

# The PROPAGATOR

May, 2002

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## Election Results

The SOARA Board held a special meeting, 7:00 pm, Wednesday, May 15, 2002 at Denny's Restaurant, 28241 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA. The purpose of this meeting was to tally the ballots for the election of the club officers and one Director.

Board Members present: Richard WW7D, Dale W8RRV, Chris KB6FYG, Mike KF6HVO, Heiko AD6OI, Ray AE6H.

As of 6:00 pm, May 15 2002, the number of ballots returned to the SOARA post office box was 26. The results of the tally of the ballots are:

- President:**  
Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 24
- Vice President:**  
Malcom Levy, KO6SY 26
- Secretary:**  
Richard Coyne, WW7D 25
- Treasurer:**  
Jerry Di Schino, KN6QK 26
- Technical Director:** (remainder of term)  
Bob Grant, N6CIC 24

The election results were certified by the Board. No other official business was conducted. The meeting was adjourned at 8 :00 pm.

## New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest members:

- Ted Bohrer KG6KIR
- Ron Bassolino KG6KIP

## Spring Cleanup Day

Ray Hutchenson, AE6H

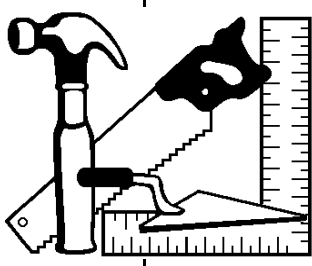
The spring clean up day at our main repeater site in Laguna Beach was a great success. A party of 12 club members descended on the site at 10 o'clock Saturday Morning, May 4th, eager to go to work. Among the things accomplished:

The programming of the controllers and computers was updated, and a number of user features were restored, notably the Digital Voice Recorder (DVR) functions such as the instant replay feature for checking your own signal strength and quality. Some other technical issues were addressed, and the interior of the facility was cleaned and slightly reorganized.

The main tower that holds the 2 meter (147.645) and the 440 (445.660) repeater antennas was lowered, the hardline connections cleaned and resealed, and the antenna mounting cross arm scraped, wire brushed, primed and painted. Additional painting for corrosion control of the tower and lowering mechanisms was also done. Because of the proximity of our site to the ocean, corrosion is a significant problem that needs to be addressed frequently.

A major project, the complete repainting of the exterior of our building, along with some repairs to the fascia and soffit was accomplished, so the "repeater house" looks fresh and new again. We believe that this may be the first repaint of the facility since construction about 15 years ago. This was a needed task and will preserve the condition of the facility, as well as help us be a good neighbor to the properties near the site.

Some grounds maintenance was also accomplished, including trimming of a rather large juniper and needed improvements to the drainage at the site. An updated plot plan



## T-Hunting Talk

This months presentation will be given by SOARA member Roger Kepner. W6SQQ. Roger's topic for the evening is mobile T-hunting;

- why we do it,
- how we do it,
- where, when, and
- what equipment we use.

A good sampling of gear will be displayed and construction plans for antennas and attenuators will be available.

Roger is an Extra class, holding his call since 1952, and has been a T-hunter for 20 years.



He served 3 terms as President of HROC, is President of the Sam's Radio Hams chapter of the Good Sam Club, and currently runs the SOARA raffle table.

Roger is retired and lives in Orange with his wife Carole (K6PUP).

of our facility and the several antennas used by SOARA and the other tenants that share our facility was drawn.

The industrious crew that participated included (in no particular order):

- Howard KG6GI, Dale W8RRV, Bob W6CIC, Ron KG6KIP, Jerry KN6QK, Keith WR6R, Paul KG6DRZ, Lou KG6FCT, Tak W6SI, Brian WA6CCF, Steve KR6CE, and me, Ray

AE6H.

I want to sincerely thank all of these great folks that gave up the majority of their Saturday so that SOARA can continue to have a first class repeater system. I truly appreciate the efforts and contributions of everyone that attended. We really do have a club that we all can be proud of.



