



# The PROPAGATOR

June, 2003

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Fair Days for Hams	Field Day Schedule	June Meeting: FD Prep.																												
<p>Each year the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO) sponsors an informational booth at the Orange County Fair. The booth, located in the Orange County Pavilion, is staffed by Ambassador-volunteers from the various ham clubs throughout the county. The purpose of the booth is to educate the public about Ham Radio, and make them, as well as unaffiliated local hams, aware of the various amateur radio organizations in their area. OCCARO has asked SOARA for our help.</p> <p>OCCARO is looking for hams to cover the booth for the following dates and times:</p> <p>7/13, Sunday 10:00 to 23:00            7/23, Wednesday 12:00 to 23:00            7/25, Friday 12:00 to 18:00            7/29, Tuesday 12:00 to 23:00</p> <p>The plan is to have people work in four hour shifts, but this is a bit flexible. Two hours is the minimum shift. Free parking in the staff/exhibitor lot, as well as free fair admission for the day(s) you work is provided. Advance registration of booth staff is required in order for you to obtain passes and tickets.</p> <p>If you can help out by donating some time, you'll find that this is a great way to teach others about Amateur Radio and to promote SOARA.</p> <p>Contact me: Ray, <a href="mailto:ae6h@soara.org">ae6h@soara.org</a> if you can help out. See you there! <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Friday, June 27, at about 6:00 PM, club members will meet at Gilleran Park for a site survey and to plan the location of wire antennas. Not a lot of work will be done, but it is a lot of fun. If you have never seen a "spud gun" in action, show up for the fun and hot dogs.</p>  <p>Check the SOARA web page [<a href="http://www.soara.org">www.soara.org</a>] for a map to the site at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. The link is just above the Field Day photo.</p> <p>Saturday, June 28, at about 7:00 AM, the troops will gather and start setting up. Many hands are needed to get all of those antennas up in the air, the rigs placed, connected and operating. At 11:00 AM (1800 UTC) the contest starts. Each rig will require an operator and a logger. The pace can get fast, but it is fun and not as intimidating as it first seems.</p> <p>A Get On The Air (GOTA) station will be in operation for more leisurely operation and for visitors. (You don't have to have a license to talk on the air. There will be plenty of "control operators" available.)</p> <p>In addition to good food and fellowship there will be some special modes in operation. Slow scan TV, Satellite QSOs, and Digital modes will be demonstrated. There will be something for everyone.</p> <p>Remember the sunscreen, and come out some time during the 24 hours of operating time. We take down the equipment at 11:00 AM on Sunday — and go home to rest! <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>It is June, and that means that Field Day is fast approaching. This year's event is shaping up as an exceptionally good one in terms of participation. There is a lot of interest in the club, and the general public seems to have a level of interest not seen in the past. Visits by city government officials promise to far exceed past records. Obviously, the high interest in emergency preparedness is one of the driving forces.</p> <p>Additional factors are at work within SOARA, and they promise to make this a banner year. Due in great part to the efforts of the Membership Director, KI6HZ, and to the Education Director, KQ6TL, SOARA's membership is growing. Field Day is the ideal event for new members to become involved. Our new members have already shown a willingness to help.</p> <p>The June meeting on the 16th will be dedicated to making final arrangements for the activities. Explanation of this years rules and operating procedures will also be covered. Everyone can make some contribution — and will have the opportunity to learn. <input type="checkbox"/></p>																												
<h2 style="text-align: center;">New Members</h2> <p>Welcome to SOARA's newest members:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Nate Efries</td> <td>KK6FK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Cunningham</td> <td>KD6HQS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ray Bell</td> <td>KG6QWY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nancy Collins</td> <td>KG6QWW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Edwards</td> <td>KG6QWR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Seroski</td> <td>KG6QCI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Roberts</td> <td>KG6PTO</td> </tr> </table>	Nate Efries	KK6FK	Bill Cunningham	KD6HQS	Ray Bell	KG6QWY	Nancy Collins	KG6QWW	Nick Edwards	KG6QWR	Dave Seroski	KG6QCI	Jeff Roberts	KG6PTO		<h2 style="text-align: center;">Election Results</h2>  <p>Thanks to all who voted in the SOARA election of Directors. In addition to the directors, the secretary who had been serving as an appointed replacement, stood for election. The votes are in and counted. The slate of candidates appreciates the expression of support by the membership.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Mike Mullard, KF6HVO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Repeater</td> <td>Howard Brown, KG6GI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publications</td> <td>Dale Griffith, W8RRV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>Jim Riedel, KI6HZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Chad Edwards, KQ6TL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical</td> <td>Bob Grant, W6CIC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Paul Robert, ND6Q <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Secretary	Mike Mullard, KF6HVO	Repeater	Howard Brown, KG6GI	Publications	Dale Griffith, W8RRV	Membership	Jim Riedel, KI6HZ	Education	Chad Edwards, KQ6TL	Technical	Bob Grant, W6CIC	Communications	Paul Robert, ND6Q <input type="checkbox"/>
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## The Way I See It: Report from Dayton

