



The PROPAGATOR

November, 2001

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

November Auction Scheduled for the 19th.

Yes, it is that time again. Time to drag out all of that old gear that you haven't used since — well, who can remember that long ago? Some other fortunate SOARA member can probably make good use of it — or at least store it in HIS garage for a year or so.

The auctions are always popular events. Even if you don't sell or buy anything, it is great fun to look at the equipment. So bring your "trash," and be prepared to haul home some "treasure."

If you are bringing items for sale, plan on arriving early (6:30) so you can set them up on display. Tags will be available to identify each item with the seller's call sign and a minimum selling price (optional).



Classes Scheduled

By Mike Mullard, Education Director

SOARA will hold the next series of No-Code Technician classes beginning Tuesday, January 29, 2002. They will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Norman P. Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo. Classes will be taught by several SOARA members who have a long history of experience with Amateur Radio. If you have friends or family who might enjoy these classes, please pass along this information.

Annual Party Set for December 2

This year's end-of-year celebration of SOARA's progress will be held at the popular Italian family restaurant, Peppino's. The restaurant, located at 31371 Niguel Road in Laguna Niguel has a banquet room that we have reserved for the party. We will have plenty of room and privacy for our activities.

The date of the party is Sunday, December 2, 2001. The time is from 5:00 PM with no set ending time. The cost is \$16.00 for a buffet style Italian dinner. The price includes tax and tip. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

We will have live Dixieland music, a review of the past year's accomplishments, presentations of awards, and other activities and prizes.

This is a family event so plan on bringing the entire family and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. Clip the form from the bottom of the flyer and send in your reservations to Steve Perluss, KR6CE, 26746 Las Ondas, Mission Viejo, 92692.



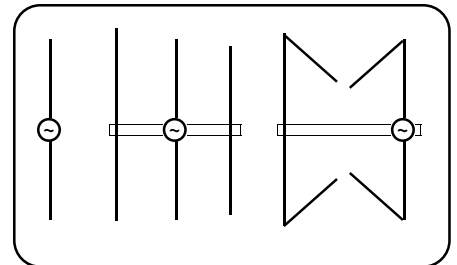
ARRL is encouraging members to write their members of Congress in an effort to build awareness in Congress that private land-use regulations have become a real problem for many Amateur Radio operators. ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says support from the amateur community will help to backstop the League's efforts to meet with elected representatives and staffers on Capitol Hill to discuss possible legislation.

"In the meantime, we continue to prow1 the halls of Congress in search of supporters!" Mansfield said.

Antenna Talk Well Received

Will Anderson, AA6DD, a respected local expert on antennas and propagation, was the featured speaker at SOARA's October meeting. Will's topic was directional antennas. He gave a balanced mix of theory, experimental results and many practical hints.

Starting with the well known Yagi - Uda type of beam, Will described the development of variations and improvements over the years. Anecdotes from experiments in which he had participated made the idea of building experimental antennas quite appealing. Before the talk was over he had suggested several aspects of antenna design that have not been studied in depth. Anyone with some wire and the willingness to experiment may come up with a better antenna!



As condominium complexes and planned communities proliferate, covenants, conditions and restrictions, or CC&Rs, have become a growing obstacle to amateurs who want to erect antennas. At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted a goal of legislative action to help overcome the restrictions that CC&Rs impose on Amateur Radio antennas.

To find a Senator's mailing address, visit the US Senate Web site <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>. To find a Representative's mailing address, visit the US House of Representatives Web site, <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>.



The Way I See It:

The excitement of participating

Tak Asami, W6SI, has participated in CQ magazine's World Wide DX contest for several years. Here is a shortened account of his experience during the Oct. 27 - 28 event. The full text is available from Tak.

CQ WW DX SSB 2001 Report de W6SI

Prologue and Epilogue:

Another CQ WW DX contest came and gone. Another 48 hours of pain and agony, followed by self reinforced feeling of triumph, followed by months of apathy until the result is published in September. I don't know why I do this, but it seems I'm already infected to this disease. There is no cure.

