



The PROPAGATOR

December, 2001

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Happy Holidays to All from S O A R A

“Many Gifts, Many Thanks, Many Blessings”

By: Robin Whaling

It has been almost a year now since my son Jeremy (KG6JAD) decided he was going to become a HAM Radio Operator. It seemed to be the next step for him in a progressive pursuit of knowledge in electronics, science, and satellites. I don't think he had any idea that along the way he would also acquire a coveted group of mentors and friends.

On November 19th, Jeremy passed the licensing exam and earned his General Class license after many nights of listening to tapes by Gordon West. I had become accustomed to the background music of dots and dashes every night after dinner while Jeremy diligently tested himself in Morse Code. When Heiko, AD6OI, announced that Jeremy passed his General at the Monday night meeting, he had no idea that he would be presented with a Kenwood TS830S by Alan Gallagher, WA6LEW. Thinking the radio was up for auction (but, of course he admired it before the meeting started), he was elated when WA6LEW made his announcement. Alan has taken quite an interest in Jeremy's progress and by generously giving him the TS830S, has enabled him to use his new found knowledge and begin his big adventure as a General. Alan also wrote Jeremy a letter congratulating him on his accomplishments and encouraging him to continue his pursuits. Thank you Alan for all you do and are for us!

"I never knew how vacuum tubes worked

New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest member:

Warren Hanks, KG6EJD

before, but now I am learning how you have to carefully tune the 6146Bs," Jeremy said after Richard Saunders, K6RBS, came over to assist in the set-up. Richard has also graciously invited Jeremy over to his house on Sunday mornings to scan the bands for friendly users that are more than anxious to make contacts with the young amateur.

Steve Perluss, KR6CE, has also taken time out of his busy schedule to work on Jeremy's handhelds that needed repairs. We enjoyed a great dinner at their home on Monday night (his wife Patti is a great cook!), and afterwards Steve let Jeremy get on the radio and make some contacts. The hard part is putting a time limit on him, because ol' mom doesn't like to rouse him out of a deep sleep for his 7:15 a.m. school bus pickup during the week!

I have to say, I was a proud mom when he received the Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Effort in Earning the Amateur Radio General Class F.C.C. License from SOARA at the holiday dinner. Along with enjoying the great company and great food, Jeremy was beaming from ear-to-ear when he received the certificate. Thank you all for making this a memorable year for Jeremy and me, and for welcoming us into your hearts and homes with all your generosity, gifts, and time. It means more than you know, and I can't help but think of the phrase, "Paying it Forward". Because I know Jeremy will remember every kindness that was given him. And some day, he too will mentor young men like himself, and it will be because of SOARA and their blessed group of people who cared enough to share with him their specific expertise and time on Amateur Radio. You have all enriched him and helped him grow strong as a young man. God bless you all.

SOARA Party Caps Year

About 50 SOARA hams, YLs and harmonics gathered at Peppino's in Laguna Niguel for an evening of good (really good) food, fun and a review of the past year. Our multi-talented prez, NZ1M, with help from another member of the group, *Lagunatics*, regaled us with seasonal Dixieland music.

Certificates were awarded to those steadfast hams who checked into 50% of the 2m nets. AE6H, who runs the net, and his YL came up with a very attractive certificate. A certificate for Outstanding Effort was awarded to one of our young members, Jeremy, KG6JAD.

Notable events of the year were reviewed in the president's talk. Field Day results came out in the December QST, and again SOARA did an outstanding job. In our classification (3A) we ranked second in California (first in Southern California). We got the Trabuco 2m repeater operating and coordinated this year. We took in 19 new members this year, bringing membership up to 169. The testing sessions gave tests to 45 people, most of whom upgraded or obtained their first license.

It was a good party and a productive year for SOARA.

Club Donation

The club thanks Jerry, KN6QK for his very generous donation to the club. Jerry donated a 3 kW antenna tuner to the club and to ensure we obtained maximum value, the item was listed on e bay. We were able to sell the tuner for \$179.00, of which, all the proceeds went to the club.

If any of you have surplus items you would like to get rid of by this method and make a significant donation to the club, please contact Malcolm KO6SY. He will handle the transaction for you.



The Way I See It: Emergency Exercise by Keith Sosbe, KG6CGT

Heading for the Los Alamitos Hospital, I briefly check route/exit information and also select the appropriate GPS way point to avoid any wrong turns. There are 33 hospitals in Orange County and as a member of Hospital Disaster Support Communications Service (HDSCS) I have been to all of them, but it pays to be sure where one is going. When there is a break in radio traffic, I advise Net Control of my ETA and then take a quick look at the antenna listing. Turns out I have an incomplete out-dated copy, so a quick call to WA6NIA yields the location of the coax for the rooftop discone antenna at Los Alamitos. My ID badge is visible and attire is appropriate (left my holey Grateful Dead tee shirt at home).

