



The PROPAGATOR

April, 2004

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

April Moell, WA6OPS on Hospital Support

April Moell has been the Emergency Coordinator of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System in Orange County and participated in hospital disaster planning since 1980. She has had over 20 years of patient care experience, is a former hospital department head and has a Master's degree in Human Resources Management. Active in Amateur Radio since 1976, and holding an Advanced Class license, she has developed its potential for use in local hospital disaster plans. In addition, she has identified the value and appropriate use of other alternative communication resources and consults in the area of medical disaster communications.

Locally, she is a regular member of the hospital disaster committees that plan the yearly hospital mass casualty drills and the Orange County Disaster Advisory Group. She has coordinated and presented programs at numerous disaster and radio conferences since 1983. In addition, she has written a handbook, "Amateur Radio: A Communications Resource for Hospitals" and articles for medical, government, and Amateur Radio publications.

There is a wealth of information available at the HDSCS web site: www.HDSCS.org ☐

SOARA Election

It is time for SOARA's annual election. On even years the officers stand for election. This year's slate of officers includes:

President: Ray Hutchinson (AE6H)

Vice President: Jim Yetter, (K6LIO)

Secretary: Mike Mullard (KF6HVO)

Treasurer: Steve Perluss (KR6CE) ☐

KG6OYN and NJ6N win the April T-Hunt

SOARA conducted its fourth transmitter hunt (T-Hunt) of 2004 on Sunday the 4th of April. This hunt started promptly at 1:00 PM.

The hunters divided themselves into three teams as shown below:

Team A

KF6MDF - Karl
W8RRV - Dale
W5LON - Tom

Team B

K6RBS - Richard
KG6QCI - Dave

Team C

KG6OYK - Steve
NJ6N - Brian

The transmitter was hidden on Kite Hill in Laguna Niguel at the corner of Alicia Parkway and Alicia Creek Road about 100 feet above the surrounding terrain. The unit was placed under a large tree/shrub whose branches drooped down to the ground providing good camouflage. The antenna was placed into a horizontal configuration with a null aimed toward Mission Viejo. The transmitter provided 500 milli-watts into a relatively inefficient antenna.

Team C found the transmitter first after 1 hour 36 minutes while team B found it 9 minutes later after 1 hour 45 minutes. Team A took a more methodological approach and arrived at the transmitter after 2 hours 50 minutes.

The transmitter will be hidden next on the first Sunday of May (May 2) by the winners of this hunt, KG6OYK and/or NJ6N.

Thanks to everyone for an entertaining afternoon.

Howard G. Brown
SOARA Hunt Master ☐

A Note from Joe Moell — Fox Hunt Results

I really enjoyed talking to SOARA members about on-foot foxhunting at the March 15 meeting. It brought out several SOARA members ready to give it a try. We had four beginner fox transmitters, all in different directions from the start point near the park entrance. One was 50 yards away from the starting point and the others about 300 yards away. The newcomers discovered, just as others have before, that small and lightweight antennas are easiest to carry for long distances, and that an RF attenuator is a must for continuing to get bearings as you close in. I hope that they're already working on some new foxhunting equipment to be ready for next time.

Results of the timed beginners:

Name	Call	Time	Foxes
Dave Seroski	KG6QCI	3:13:55	4
Roman Kamienski	KG6QMZ	1:38:01	3
Tak Asami	W6SI	1:29:31	1

Brian Roode, NJ6N, went out for almost two hours, coming close but without finding any of the beginner foxes. He came back and borrowed an active attenuator, then went out untimed and was much more successful.

The advanced course proved to be excellent training for the upcoming USA Championships. Total distance of the shortest practical route was 5.2 kilometers (3.3 miles) with 410 feet total climb. Eighteen-year-old Jay Thompson, W6JAY, was on his way to achieving the best overall time for finding all foxes, but he had to come back to the start for a fresh radio battery after finding his first two. Based on the route he described afterwards, he ran at least 7 kilometers to get them all. Two

Continued on Page 3 ➔



The Way I See It:

Gordon West, Guest Columnist

HIGH FREQUENCY FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATORS

THE HIGH FREQUENCY BAND: 3 MHz-30 MHz. Modest groundwave coverage to 15 miles, any terrain. Extraordinary skywave coverage, beginning 20 miles out to 1,000 miles. HF equipment prices have never been lower--new ICOM 718, \$500. Combined HF/VHF/UHF equipment, typically \$800.