## The Way I See It:

### Emergency Operations Continued

Last month in this space was an article about emergency communications. An emergency drill in which HDSCS (the hospital support group) participated. It was intended to give the reader a feeling for the functions of emergency radio operations. We could have hardly planned it, but a real emergency occurred on April 23 which involved the same hospital group. Below is an item from the ARRL newsletter. Following that is another article by Keith Soesbe, WR6R, in which he gives some of the details of the operation. Keith is a SOARA member and an active participant in the hospital emergency group.

### ARES Teams Activate Following Fatal Train Wrecks

ARRL Letter, Vol 21, No. 17, April 26, 2002

In California, a freight train collided head-on April 23 with a Metrolink double-decker commuter train. Ironically, the mishap occurred just as hospitals and emergency responders in Orange County were about to hold a large-scale drill to test patient triage and transportation procedures for mass casualty incidents.

Two dozen members of the Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS)—a special ARES group that always participates in the drill—were awaiting assignments when word came in of the train collision. Two passengers were killed and more than 200 were injured—many seriously. Orange County ARES Emergency Coordinator and HDSCS Net Control April Moell, WA6OPS, immediately assigned the drill-ready hams to the 14 hospitals expected to receive crash victims. For the next 4-1/2 hours, 28 HDSCS members provided vital links among the hospitals, the county's ambulance dispatch center and the county's emergency medical service agency.

Net traffic included verifying victim dispatch and patient counts, providing hospitals with information for inquiring family members, and liaison with hams supporting the Red Cross. Within some hospitals, hams provided direct communication among triage areas,

emergency departments, and command posts.

Moell is founder and Emergency Coordinator of the ARES group. More information is available on the HDSCS Web site: <http://www.hdscs.org>.

### SOARA HAMS RESPOND TO MASS CASUALTY TRAIN COLLISION

by Keith Soesbe, WR6R

Al Way, KC6LNP was on his way to his first drill with the Hospital Disaster Support Communications Service (HDSCS) at 0815 on Tuesday, April 23, 2002. This was to be a quarterly drill designed to test mass casualty triage and patient transportation procedures. Unfortunately, a 6,000-ton, mile-long Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) freight train rammed a Metrolink double-decker commuter train in Placentia shortly before the exercise was to start. The collision caused 2 fatalities and hundreds of injuries—an actual mass casualty incident (MCI) similar to the drill planned for the day which would involve 7 fire agencies and many hospitals. HDSCS Emergency Coordinator (EC) April Moell, WA6OPS (spouse of popular T-hunt guru/speaker Joe Moell, K0OV) smoothly shifted gears and dispatched amateur radio operators to 14 different North Orange County hospitals likely to receive the majority of the casualties. These hams are trained to provide vital backup communications links from each hospital to County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), other hospitals, suppliers, incident site, American Red Cross, and others as needed. Net Control orchestrates the radio traffic, diverting some messages to other frequencies as needed.

Al, who is also the Radio Officer for Laguna Niguel RACES, is an experienced operator, but this was his first actual response with HDSCS. He went to Anaheim Memorial Medical Center which received over fifty casualties, more than any other of the 10 hospitals that actually received patients from the disaster. Al reported to the EOC, connected to the coax for the roof-top discone antenna and setup to provide internal simplex and external repeater communications as needed. He wore a vest to show his role in implementing the Incident

Command System (ICS). Most of the radio traffic for this incident involved patient count, triage levels, location of patients, and how many casualties were en route to each hospital. Within some hospitals, hams provided direct communications between triage areas, Emergency Departments, and Command Posts. After the EOC stood down from the emergency the Incident Commander (IC) sincerely thanked Al for the timely professional support that we "amateurs" typically provide. This was followed by an offer of lunch at the hospital cafeteria and a drive home glowing with pride from the satisfaction of having provided responsive critical service for the people of Orange County in a time of need.

John Walker, AC7GK, made the drive up from San Clemente and reported to Chapman Medical Center which received 5 of the casualties. We have not heard from John since the event but he is always a welcome operator on the net.

Keith Soesbe, WR6R, responded to Western Medical Center Anaheim

which handled 7 patients from the train wreck. His main reaction to this response was that it was just like a drill, which suggests that HDSCS training and drills are well-done.