While parking, I place the Emergency Communicator sign on the dash, report arrival, and log the time. I put one HT in a shirt pocket with the speaker-mic up on my collar. This will allow me to discretely monitor the net until I connect to the coax inside the hospital. There are two other HTs in my shoulder bag,; a dual-bander and a 220 w/which is useful inside buildings. That bag keeps getting heavier and heavier because I keep adding things that might come in handy. About once a quarter I have to weed it out. All batteries have been charged within the past week so I am in good shape with spare nicads plus alkalines. Chargers and big batteries are available in the SUV along with most of the coax and the j-poles which should not be needed today.

Inside, the first order of business is to find the Command Post and Incident Commander. The IC is happy to get his ham radio support and capably answers queries about hospital status (beds available, status of power, phones, water, structure, ambulances, and blood supply). While proceeding to the Emergency Department, I note a restroom location for future reference. The IC has provided a table and chair at the coax outlet that is near the HEAR/Reddinet operator. My pocket multi-tool comes in handy to remove the wall plate for access to the coax. A UHF-

to-BNC connector and stub coax joins the little Yaesu VX-150 to the discone antenna coax.

Since I am a solo operator here today, there is no need to establish and report an internal simplex frequency. The next call is to Control to give the initial status report using tactical call sign but will try to remember to use "KG6CGT" at appropriate intervals. Before transmitting, I review the message to be sure it is clear and complete. This is something that I need to work on.

In addition to Net Control, Central Point (County EOC), and Backup Net Control, there are 14 other Hospital Group stations on main frequency. My rough log (steno pad) shows that among those checking in are a couple of solid operators; fellow SOARA members John, AC7GK, is at St. Joe and Mitchell, KB6IIG, is at West Med Anaheim. I don't hear Heiko, AD6OI, or Patty, AD6OH, but I might have missed their calls.

After a couple short messages, it is time for a snack. A Balance Bar hits the spot and a leak-proof Nalgene jug of water is almost as good as a cup of coffee. Almost.

When the "all clear" is sounded, I check out, secure from the net and head home to recharge batteries, revise my checklist again...and add a couple more items/pounds to the shoulder bag, — just in case. Next month one of us has to go on a diet.

The event today was just a drill, one of many conducted during the year to help us hone our skills and to get used to working with other organizations. Since 9-11, most people take their drills more seriously.

Those of you involved with ACS, RACES, and other emergency communication organizations realize the satisfaction to be gained by contributing to the local community. You are also helping to perpetuate the amateur radio service by providing a unique and necessary service that helps justify our frequency allocations. Any licensed amateur can be a part of this worthwhile activity. All you need is an HT with batteries and a willingness to help others. It is also a way for a newer ham to work with more experienced amateurs and improve his or her operating abilities.

Here are some local organizations that would welcome the participation of a good amateur radio operator like you:

Those wishing to learn more about emergency communications may wish to take

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)

April Moell, WA6OPS
EmCom4Hosp@aol.com 714-879-6895
Web Site:
<http://members.aol.com/emcom4hosp>

Laguna Beach ACT

John Kountz, KE6GFF 949-494-8783

Mission Viejo ARES/RACES

Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ
wabruz@soara.org 949-770-2658
Web Site: www.qsl.net/races-ares

Laguna Niguel ACS/RACES

Al Way, KC6LNP
kc6lnp@soara.org 949-461-0684

Rancho Santa Margarita SMART

Bill Westfall, KD6NJP
billwestfall1@home.com 949-858-4542

Laguna Woods ACS

Art Welch, K7TX
awelch@fea.net 949-457-9091

American Red Cross

Larry Wilson, K6SCH
K6SCH@pacbell.net
714-540-7313
Monday net at 7:45 PM on 145.22 (PL: 103)
announces fast track classes

Salvation Army (SATERN)

Major Patrick McPherson, WW9E
WW9E@aol.com
Mrs. Bracey 773-725-1100

SKYWARN

(Southwest CA Skywarn Coordinator)
Phillip Pacier, AD6NH ad6nh@arrl.net

SOARA Communications Director

Ray Hutchison, AE6H
ae6h@soara.org 949-496-8020

the ARRL on-line Emergency Communications Course which is given in three phases. You take the course on your home computer at your own pace. Experienced mentors provide any necessary coaching.