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 SOARA's Repeater Director, Howard Brown, KG6GI, has been traveling in the Eastern US. He stopped in Ohio long enough to visit the Dayton Hamfest.

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 Below is an e-mail report based on his observations of what is new in Amateur Radio equipment.

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 This year marks my second opportunity to participate in the Dayton Hamfest. This annual event is said to be the largest, best-supported ham event in the country. There were about 200 commercial and club exhibitors in the inside area and probably a like amount in the outside flea market area.

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 The Hamfest is held in Hara Arena just north

and west of Dayton. All of the standard vendors were present (e.g. Kenwood, I-COM, etc.) along with very interesting exhibits from those vendors you see in the small ads.

One of the interesting products that I-COM is developing is the first set of digital communications radios. Nomenclatured the ID-1, the first digital radio is scheduled for release late this summer (i.e. August). This will be a 1.2 "mobile" side radio. The radio will operate in a point-to-point mode with other digital radios that are compliant with the WIRES II standard which is expected to be approved by the Japanese technical community in the next couple of months. Thus the radio will operate much like our current radios and will provide one voice channel (8 Kbps sampling). The more interesting aspect of this radio is that it provides a 128 Kbps data path between the radios. The interface to the radio will be 10baseT physical and TCP/IP logical. The transmitting radio adds its own encapsulation which is removed by the receiving radio. In addition, the radio provides a USB port for remote operation of the radio itself (e.g. tuning). Later planned products include a digital repeater (analogous to a router) and a 10 GHz digital gateway (analogous to a WAN).

It looks like Yaesu will also be offering WIRES II compliant equipment. Nothing was apparent at the Kenwood, Alinco or AOR booths.

Another interesting vendor was DX Engineering which offers construction materials for antennas

(ref: [www.Dxengineering.com](http://www.Dxengineering.com)).

Their offerings include boom clamps, boom materials, matching element kits, radial base plates, etc.

Flagpole antennas are now available from Force 12 (ref: [www.force12inc.com](http://www.force12inc.com)). Degen Designs was offering a multi-band quad that looked to be very well built. It is specified as 10.1 dB forward gain and 21 dB front/back ratio

(ref: [www.degen designs.com](http://www.degen designs.com)).

AOR was displaying a Spectrum Display, model SDU5600, which offers a 5" color LCD display and can interface with radios with a 10.7 MHz IF frequency

(ref: [www.aorja.com](http://www.aorja.com)).

Going to the Dayton Hamfest is something every Ham should do at least once in their lifetime.

**Howard Brown, KG6GI** □

## UP-CLOSE & PERSONAL:



Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, SOARA President

By Robin Whaling, KG6MCA

We thought it would be appropriate to have our SOARA President, Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, as our first inductee in the **Up-Close**

& Personal column. Ray has a BS in Industrial Engineering from the University of Maryland and has worked over 30 years for the Orange County Fire Authority. He has been a Fire Captain for 24 years and is currently stationed in Trabuco Canyon at Station 18. He lives with his wife, Debby, in Dana Point, along with their two cats. His hobbies include 4-wheeling offroad driving and home improvement.

Ray became interested in amateur radio while in junior high. It wasn't until about 1995, when he reconnected with a high school buddy that had gotten licensed in college, that Ray decided to go for it himself. He became an extra in 1996 and has spent most of his time on VHF/UHF and some digital modes. His favorite event of the year is Field Day.

As president, Ray would like to see SOARA continue to reinvent the club to meet the needs of the younger generation. Other priorities are to keep traditional activities such as the Elmer's Group, Auctions, Field Day, etc. which serve the membership.

"This requires us to redirect ourselves for the

future and to figure out the needs of the group." He went on to say, "I think that is why we are so successful at SOARA — because we are not just single-focused. We are open to new ideas and change, and the many aspects of Amateur Radio. We have a diverse group of people, many of which are experts in their field, and they are willing to share their expertise with everyone."

