



# The PROPAGATOR

December, 2003

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## 2003, What a Great Year it Was!

By any measure 2003 was a good year for SOARA. We started January with Art Goddard, W6XD, taking us along on the TK4Z DXpodition. His vivid description and photographs made it the next best thing to having been there. It was also in January that BCWS joined us, increasing membership roster and bringing the repeater count to six.

The February speaker was Kevin Karamonos, WD6DIH, who reviewed some of the latest developments in ham radio gear. In addition, he gave us a look at some of the fruits of his recent endeavors in the field of roadway safety. His super bright LED flares were quite a hit — he donated some for the raffle.

Pete Juul, W6PJ, who came from BCWS, gave a presentation in March on Remote Base operation. In April another member from BCWS, John Hoot, N6NHP, presented an equally fine presentation. His topic was Radio Astronomy — a field of research that was started by an amateur (not just an amateur astronomer, but an amateur radio operator!)

May was the time for the spring auction and, it was well attended with a good collection of nice equipment available. Other activities of note included a large graduating class of new hams. Club pride could now be shown with new SOARA club jackets.

The June meeting was dedicated to Field Day preparations — well, last minute preparations. A lot of work had already been done by volunteers. As it always seems to, the actual field day event went smoothly. The antennas went up, the

batteries were in place, and the rigs were ready to go when the time came. SOARA's emphasis is always on everyone getting involved and having fun. The good scores and fun just seem to come naturally. This year was no exception. K6SOA was the top 3A entry in the ORG section. (There were only two other clubs in California with higher scores in the 3A category.)

In July several SOARA members volunteered to work at the Ham Radio booth at the Orange County Fair. The general meeting for that month was presided over by Malcolm Levy, KO6SY, who tested our knowledge in a campaign to encourage the use of the club's Elmers.

Several of the club members became active in using EchoLink, and Howard Brown, KG6GI, SOARA's Repeater Director, implemented an EchoLink capability on the 445.660 repeater. At the August meeting Brian Roode, NJ6N, gave a presentation and demonstration of EchoLink. The amount of activity on the 440 machine has increased dramatically with the new DX capability.

September saw HAMCON roll around with a lot of SOARA members participating. We had a table at the convention, and SOARA took charge of the Wouff Hong ceremony. The reports we received were that ours was one of the best . . . and would we consider doing it in the future! A high point of the convention was when one of our members, Dave Seroski, KG6QCI, was presented with a Special Service Award for a video he produced on ham radio.

## 2004 Here We Come!

It looks as if 2004 will be just as great a year as 2003. We have the January and February speakers lined up, and what a lineup. In January Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be our guest speaker. Gordon is always entertaining and informative. Plan on being at the meeting on January 26, and bring a friend. It has been quite some time since Gordon has been here, and we expect to have a large attendance at this meeting.

February's speaker will be Art Goddard, W6XD. Art always has an interesting topic and will have insights to share on the activities of the ARRL. Incidentally, if you are not now a member of ARRL, or if your renewal is due, bring your check book to this meeting and sign up. The League is the best and most important voice we have with the government. The meeting will be on February 23.

**Note that the January and February meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month.** The reason is that the third Mondays are both holidays and the Civic Center is not open. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. We hope to see you there. □

In October John Hoot returned to talk on Digital Radio. In November the Fall Auction more interesting gear to bid on.

We do not have a general meeting in December, but the annual party is held early in the month. The location this year was the Dragon Buffet in Lake Forest. In addition to great food (at a modest price) we were treated to a new video by Dave Seroski. It was a review of the high points of the year through his sharp and often comical lens. You can expect to see it shown again. □

# Happy New Year

## 2004

### 2004 Schedule of SOARA Activities

Year 2004	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	26	23	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	—
Program	WB6NO A	W6XD			Auction						Auction	No meeting
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	26	23	15	19	17	21 26	19	16	20	18	15	—
Propagator Deadline	18	15	7	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	7	
Board Meeting	2/2	3/1	22	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	
ARRL Field Day						26-27						
SOARA Picnic								7				
SOARA Holiday Party												5

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