A simple dipole antenna with coax may be obtained for less than \$9. It will compete favorably with \$99 set-of-5 mobile antennas!

High-frequency license requirement: General class. Required code speed, 5 wpm.

Breaking news: American Radio Relay League Petition to the FCC RM-10867 recommends high-frequency privileges on selected HF bands for a no-code, entry-level, Novice licensee, plus no-testing upgrade of any current licensed Technician class operator to all high-frequency General class privileges.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) also recommends high-frequency privileges to entry-level "communicator" class operators, plus no-test upgrades to current Technician class operators to worldwide General class privileges.

Many other petitions also support selected high-frequency, long-range frequency allocations to beginning operators who may have never passed a Morse Code exam.

For emergency communications, high-frequency comms are spread out on multiple bands to enable specific range requirements without relays. South Pacific typhoon traffic worked the 15-meter band for direct comms to the American Red Cross national headquarters on the East Coast. The Alaska earthquake was handled "one single hop" years ago on 20 meters. The Loma Prieta earthquake that rocked San Francisco and Santa Cruz was a loud-and-clear, single-hop,

skywave on 40 meters. The recent San Bernardino fires played out on 75 meters between Big Bear and the Norton shelter. In the early morning hours of the pre-dawn Northridge quake, 160 meters and 75 meters carried the traffic loud and clear.

"Any level of (high-frequency) experience is beneficial in terms of emergency/disaster communications. The discipline and accuracy in message handling which are derived from (high-frequency) participation are real assets," comments Jerry Boyd, KG6LF, in his book available from Worldradio called **WHEN THE BIG ONE HITS. . . A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS**. Boyd points out that regular training including daily nets may check both communication high-frequency paths as well as equipment and antenna considerations. And on high frequency, knowing the "path" and knowing the capabilities of your HF mobile, base, and portable system is indeed an important emergency communications consideration.

DAILY ORANGE COUNTY ARES NET

Every morning, 0830 to 0900 local Pacific time, Monday through Friday, 7251 kHz, lower sideband, the 40-meter band.

"Local VHF and UHF emergency nets can benefit with longer-range, high-frequency, SSB 'pipelines' to other parts of the state or other parts of the country," as explained in multiple modules of the American Radio Relay League Emergency Communicator's Computer Home-Study Course.

"Local comms on VHF/UHF combined with regional and long-range communications over high frequency from a disaster communications radio site make good sense," comments William Alber, WA6CAX, an emergency operations center trainer and aircraft operator regularly checking into the 7251 kHz morning net air-mobile.

SOARA has positioned its members to participate regularly in Orange County disaster communications. Many of you support the excellent Hospital Group. This month April will describe all of the accomplishments. Now that Personal Locator Beacons are popping up on the air around Saddleback, no doubt Joe, K0OV, may detail the ham operator opportunities of tracking down an injured hiker with an activated PLB.

And for the high-frequency operators every morning, we relay the latest FCC and local

ham news, regularly call for signal reports and HF station status, and advise every operator to immediately come up on the air at anytime when a major event occurs from the Canadian border to the Mexican border, and as far east as Utah. These are our regular morning check-ins on 40 meters!

When Loma Prieta hit the Bay Area, my initial 40-meter contact was with Bill visiting his parents in Watsonville, California. On 40 meters, he told me the town was decimated and the city of Santa Cruz cut off from nearly the rest of the world who were only thinking that San Francisco was ground zero. Valuable resources were alerted via 40 meters ham radio that the coastal cities needed help just as much as San Francisco. And just like in the Alaska quake, high frequency was the only comms in and out of the disaster area.

Join us on 7251 kHz any morning, and be part of the Orange County Amateur Radio Emergency Service net.

