



# The PROPAGATOR

March, 2000

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## Club Programs Introduce New and Exciting Aspects of Hobby!

### PSK31 Program Generates Interest Digital Modes.

One of the most interesting presentations at a SOARA meeting was presented on March 7, by Malcolm Levy, KO6SY. Malcolm, SOARA's Director of Education, not only explained the details of PSK-31, but made an on-the-air contact during his presentation.

PSK31 is a digital mode which uses Phase Shift Keying at 31.5 baud. It is a very narrow band mode and provides fairly reliable communications with weak signals. In this respect it is similar to CW. The technique does rely on powerful Digital Signal Processing techniques. The good news, however, is that most hams already have the hardware for the required DSP on hand. The equipment required is a computer with a sound card. Software is available over the internet. Only the interconnection between the computer (sound card) and the SSB rig must be implemented to get on the air.

Malcolm demonstrated his equipment using only two home-made cables (no attenuator circuit.) to carry audio in both directions between the rig and computer. To allow the computer to control the transmitter (i.e. PTT switch) Malcolm puts the rig in the VOX (voice controlled transmit) mode. Software and further information are available at:

<http://www.kender.es/~edu/psk31.html>  
or <http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html>.

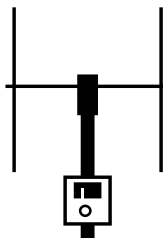
### New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest members:

Bill Carter	KK6BP
Steve Perluss	KR6CE
Tom Kormanik	W5LOM
Don Schleuse	KF6NSU

### T-Hunting — It's Not Just For Speedy Drivers Any More"

Nowadays, a transmitter hunt is much more than just a ride in an RDF-equipped car. It can also be an exciting outdoor activity for everyone in the family. At the March general meeting find out about the wide variety of ways that you, your family and your club can



have fun with RDF, including radio-orienteeing, ARDF and ROCAs. You may already have all the equipment you need to get started. You'll also hear about local hams who won medals in an international championship foxhunt last summer.

### SOARA's Presentation for the March 20 meeting will feature Joe Moell, K0OV.

A registered professional electronic engineer and an active ham since age 11, Joe Moell K0OV has written for almost every ham radio publication and designed many new devices for radio direction finding. He collaborated with Tom Curlee WB6UZZ to write "TRANSMITTER HUNTING---Radio Direction Finding Simplified," a comprehensive text on RDF, and has written over 135 magazine articles on the subject. In addition to being a Technical Advisor on RDF to ARRL Headquarters, he serves as ARRL's ARDF Coordinator and was recently appointed to be IARU's ARDF Coordinator for the Western Hemisphere.

For more information on transmitter hunting, visit Joe's "Homing In" site on the World Wide Web: <http://www.homingin.com>

### "SOARA Participates in Club 2000 Achievement Awards

BY Mike Mullard, KF6HVO

SOARA will actively participate in the competition for the ARRL-sponsored Club 2000 Achievement Award. This new award is aimed at recognizing clubs that are growing, thriving, and developing positive community relations through such activities as emergency and public service participation and membership building. The award is given to the club that has earned the most points during the year 2000 by participating in the following activities:

- ⇒ ARRL Recruitment nights
- ⇒ Monthly Meetings
- ⇒ Instructional workshops
- ⇒ ARES activity
- ⇒ Local school club support
- ⇒ Community service activities
- ⇒ ARRL VE testing sessions
- ⇒ Field Day Stations
- ⇒ Contesting/Other Operating Events and More.

The winning club will receive a check from the American Radio Relay League Foundation for \$1,000.00. The award may be used for equipment purchase or improvements to a club's station.

With everyone's help, our great club can become even better and get the recognition it deserves. Please help our club continue to grow by your active participation.

### SOARA elections are coming up soon.

If you would like to get more involved in the club by serving as a club officer, director, or volunteer, please mention your willingness to Paul Levey, NZ1M.

## Field Day 2000 Is Coming

By Mike Mullard,  
KF6HVO



Mark your calendars for June 24-25, 2000. It's Field Day, North America's premier Amateur Radio operating event. The annual 24-hour event will again be held at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo at the end of La Paz Road. Over the past several years SOARA has placed high in the U.S. rankings. But this year will be the best yet! We will be attempting to reclaim our ranking as the highest scoring club in our division west of the Rocky Mountains.

With luck and commitment we will have the usual complement of CW and phone stations on HF as well as VHF and UHF stations. New this year will be the addition of a dedicated RTTY/PSK31 station. Hopefully, we will again have our satellite operation back in gear as well as Amateur Television (worth 100 bonus points this year) and 10 GHz contacts.

There will be something fun for everybody. The food will be wonderful, and most importantly, there will be the same spirit of cooperation and camaraderie that sets our club apart from the rest of the pack.

Stop by for as little or as long as you want. YOU ARE WELCOME! Don't let another Field Day go by without participating.



Here is an opportunity to put some of those communicating skills to work. The Association of Hand-crafted Automobiles will hold a show at Knott's Berry Farm on the weekend of April 29 & 30, and they need communicators. If you would like to participate in this event, please call Heiko, KR6EA at (949) 859-3868 or contact him via e-mail at:

*kr5eai@soara.org.*

## SoCal ARDF session on Saturday March 25

Here is an opportunity for you and your family to try on-foot foxhunting.

**Date:** Saturday, March 25

**Time:** 12:30 to 3:30 PM

**Place:** Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley

**Talk-in** (optional): 146.97(-) PL136.5

This two-meter direction-finding practice/demonstration is sponsored by the Fullerton Radio Club. All ages are welcome. There is no charge for participation. A ham radio license and/or knowledge of radio equipment is not required. Several models of domestic and imported hand-held RDF sets as well as commercial and home-built antennas will be available to view and try out. Basic equipment, such as hand-held receivers and "scanners," can also be successfully used. Maps will be provided.

ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding), also called foxhunting, foxtailing and radio-orienting, is the most popular kind of transmitter hunting in Europe and Asia. It is quite similar to orienteering in that it takes place in the woods with orienteering cards, punches, controls, and maps. It's easy to learn and fun for all ages.

Vehicular entrance and parking within Mile Square costs \$4, but you can park along the streets just outside for free. The starting area will be near Euclid street, midway between Edinger and Warner Avenues. Look for the orange and white orienteering signs.

For more information about ARDF, plus detailed directions to this event, go to <http://www.homingin.com>

You can also get more information about this hunt at the March 20 SOARA meeting.

Joe Moell K0OV  
USA ARDF Coordinator  
E-mail: [MilSqARDF@homingin.com](mailto:MilSqARDF@homingin.com)

Come to the meeting to hear Joe and plan on taking advantage of this opportunity to participate in this event. We may want to hold a similar event in South County during the coming year.

## California Antenna Bill

A bill has been introduced in the California State Senate which will require the reasonable accommodation of amateur antennas. This bill goes beyond PRB-1 in restricting local governments ability to limit amateur heights. The legislative Counsel's Digest of the bill is printed below. The complete text of the bill is available on the internet.

In order for this bill to be enacted it must have vigorous support by the amateur community. "Vigorous support" means letters and telephone calls to your State Senator and Assembly Member asking them to support the bill and explaining why you feel that way. State Senator Rainey was, Sheriff of Contra Costa County and should be familiar with the Sheriff's Amateur Radio Group. On the one hand it ought to be easy to persuade him of the value of Amateur Radio in emergency response. On the other hand the League of California Cities is going to be up in arms about the Bill.

The various Assembly members in this area are unlikely to know much about Amateur Radio. They need to learn two things: how many of us (who vote) there are, and what we do for the community.

You may follow the progress of this bill by going to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> and following the links to "subscribe" to the bill by number (SB1714). You will then receive e-mail notice whenever any action takes place. Letters to committees as well as to your own representatives are in order.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST of SB 1714, introduced, by Senator Brulte

Existing law authorizes the legislative body of any county or city to adopt zoning ordinances for various purposes. This bill would provide that any ordinance enacted by the legislative body of any city or county regulating the placement, screening, or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and permit radio antenna height to less than 200 feet or 75 feet, depending on the population density of the city or county.

Year 2000	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	24	28 PSK31	20 T-hunt	17	15 Auction	19	17	21	18 Hosp.	16 Gordo	20 Auction	No meeting
<b>VEC Testing</b> 5:30 PM	24	28	20	17	15	26	17	21	18	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

### Speakers Scheduled

Two popular speakers have been scheduled for later this year. Our speaker at the September meeting will be April Moell, WA6OPS. It has been some time since her last visit to SOARA. April coordinates the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System and has extensive experience with disaster communications.

October will see the return of the ever popular Gordon West. In addition to his past presentations Gordon has supported SOARA in our negotiations with Mission Viejo over the antenna ordinance, and has visited the club's Field Day site. Gordon should have some insights to share about the future of amateur radio.

### Testing Opportunity

In addition to the regular test sessions before the monthly club meetings a special session will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 PM. This is the last club sponsored test session before the April 15 change in FCC rules. Testing is open to all.

As with all test sessions it is necessary to pre-register. Call Lou Parker, KA6BJO, at least four days before the test. Call (949) 951-0336. Call before 9:00 PM.

### Upgrade Class Continues

SOARA's General Class upgrade course is scheduled to be completed by the end of this month. Several club members participated in teaching the classes. Each covering an area where they had considerable experience and expertise.

The last three class dates will be devoted to review and questions, with the last date being reserved for testing. On Thursday, March 23 and March 30 the classes will be open to anyone preparing for a test. The classes will be informal and will cover any topics the participants desire. The classes are held at the Norman P. Murray Civic Center. They run from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

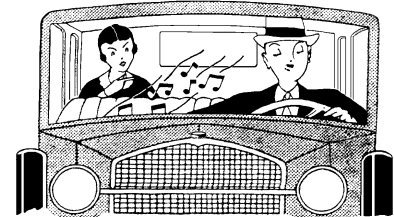
### VHF/UHF Contesting

VHF/UHF contesting is radically different from HF contesting. The goal, besides working the most other stations on the the various bands, 6 Meter, 2 Meter, 220 Mhz, 440 Mhz, and above, is to work as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible. Each grid square is a multiplier that will boost your score substantially.

Watch for details on upcoming contests in the next Propagator and give it a try.

### A Note From the Editor

Last month's *Propagator* carried the last of the series "500 kHz — The Passing of an Era". I hope you enjoyed it. We appreciate Jeff Herman, KH6O, giving his permission to run it. And a very sincere "thank you" to Jim Kelley, AC6XG, for finding it, arranging for permission to carry it and sending the material to the editor. I believe it conveyed some of the thrill of operating CW, and some sense of the history of radio.



### When back seat driving interferes—start the Crosley ROAMIO

"Look out!" "Be careful!" "Ooh! We're coming to a hill!" No longer need you grit your teeth and suffer such well-meant but irritating exclamations. Instead — just turn on your CROSLY ROAMIO Automobile Radio Receiving Set. All fear and irritability are forgotten as you spin along the smooth road enjoying concerts, symphonies, the latest dance hits, or the wit of world-famous humorists.

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—CROSLY RADIO—

In 1930, during the golden age of gender relations, one car-radio manufacturer advertised an oft-overlooked benefit of its product.

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

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**Meeting: Monday 3/20/00 at 7:00 PM**  
**"Joe Moell, K0OV: T-hunting Fun"**

☛ **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

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