

The PROPAGATOR

June, 2004

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Field Day 2004, June 26 & 27, at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo

Monday, June 21, (7:00 PM) the general meeting for June will be devoted to final plans and preparations for Field day.

Friday, June 25, (6:30 PM) a pre-Field Day meeting at Gilleran Park will feature hot dogs, spud guns (don't ask) and planning for antenna systems.

Saturday, June 26, (7:00 AM) set-up will get under way and operations will start at 11:00 AM and run for 24 hours.

If you are an old hand at Field Day, you are most likely already making preparations and plans for the big day. If you have not participated in Field Day before, then you have a treat in store. Do plan on checking out some of the action on the weekend of the 26th. Here is what you can expect.

Around 7:00 AM a good sized crew will assemble at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. Follow La Paz Road East to

Olympiad/Felipe. Turn right on Felipe and take the first entrance to Gilleran Park on the left. There will be coffee and donuts for this early crew.

The time before 11:00 AM, the official start of Field Day, will be spent in erecting antennas, assembling the three HF stations, one "Get On The Air" HF station for third party operators, and a VHF/UHF station. Networked computers will be set-up at each operating site. If this sounds like a lot of work, it is. But good planning and several years of experience come to the rescue and we will be ready to go at 11:00 AM.

"But I don't have HF privileges and all of the action is on the HF bands. What can I do?" Yes, a properly licensed person must be the control operator of the station. The control operator must be present and in control of the operation of the station, but a third party may use the station under the control operator's direct control.

We always have two people at each operating position. One to communicate and one to log the contact. It is a contest and we (and the other station) want to keep the contact as short as possible after exchanging the required information. That takes two people. Sound

like too much pressure? Come out and watch. SOARA has some very good contest operators, but there is plenty of opportunity for the inexperienced to try their hand at it.

The general meeting, on June 21, will be devoted to making final arrangements for this year's Field Day. If you have a laptop computer to be used on the logging network, please bring it to the meeting

One of the stations will concentrate on CW (we get twice as many points for a digital contact as for a phone contact), and two will concentrate on phone. The Get On The Air station is strictly for non-ham visitors

and hams who do not work HF. The score for this station is counted separately from the regular stations. If you have friends who have any interest, bring them out and let them get on the air.

Don't want to talk on the radio? There is a lot more to Field Day. There is food, visitors to talk to about what we are doing, and plenty of maintenance to do. All of our power will be supplied by portable generators and batteries. They all need watching and in the case of the generators, refueling. The night time operators hate it when the generator quits and leaves them in the dark.

There will be a lot to do in addition to the contest. A T-Hunt demonstration, Slow Scan TV, a contact through a satellite, also who knows what else will be available. Plan on spending a part of your weekend with SOARA in the park. You will have fun, and if you are there for a meal, you will be well fed! 73

FCC License Testing at Field Day

Lou Parker, KA6BJO, will be back visiting for Field Day, June 26, 27. He will be conducting test sessions starting at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday. There will be no testing at the regular SOARA meeting this month. If you, or friends, are planning on taking a test soon, see Lou and the SOARA team of volunteer examiners at the Field Day site.

Looking Ahead

Why did folks living in 18 houses in Tustin suddenly leave their homes? Find out at the July 19th meeting when Dino Darling, K6RIX, will speak on Radio and Geo-Caching.

SOARA's August 16th meeting will feature Chad Ohanian, W6VAB. Chad will reveal the difficulties encountered in stabilizing an ocean platform using RADAR and SONAR (before GPS was available.)

Carl Gardenias, WU6D, the Orange Section Manager, will visit SOARA for our September meeting on the 20th.

Jim, K6LIO, SOARA V.P.

Please mark all equipment you bring to Field Day with your call sign. There are always items unclaimed after breakdown on Sunday. It will make it much easier to get it back to you if it is marked.

New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest members:

Robert Brucker	W6LFO
Bill Ashway	KI6FB
Gray Bickford	WA6BJY
William Hegardt	K6WIL



The Way I See It: Understanding Radio Theory Without Math.