There were 28 total amateur radio operators in the initial response. More would have been needed for a round-the-clock operation. Emergency Coordinator Moell commented that "we couldn't have done it without the hams from South County". This was the 75th hospital communications emergency response in the 21-year history of the organization.

Hams can "pay their dues" in a variety of ways—Elmer, trainer, VE, club officer, committee member, etc. Public Service, especially emergency communications, is an excellent way to help preserve the amateur radio service (and enjoy operating while you do it). HDSCS is an especially active ARES organization with a national reputation. It welcomes the involvement of men and women who are good operators. You can find additional information at [www.hdscs.org](http://www.hdscs.org) or you can talk to Heiko Peschell, AD6OI, Patti Peschell, AD6OH, Mitchell Knight, KB6IIG, Al Way, KC6LNP, Keith Soesbe, WR6R, or John Walker, AC7GK.



Year 2002	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20	17	15	19	23	21	18 Auction	No meeting
<b>Program</b>				DX W6XD	T-hunt W6SQQ	pre Field Day	Contest Station	RF Safety			Auction	
<b>VEC Testing</b> 5:30 PM	28	—	18	—	20	22	15	—	23	—	18	—
<b>Propagator Deadline</b>												
<b>Board Meeting</b>	2/4	3/4	25	22	27	24	22	26	30	28	25	
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>						22 - 23						
<b>SOARA picnic</b>								3				
<b>Fall Auction</b>											18	
<b>SOARA Holiday Party</b>												1

### Field Day Preparation

For many hams the high point of the year is Field Day. This nation wide event combines many aspects of Amateur Radio. There are activities to appeal to everyone. For many it is the one contest in which they participate. Incidentally, SOARA has scored quite high for the past several years. We consistent rank among the top scoring clubs in our category.

Due to recent local and national events most hams have a heightened awareness of emergency operations. Field Day is an exercise in emergency procedures. A complete field operation is set up in just a few hours, and the operation is conducted under simulated emergency conditions.

All power is from generators and batteries. The messages sent and received during the contest are short and contain precise information. Most of all, Field Day is a fun event shared with other club members. Plan on being there on June 22 and 23. For information contact Steve Perluss, KR6CE.

**Thanks** to Jim Kelley, AC6XG, for the donation of a set of multiple headphones. These headphones can be used for giving Morse code tests to multiple candidates.

The following note was received by Mike, KF6HVO, Director of Education.



Michael,

Thanks to the several SOARA members who taught the recent class for preparing for the FCC licensing exam. I passed and now have a Technician class license. My call is: KG6KWY.

Each of the instructors helped me understand the subject matter they covered, some more than others, but each did a good job in his own way. They were genuinely interested in helping us and their enthusiasm for Amateur Radio was evident. Please express my appreciation to them.

I haven't decided whether to join SOARA at this time, and, as my wife and I will be travelling from mid May until mid September, I'm putting off that decision until we return to Southern California.

I purchased a Kenwood TH-F6A 144/220/440 MHz Tribander to use locally as well as on the road. I look forward to being a part of the Amateur Radio community.

Lloyd Gomez  
KG6KWY

# The PROPAGATOR



## South Orange Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 2545  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Address Service Requested

**Meeting: May 205, 2002 at 7:00 PM  
Roger Kepner, W6SQQ**

☛ **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 SOARA meetings every other month. 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.

☛ **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 (7.268 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM. PSK - 31 net (28.120.15, 1000 on waterfall) Friday 7:00 PM.

### SOARA OFFICERS

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*V.P.:* Malcolm Levy, KO6SY ..... 949-951-1882

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*Secretary:* Richard Coyne, WW7D ..... 949-855-4689

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### SOARA DIRECTORS

*Repeater:* Howard Brown, KG6GI ..... 949-581-2634

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*Communications:* Open .....

### SOARA COMMITTEES

*Activities:* Steve Perluss, KR6CE ..... 949-364-6195

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*License Trustee:* Paul Levey, NZ1M ..... 949-380-0399

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