Ray also encourages everyone in the group to get involved. "It means hearing a new call sign on the repeater and introducing yourself or inviting someone to a meeting. It encourages others to feel welcome and to share their interest in HAM Radio." Ray also said, "I just can't imagine not belonging to a club. That's how growth in the hobby happens when you share yourself with others."

Lastly, Ray wanted to thank SOARA for helping him learn not only about amateur radio, but about people. "We have the greatest group of people at SOARA. They all care about each other, encourage each other, and look after each other like family. It's great to see that in this day and age." □

Year 2003	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	27	24	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17 Auction	No meeting
Program	W6XD	WD6DIH	W6PJ	N6NHP	Spring Auction	Field Day					Fall Auction	
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	27	24	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	—
Propagator Deadline	21	17	10	14	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	
Board Meeting	2/3	3/3	24	28	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	
ARRL Field Day						28/29						
SOARA picnic								2				
Fall Auction											17	
SOARA Holiday Party												7

### ON THE AIR

Operating Tips by  
John Walker,

#### Time courtesy is a valuable part of radio work.

We all generally pause whenever we unkey to let someone else in, since quick-keying is deadening to others on the frequency, effectively shutting them out. Yet people are still hesitant to break into an established conversation even if there is an opening. So it is a really nice touch to say, once in a while if the conversation gets lengthy, "We will now stand by for 20 seconds in case someone else would like to use the repeater or join the conversation." Then we leave that amount of dead space, ending it with "Since nothing was heard . . ." This courtesy will be appreciated by all listeners whether or not

they want to join in.

Also, it is a nice idea to take the extra time to remain on frequency for a few seconds after signing out of a conversation or announcing that we are leaving the air. There may be someone waiting to contact us who did not want to break into the QSO to do it.

Spending a little more time in ways like these is a nice, esthetic touch in radio work that increases the pleasure of all who use the airwaves.

Next time it will be time for a little more time to be spent on time.

#### Something To Think About

By Ray, AE6H

SOARA recently held our Technician licensing class with great success, and we have 15 new hams as a result. This means we will be hearing some new call signs on our repeaters. I'd like to encourage each of you, when you hear a new ham "Listening", to take a minute and respond to the call.

I still vividly remember my first few QSO's, as a newly licensed ham, all on the SOARA .645 machine. I also warmly remember the

friendly response of Cliff, N6PWC, to my first (with great trepidation, I must add) call. My second QSO, just minutes later, was with KD6SBI (Now AD6OI), Heiko. These first few QSO's are memories that will last for many years.

This brings me to my point. When hearing a new or unfamiliar older call on the SOARA machines, please make the attempt to warmly welcome the newcomer to our machines. It takes so little effort, and you may very well make great lasting memories for a fellow ham.

#### Elmer Update

Are you tempted to take out membership in the Resistentialists<sup>1</sup> of America? Do you suffer from techno-angst? Are you *FOILED* — Frequently Outwitted by Inanimate, Lame Electronic Devices? There is hope!

SOARA is assembling a team of Elmers who are willing to spend some time helping others. If you can help with problems in some area then contact Lou Frank, KG6FCT, and join the growing list of Elmers.

Half of the SOARA membership hold Advanced or Extra Class licenses. Send an e-mail to Lou [kg6fct@soara.org] letting him know that you will be available to help.

If you are looking for help, below is a list of current areas and volunteers. They can be reached via e-mail : [elmers@soara.org](mailto:elmers@soara.org).

Antennas: AD6OI, KG6FCT  
Computers: KG6JAD, NJ6N  
Home-brew: AD6OH, KG6FCT  
Digital, APRS NJ6N

#### 1 resistentialism

(ri.zis.TEN.shul.iz.um) *n.* The belief that inanimate objects have a natural antipathy toward human beings, and therefore it is not people who control things, but things which increasingly control people.

# The PROPAGATOR

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



## Meeting: June 16, 2003 at 7:00 PM Field Day Preview

☛ **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. Exams are from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Walk-in applicants are welcome. For information call Paul Levey, NZ1M, at 949-249-0121.

☛ **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, 70 cm and 224.100 MHz repeaters are open to all licensed hams.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 – (110.9) Laguna Beach

SOARA 2m — 146.025 + (110.9) San Clemente

SOARA 2m — 145.240 – (110.9) Trabuco

SOARA 220 — 224.100 – (110.9) Laguna Beach

SOARA 440 — 445.660 – (110.9) Laguna Beach

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 — 224.640 – (123.0) Santiago Pk. (C)

HROC 440 — 447.180 – (131.8) Santiago Pk. (C)

☛ **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.

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