Worked all neighbors is not a ARRL award! or Don't Procrastinate Resolving TVI Problems

After living with severe antenna restrictions for over 10 years, I decided it was time to move to where I could put up some modest antennas and be free of CC&R's. I found the perfect house in a great location for ham radio that didn't have a homeowners association. The first thing I did, prior to unpacking, was to install a brand new 2m/220/440 vertical antenna on the side of the house using sections of TV antenna mast. Within a few months of installing that antenna I received a letter from the city telling me that I was in violation of their antenna ordinances - I was horrified!

It turned out that my tri-band vertical and satellite dish were just fine. The city was actually responding to a complaint of television interference from a neighbor. The inspector had walked around my property and had identified 220 MHz Yagi that I had temporarily leaned up against my patio cover as a restricted antenna. I found out that Yagi's were not permitted and that my vertical could be installed as high as 40 feet, this was good news. I moved the antenna to a higher location, on the roof and added a 40 meter dipole on the top of the mast.

I soon found out that my next door neighbor was having horrible TVI problems that started when I installed my antenna and didn't go away when I moved it higher up. I did some initial testing with him. I loaned him a FRS radio, and we coordinated tests on different bands and power levels. I found out that even with very little power, on two meters, using the roof mounted antenna, I wiped out his TV on most of the lower channels. He

was using an off-air antenna mounted in his attic.

I assured him that I was operating within the rules and regulations set forth by the federal government and that his installation was potentially the cause of the problem — he was not impressed by this. In hindsight, I think it might be best to focus on resolving the problem regardless of who's equipment might be to blame and not mention the rules.

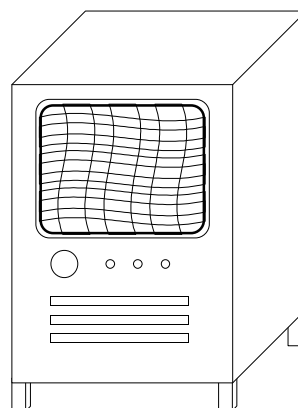
Since I was apparently not causing any interference using HF, I didn't worry about the problem very much. Two years went by with little complaint from my neighbor. I would occasionally interfere with his VCR recordings when I yielded to the temptation of using that roof mounted vertical. I'm sure that he wasn't too happy about missing his favorite shows. We had exchanged telephone numbers so he would let me know when I interfered, but it was so infrequent I didn't give it much thought.

Then one day Steve, KV6O, and I decided to try out a new mode called digital SSTV that allows you to send fairly high resolution images over HF in about 90 seconds or so. If you've heard this new mode on the radio, it doesn't sound very pleasant! Well, apparently this new digital mode caused my neighbors television a huge problem. Later while Steve and I were preparing for a T-Hunt in my back yard, my neighbor poked his head over the fence and asked me if I had changed anything in my ham radio setup recently. I asked him when he was having the problem and the time coincided with our digital SSTV testing.

It was time to do something. My neighbor was willing to have me come over and see the problem for myself and with Steve ready to operate my station, I went over to the house next door, HT in hand.

As he described, his TV picture would turn into a mangled mess when I ran more than a few watts on two meters into my roof mounted antenna. HF wiped out the TV also,

but not as bad. Installing a low-pass filter on the HF station improved the situation quite a bit. The first thing we did was to have him play a tape from the VCR connected to the TV. There was apparently no stray RF getting into the TV directly. We inspected the TV antenna installation and found that the antenna was connected to a two-port distribution amplifier using twin-lead, and there was one port connected to a long coax that was hanging loose and not connected to



another TV. Removing this extra lead improved the interference problem a slight amount. We then focused on the distribution amplifier. It was a Realistic model, circa 1965. He said that he had installed it when he bought the house

We wired the antenna directly to the TV bypassing the distribution amplifier and the interference almost completely went

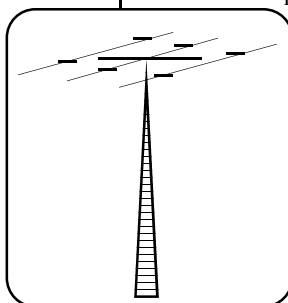
away! Replacing the distribution amplifier with a new one that I was using at my house previously improved the picture quality and the interference from my radio station was still gone.