Since I'm the only ham in the family, they don't seem to understand the drama that unfolds. Agony of watching high power guys take over all the rare DX stations. The pain of picking up the faint signal from the skull cracking noise. The joy of DX station calling back your call sign. The exciting feel when you are on the roll. What a beautiful exchange of spirit takes place when you say:

"Whisky Six Sugar Italy".

"Sugar Italy, 59-11".

"Thanks for the 11, you're 59-3".

"Thanks, Good luck, QRZ?"

You have to be there to experience it.

"So are you done with the contest?"

"Yes, honey, you want to hear about it?"

Despite my generous offer of sharing the excitement, the offer is usually met with abrupt change of subject.

"What do you want for dinner, honey?"

I want to share, I want to share. . . . Because this year, I, well, I didn't do too bad. In fact, this is the second year in a row I exceeded 100,000 points. Again, this is 1/10 of prize winning station's score, but I'm just me. Single operator with 100 watt into a mere multi-band vertical. And still playing with the big boys.

I don't do the full 48 hours, either. WriteLog indicates that I was "on" for 17 hours 54 minutes. I eat, I sleep, I even take breaks, so I won't be a zombie for a few days after the

contest.

So here's this year's summary.

This is almost identical to last year's. But it's different in some important ways. Last year the condition was excellent. There was this feeling of euphoria on Saturday morning where the sky will never close, and you can contact anyone at will. That didn't happen this year. Every contact had to be "worked". So matching last year's score is a great success in itself. Last year's log included several erroneous entries. As a result, some 30% of my score was dashed by the contest judge. This year, I was extra careful to enter only the "good" entries. I gave up a couple of

Band	QSOs	Points	Zones	Countries
40 m	14	37	6	8
20 m	20	57	10	13
15 m	63	171	18	25
10 m	155	432	33	46
Total	252	697 X	(56 + 92) =	103,156 points

suspicious contacts because of that. The net result should be better. So it is over for this year. I'm not sure I'll do it again next year, but I said the same thing last year. . . .

In the beginning (Friday) . . .

Just as I turned on my faithful JRC, the contest was beginning. Judging from the band behavior past few days, 10 meter should still be open. In fact should stay open till fairly late. So off to work I go.

I start from high band, because 10, 15 meters are more forgiving than 20 meter. Because the band is wider, stations are spread apart more, there is less QRM, and there are less high power pileups per KHz. But today it is somewhat different. I couldn't get in with my 100 watt easily. There is a pileup on every KHz between 28.3 to 28.6 MHz. I was a little baffled. But OK, so let's not work on the big DX from the start. Work on friendly LU's and JA's.

Most entries the first two hours are mostly zone 25 (JA) and 13 (LU). After 0200 UTC or so I started getting something interesting like 9M8R, HC8A, VK2XZ, J3A. I recall that last year the first evening was near disaster. I only managed 11 or so contacts in the first two hours. At least that was not the case this year. I kept about 20 QSO/hr pace. And the band stayed open until 0230 UTC.

Saturday

Not-so-bright and early at 1300 UTC (6:00 AM PDT), I started the day with a cup of strong coffee. I quickly grabbed JA0CZE in the 40 meter band, but no more. Everyone is still talking to each other in the sub-100 KHz band. After half hour of trying, I got tired and scan the higher bands. A surprise: 10 meter band is already open. Since last year, I have the strategy of running most of the show at the highest band that is open. That means 10 meter. Almost instantly I get CO8DM (Cuba), FM5BH (French Polynesian), CE4Y (Chile). Good multipliers are beginning to accumulate. But things are not as last year,

where once the flood gate opened, it kept rolling. This year it is kind of sluggish. At one point, I was keeping more than 40 QSO/hr rate, winning pileups here and there. Then suddenly drop to less than 10 QSO/hr, and I'm not winning any calls. Then it picks up again. So I decided that when this

sluggishness hits, I take a break. No point in trying to wear myself out. Besides, every time I got back from the break, I met the different sky with different stations / countries.

Looking for something different, I moved down to 15 meter at 0100 UTC. I still see lots of JA's there, but found some Russians and Pacific Islands to talk to. I kept a slightly slower, but good 15 QSO/hr rate.

