the beginning, and all of us felt a deep respect toward 500 kHz. There was a sense of mystery felt towards this frequency - very difficult to put into words.

— End of Part 5.

J73, Jeff KH6O  
jeffreyh@hawaii.edu

## Club Services

SOARA prides itself on providing a wide range of services for its members. Some of the useful services that you may not be familiar with include:

☞ e-mail aliases — you can receive mail addressed to <your call sign>,soara.org — e-mail sent to this address shows up on your present mailbox.;

☞ you can join, or renew your ARRL membership through SOARA. See the treasurer for details.

☞ SOARA conducts both a 2 meter and an HF net each week. The 2 m net meets on 147.645 Tuesday at 8:00 PM. The HF net meets at 7:30 AM on Sundays.

Year 2000	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	24	28	20	17	15 Auction	19	17	21	18	16	20 Auction	No meeting
<b>VEC Testing</b> 5:30 PM	24		20		15	26	17		18		20	
<b>Propagator Deadline</b>	8	12	4	1	4/29	3	1	5	2	9/30	4	2
<b>Board Meeting</b>	31	3/6	27	24	22	26	24	28	25	23	27	
<b>Spring Auction</b>					15							
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>						26 - 27						
<b>SOARA picnic</b>								7				
<b>Fall Auction</b>											20	
<b>SOARA Holiday Party</b>												3

## Holiday Party Set for December 5

Another active year for the South Orange Amateur Radio Association is drawing to a close. Only the November auction meeting and the annual holiday party remain as major events. December 5, the first Sunday in December is the date for the party.

family member, clip the registration form and send it with a check to the SOARA mail box. This is always a very enjoyable event so plan on being there.



Send registration and check to:  
**SOARA, Attn. X99 Party**  
**P.O.Box 2545**  
**Mission Viejo, CA 92690**

Please see the enclosed flyer for the complete details. Reservations are a must, and the time will be upon us all too soon. Select the type of meal for each

The location is the Sizzler on the Lake in Mission Viejo. Party starts at 5 PM

## 220MHz Radio To be Ruffled at Auction Meeting

Tickets have been on sale at the past two regular meetings and will be on sale at the auction. The drawing is scheduled to take place the evening of the auction meeting on November 15. This is a very nice HT and since 220 gear is limited there has been a lot of interest in the raffle. It is not necessary to be present at the drawing to win. Come see who wins.1

## Red Cross Class

On the second weekend in December the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering a free Radio Communicator Course. The two day class will allow participants the chance to earn the Red Cross radio communicator I.D. card.

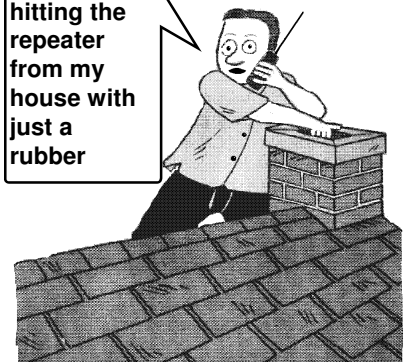
from noon to 4:00 PM. I.D. card processing will take place immediately after the Sunday class, and should be completed by 5:00 PM.

To enroll in this free class call the chapter headquarters in Santa Ana at (714) 835-5381, extension 140. All amateur radio operators are invited to attend, no previous Red Cross experience is required.

The course is scheduled for Saturday December 11, and Sunday December 12. Saturday's class will run from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The class on Sunday will run

Here is a chance to increase your operating skills for emergencies, and to see how you could fit into the Red Cross communications support organization.

Well, I'm hitting the repeater from my house with just a rubber



# The PROPAGATOR

South Orange Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 2545  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

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**Meeting: Monday 11/15/99 at 7:00 PM  
Fall Auction — set-up at 6:30 PM**

☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. Changes to the meeting time or place are announced in this newsletter and on the two-meter repeater.

☛ **License Exams:** Amateur License Exams are given prior to most SOARA meetings. Exams are from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. You must make an appointment at least a week in advance. Call Lou Parker, KA6BJO, at 951-0336. (No calls after 9:00 PM please.)

☛ **Contacting SOARA:** Questions about SOARA? Send e-mail to: [info@soara.org](mailto:info@soara.org), or leave a message at 949-249-1373: a SOARA board member will respond as soon as possible.

☛ **Web Site:** SOARA maintains a web site with current club information. The URL is: <http://www.soara.org>.

☛ **Repeaters:** The SOARA 2-meter repeater is open to all licensed hams. The SOARA 440 repeater is for club members only.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 - (110.9)

SOARA 440 — 447.050 - (110.9)

The SOARA 220 and HROC 440 repeaters are shared by members of both clubs. Each machine is subject to the operating rules of its respective club. Call AC6XG for details.

SOARA 220 — 224.100 - (110.9)

SOARA 220 — 224.640 - (123.0)

HROC 440 — 447.180 - (131.8)

☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater open net is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM following the Laguna and M.V. emergency nets.  
40 meter HF net (7.235 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM

## SOARA OFFICERS

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