Beginning in January, Level I will always open on the first Monday, Level II on the second Monday, and Level III on the third Monday. More info is at the ARRL web site - www.arrl.org/cce. The course is not free but it is a fair price.

□

Year 2002	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20 Auction	17	15	19	23	21	18 Auction	No meeting
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	28	—	18	—	20	22	15	—	23	—	18	—
Propagator Deadline												
Board Meeting	2/4	3/4	25	22	27	24	22	26	30	28	25	
Spring Auction					20							
ARRL Field Day						22 - 23						
SOARA picnic								3				
Fall Auction											18	
SOARA Holiday Party												1

Wake up!

By Ray Huttchinson, AE6H

The media has bombarded us nearly continuously with even the most minute of horrifying details about the attacks on New York and Washington, September 11th and subsequent events. Commentators and analysts have waxed endlessly about the causes, impacts, reasons, lessons, and effects upon our nation and our way of life. There is, however, one story and lesson that is relatively untold by the media, that I would like to briefly comment on.

This story is the one of the hundreds of hams, (over 500, actually) who responded to this tragedy, many from hundreds of miles away from "ground zero". When the World Trade towers collapsed, many of the area communications facilities fell with them. Since these buildings were "the biggest Hills" in New York City, they bristled with radio and telecommunications antennas serving commercial broadcasting stations, public safety repeaters, cellular telephone, microwave, pager messaging sites, and even some Ham machines. Hams provided badly needed local communications for the NYC Emergency Management Agency, The Red Cross, Salvation Army, hospitals, and more. These hams gave over 14,000* hours of service supporting this incident. Their contributions to the recovery have been very important.

What is the lesson for hams in SOARA and here in Southern California? We have, so far, been fortunate in escaping similar huge man made disasters like the September 11th incident. We pray that we will continue to be as fortunate. We do, however, regularly see our share of natural disasters. We are all familiar with earthquakes, wildfires, floods, mud slides, and other events that have struck around us in recent years and know we can expect more. The lesson then becomes: Hams, Wake up!!! This should be a very huge reminder to us that we need to be ready. As Amateurs, we have the equipment, knowledge, skills, and ability to lend great assistance to our communities, but *only* if we are prepared. September 11 screams at us to double check our stations and to fix those little problems that may leave our station less than 100% functioning. Let's take a little time to be sure we have charged Handi Talkie batteries, back up power sources, portable antennas, and a basic stock of emergency supplies for ourselves and our families. Consider keeping your cars at least half full of fuel, an extra jacket, blanket, even a sleeping bag in the trunk. Consider joining one of the several ARES/RACES emergency groups in our communities. In short, we all need to Wake Up and become more prepared. This is, for Hams, a major lesson from Sept. 11.

* Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, "This Couldn't be Real" *CQ Magazine*, Dec 2001, P38. □

Odds and Ends

Dues: Don't forget to get your dues payment in by the end of December! By mid January all who have paid their dues will receive a nifty membership manual which will include all of the instructions to use all of the features of SOARA's repeaters. It will also include a roster, the constitution and by-laws for the club, as well as other useful information. You will find this manual quite useful.

Class: Starting on January 29, 2002, SOARA will start a ten week class leading to the Tech. license. If you know anyone who would like to participate in this class either as a student or as a teacher, please contact Mike Mullard, KF6HVO (kf6hvo@soara.org)

This class is being advertised in several of the local cities' newsletters. This is good exposure for the club and a chance to reach out to potential new hams.

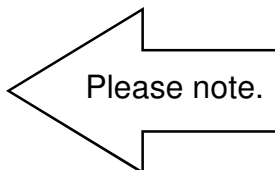
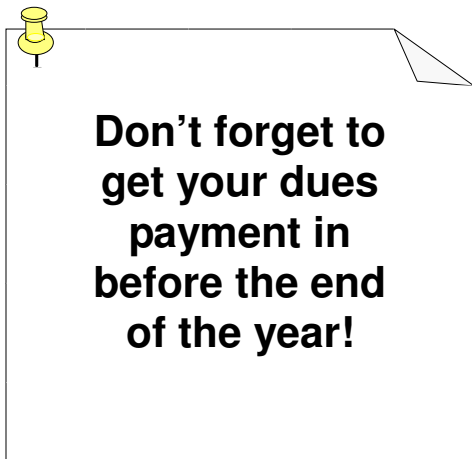
Emergency Communications: As you can see, we have two columns on emergency communications in this month's newsletter. SOARA has agreements with local emergency groups to use our repeaters in case of emergencies. Please consider how you can be involved and ready to use your skills when the need arises. □

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Meeting: No General Meeting in December See You Next Year

- ☛ **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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