At about 0400 UTC, the 15 meter died down too. So down to 20 meter band I came. This is the land of kilowatt — not for the weak of final tubes. I struggled and managed to make only three contacts in an hour and half, but a good three contacts. LU4FM (Argentinean), 6Y6L (Jamaica) and YV4A (Venezuela). All are new countries, new zones for the band.

Sunday

At 1330 UTC, I started (with the big mug of coffee, of course). Still working on the 40 meter band. Five more contacts, mostly with JA's and VK's (Australia) in about 40 minutes.

. . . .

The 2400 UTC came while I was still trying to work a Brazilian station. I never made it. But I made my goal. Sweet. So, was it worth it? A silly question. Better question is: Am I going to do it next year?

Year 2001	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	22	26	19	16	21 Auction	18	16	20	17	15	19 Auction	No meeting
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	22	—	19	—	21	23	16	—	10	—	19	—
Propagator Deadline	6	10	3	1	5	2	1	4	1	9/29	3	2
Board Meeting	29	3/5	26	23	TBA	25	23	27	24	22	26	
Spring Auction					21							
ARRL Field Day						23 - 24						
SOARA picnic								4				
Fall Auction											19	
SOARA Holiday Party												2



Dues Q & A

You should have received your annual dues notice. There are some changes this year so here are answers to questions that have come up.

I sent in my dues payment, when will I receive the Repeater Operating Manual?

The new Membership and Repeater Operating Manual will be mailed along with the January 2002 newsletter in early January. It will contain: Repeater instructions; the new membership roster; SOARA's Constitution and By-Laws; and much more.

Sounds great, can I get an extra copy?

Yes, but there is a charge of \$2.50 per extra copy.

How much are the dues this year?

The new basic dues rate is \$42.00, Students and second family members are half of the basic rate. A discount is available for those who pay on time.

So, how much should I pay?

This year **only** there is a discount for all dues paid before Jan. 2002. So, if you pay within the allotted time, you pay only \$36.00. Student and family members pay half of the discounted basic rate \$18.

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FCC Clarifies Details of CORES Amateur Implementation

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has clarified several issues regarding Amateur Service implementation of the Commission Registration System--or CORES. Starting December 3, everyone doing business with the FCC--including amateur licensees--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing. Many amateurs will not need to take any action to comply with the new requirement, which further expands the number of FCC abbreviations, numbers and systems hams need to be aware of.

Amateur licensees now registered in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) already have been cross-registered in CORES and issued an FRN by mail. The FCC said it planned another cross-registration by November 28. Amateurs can check to see if they have an FRN via a ULS license search. Many Internet call sign servers, including ARRL's, also provide this information.

Once CORES becomes mandatory, the FCC will "auto-register" all amateurs who seek to register in ULS and will issue them an FRN. Amateurs then should use the FRN in place of a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN--

typically an individual's Social Security Number) when filing applications with the FCC. New or upgrade license applicants not previously registered in ULS will be registered automatically in both CORES and ULS when they provide a TIN on a license application filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Both ULS and CORES will contain a licensee's FRN, but updating information in one system will not update the other. For amateurs, CORES registration will replace ULS "TIN/Call Sign" registration. Once CORES becomes mandatory, those registering in ULS will be redirected to CORES registration. The ULS will remain the Amateur Service licensing database within WTB, however, and only ULS will associate an individual with a particular call sign and FRN.

The WTB says that starting December 3, "all passwords will be maintained in the CORES database." Amateurs using paper FCC Form 160 to register in CORES will be mailed a CORES password for on-line access.

The FCC continues to work out the details of how amateurs, CORES and ULS will coexist. Amateur Service testing with CORES is planned for November. For more information about CORES, visit the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/>> and click on the "Commission Registration System" link.

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South Orange Amateur Radio Association
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Meeting: Monday, 11/19/01 at 7:00 PM. Fall Auction

☛ **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, or leave a message at 949-249-1373.

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

☛ **Repeaters:** The SOARA 2-meter and 70 cm repeaters are open to all licensed hams.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 - (110.9)

SOARA 2m — 145.240 - (110.9)

SOARA 440 — 445.660 - (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 KG6GI 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 Tuesday 8:00 PM 40 meter HF net (7.263 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM PSK-31 net: 28.120 USB 1 KHz meets Fridays at 6:00 PM.

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