There was still a diagonal interference pattern that existed even when my station wasn't on the air. Steve and I helped my neighbor find the source of that problem by switching off circuit breakers one by one until the problem went away — it turned out to be a fluorescent lamp in their kitchen that was causing the problem. My neighbors were very happy that we had solved both problems, which they perceived to be "my problem" and "their problem". They didn't quite understand the rules but that was okay with me, the problem had been resolved!

I guess the moral of this story is that if you have TVI problems with your neighbors, they can likely be solved and sometimes rather easily. It's best not to procrastinate. Showing your neighbors that you're willing and able to resolve interference problems will pay off in the long run as interference problems work both ways. I have recently discovered a S9 + 20dB noise that seems to come and go on 40 meters that I will likely need to work with my neighbors to resolve.

73 de NJ6N Brian

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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	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								2				
SOARA Holiday Party												7

About 6a.m. Monday the 31st of May an intrepid group of hams, mostly SOARA members but with help from Glenn Morrison and Randy Davis, went out to face almost 2000 runners. We met at the Laguna Hills community center and spread out from there to cover two races and ten aid stations. Randy Davis with his trusty motorcycle and his H.T. worked the 5 Kilometer race all by himself. When it was over, he came over to headquarters and made himself useful there.

In the meantime, we sent David, KG6QCI, Bill KI6FB, Robin, KG6MCA, Jeremy, KG6JAD, Patti ,AD6OH, Jim K,6EEE, Glenn ,WB6RLC, Steve, KV6O, and Joe, W6BGR to their posts on the ½ marathon course. Brian ,NJ6N and I of course stayed at headquarters to coordinate traffic.

There were frequent requests for more cups, more water, and even two calls for emergency vehicles to transport people to

Saddleback Hospital. We had outside help from Gregory, KE6TMQ, who was working with the timing crew, this included finding a runner who appeared to be having an asthma attack.

After the race we collected our gear, and about half of us went to Mitzi's Country Kitchen for breakfast.

Heiko, AD6OI

NET-NIGHT-TONIGHT

I'm sure you have heard that for the last ten thousand Tuesdays. But the face of the net has changed. Mostly because I couldn't shut up and got on everyone to see what this new sport of radio was all about. I was catching the Steve and Brian radio show on a regular basis. Although not really a show, they were talking about topics that I had no idea even existed! When they got on the net, which they never missed, I couldn't wait to hear the latest. What in the heck were they doing now?? Tracking? T-hunting, Packet, what was this stuff? They had all the answers and were willing to share with others, Hamming at its best!

Some how, the net took a stumble, and the same guys were asking, "Hey, are we having a net tonight? Only the crickets would answer, sad stuff.

But not so anymore! President Ray, AE6H, took the Moose-by-the-horns and made sure

we had something going every Tuesday Night, along with doing his presidential duties. Later he asked if I would do the honors. What Me? I don't know what's going on. I don't have the HeiKo, AD6OI, memory, I don't have the Ray, AD6H, history. But I can read a script, and I was on the FM radio station WSGC, in my college days. I did write my own show, thus the question, "Can an old rock and roll FM radio jock work in ham radio?" O.K. so the head phones "were" a little too loud and I can still hear Jimmy Hendrix.

With that Ray passed the Moose to me with a twist. Make people do the net, make it interesting get new people to speak up, no politics or anything else that will raise the fir on a pit bull's neck and for love of God, no profanity. (But I had Howard Stern all lined up!)

So on the air I went, a bit shaky at first, but there they were: Ray, Heiko, Steve, Brian, Jim, and Richard all helping me along. Out

of this strange stew gurgled a mix of Hamming, Information, History, Q and A time, and endless interjections of top notch, "I-know-about-that" breaks. We received reports of ball scores right from Angels Stadium from behind home plate, and the lakers score as the game unfolded.

Reports of 20 meter hot spots, and packet happiness popped up from time to time. I sought the help of the Great Gordo in keeping things moving and net night spins into almost 10 PM with all manner of topics in round table discussion.

If you just got your ticket, Stammer your way on the net and meet the gang. You never know who will be the celebrity guest check in.

Dave
AKA Cruiser

KG6QCI

Kelo Golf 6 Quiet Chicken Incorporated

The PROPAGATOR

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



Meeting: June 21, 2004 at 7:00 PM Field Day 2004

☛ **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.

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