Gordon West, WB6NOA

Emergency Communications Groups serving South Orange County Cities

Laguna Beach: Laguna Beach Auxiliary Communications Service (LBACS) ARES/RACES
Contact: John Kountz, KE6GFF, (949) 494-8783

Laguna Niguel: Laguna Niguel Auxiliary Communications Service (LNACS) ARES/RACES
Contact: Al Way, KC6LNP, (949) 461-0684

Laguna Woods: Laguna Woods RACES
Contact: Art Welch, K7TX, (949) 457-9091

Mission Viejo: Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club (MVEARC) ARES/RACES
Contact: Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ, (949) 770-2658

Santa Margarita: Santa Margarita Amateur Radio Team (SMART) ARES
Contact: Bill Westphal, N6NJP, (949) 858-4542

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	No meeting
Program	WB6NOA	W6XD	K0OV		Auction						Auction	
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	26	23	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	—
Propagator Deadline	18	15	7	11	9	13, 26	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								2				
SOARA Holiday Party												7

FOX continued from page 1

of the hunters (KD6I and KE6HTS) had limited time available to spend on the course, but they made the most of it.

Name	Call	Time	Foxes
Jay Hennigan	WB6RDV	2:35:56	5
Jay Thompson	W6JAY	2:40:56	5
Don Lewis	KF6GQ	3:37:48	5
Dean Dods	KD6I	2:24:55	4
Scott Moore	KF6IKO	4:13:56	4
Tom Gaccione	WB2LRH	3:30:15	3
Marvin Johnston	KE6HTS	2:13:00	2
Bill Smathers	KG6HXX	2:23:01	2
Richard Thompson	WA6NOL	1:08:53	1

Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, was the only one with enough stamina and time after the 2m hunt to go out and find the lone 80m transmitter. He ran the 1.3 kilometers (0.8 mile) to get there, found it, and got back in 23 minutes.

A dozen photos are at www.homingin.com

The next event will be Saturday, April 17, in the TravelTown section of Griffith Park in Los Angeles. I hope to see you there. Details and map are at www.homingin.com

Joe Moell K0OV



From the President's Desk

By now you should have received your official 2004 SOARA Ballot. As you may know, the SOARA constitution requires Officers to be elected in even numbered years, and Directors to be elected in odd numbered years. Officers or Directors appointed to fill vacancies are also placed on the next ballot. The names appearing on this ballot are the Board of Directors slate of candidates. There have been no other nominations received by the Board; however, each office has a space provided for write in candidates.

Please vote and cast your ballot either by mail, or turn it in at the next regular meeting, on April 19, 2004. The results will be published in the May Propagator newsletter. Your vote is important to us!

Thank you, and 73!

Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, President

SOARA HF net (40 m) notice: Our usual frequency (7.268 MHz) suffers from severe QRM from a broadcast station since the time change. We are looking for a new frequency. The frequency in use will be announced on the 147.645 repeater on Sunday morning.

The PROPAGATOR

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



**Meeting: April 19, 2004 at 7:00 PM
APRIL MOELL, WA6OPS**

☛ **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 147.645 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 949-481-5454.

☛ **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, 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.

SOARA OFFICERS

President: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-496-8020

ae6h@soara.org

V.P.: Jim Yetter, K6LIO 949-581-3123

k6lio@soara.org

Secretary: Mike Mullard, KF6HVO 949-249-2846

kf6hvo@soara.org

Treasurer: Steve Perluss, KR6CE 949-364-6195

kr6ce@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

Repeater: Howard Brown, KG6GI 949-581-2634

kg6gi@soara.org

Publications: Dale Griffith, W8RRV 949-830-3767

w8rrv@soara.org

Membership: Jim Riedel, K6EEE 949-498-0922

k6eee@soara.org

Education: Chad Edwards, KQ6TL 949-493-3063

kq6tl@soara.org

Technical: Bob Grant, W6CIC 909-780-4788

w6cic@soara.org

Communications: Dave Seroski, KG6QCI 949-459-7153

kg6qci@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Steve Perluss, KR6CE 949-364-6195

kr6ce@soara.org

Testing: Paul Levey, NZ1M 949-481-5454

nz1m@soara.org

Website: Chris Reed, KB6FYG 949-361-1438

kb6fyg@soara.org