

# The PROPAGATOR

August, 2004

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## W6VAB Speaker for Aug.

*"Project Mohole was an attempt to retrieve a sample of material from the earth's mantle by drilling a hole through the earth's crust to the Mohorovicic Discontinuity, or Moho. The project was suggested in March 1957 by Walter Munk, NAS member (1956) and member of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Earth Science Panel."*

The guest speaker for August will talk on **"Ham Radio & the Mohole Project"**

Chad Ohanian, W6VAB, will discuss the navigation systems developed for stabilizing the Mohole Project drilling platform. The platform also served as an excellent site for ham radio operations.

W6VAB first licensed in 1945. In addition to an amateur license, Chad has held a First Class Radio Telephone license with Radar endorsement since 1945. He has been active in the design & development of VHF and UHF equipment. Chad directed both marine and airborne navigational operations here and abroad.

Accompanying Chad will be his longtime friend and neighbor Tom Weed, K6CCD. Tom was the Bendix Marine Division representative at the Mohole Project. Tom was also the one responsible for procuring HF amateur equipment for use aboard the drilling ship. □



## New Members

A hearty welcome to SOARA's newest members:

T. A. Ross	KD6NAT
Clark Secrest	N0VCY

## SOARA Picnic Report

If you couldn't attend the SOARA annual picnic on Sunday, Aug. 1, you missed a really good one. The picnic was very well attended, by about 60 members and guests. The food was great, thanks to the culinary skills of Lou, KG6FCT, burger chef *extraordinaire*, his XYL, Phyllis, and the generosity of all who attended. Salads, side dishes, and deserts were abundant.

The site was the usual one in Dana Point Harbor at the "Baby" swimming beach. The weather cooperated, being nearly perfect, with clear skies, gentle breezes, and mild temperatures.

An HF station was set up and in operation during the picnic. As always, the public operation of an amateur HF station attracted some interest from those passing by. It was another chance for the public to see amateur radio in action.

Four "foxhunt" style—on foot T hunts,—were held at the picnic location with Karl, KF6MDF, and Dale, W8RRV, doing the transmitter hiding. The hidden T locations got progressively more challenging, with one completely buried in the beach sand near the water line. Finding that one was a team effort, with Robin, KG6MCA, describing it: "Tony (AE6QT) stepped on it, and I pointed it out" she explained. To select the person to hide the T next month (Sept. 5) the first finders of the hunts talked it over and Matt Mendenhall, KE6ALM, agreed to take on the task. For several of the 16 or so hunters it was their first taste of this aspect of ham radio.

Thanks to Ray, KG6QWY, Ray, AE6H, and Alan, WB6T who took turns, starting at 4:30 AM to reserve the site.

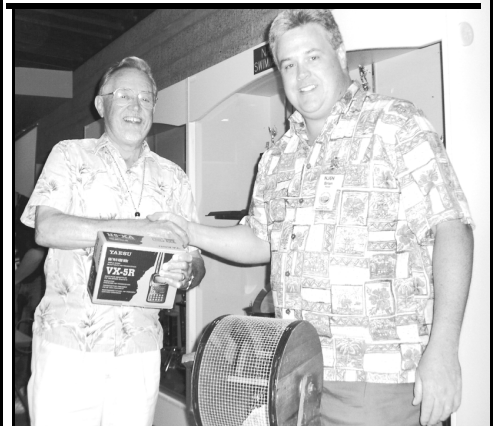
The picnic turned out to be outstanding. Thanks to all who attended, who brought food and supplies, helped out with planning and set up. 73, Ray, AE6H □

## A Look at Geocaching

Dino Darling, K6RIX, gave a very entertaining and informative presentation at SOARA's general meeting on July 19. Geocaching, using GPS and puzzle solving skills to find a hidden cache, has become popular through out the world.

Dino explained the several ways one participates and told tales of some of the more interesting hunts he has been on. Some of the stories were illustrated with the containers and housings in which the caches were hidden. Hunts can range from fairly straight forward to elaborate multi-part hunt with clues contained in an animated computer presentation.

Anyone with a GPS unit and an interest in trying it, can find clues to local caches on the internet. Several SOARA members have had some experience and are willing to give some guidance. □



Jim, K6LIO, is congratulated by Brian, NJ6N, on winning a Yeasu VX-5R HT in the \$5 raffle at the July meeting. The next item for the \$5 raffle is a Yaesu FT-7800 Dual Band Mobile. □



## The Way I See It: What is this Radio Club business, anyway?

It is not an especially uncommon image of amateur radio operators as solitary people who go into their little rooms, close the door and “play” with their radios — guys who don’t talk to other people. It is probably difficult for some folks to equate the dits and dahs of Morse code with talking. Don’t they realize that somewhere there must be another “ham” at a radio and that other person is necessary for this whole thing to work?

Well, they probably think he doesn’t talk to anyone either.

Well, I suppose you can divide the world population into two classes: those who don’t understand amateur radio and hams. (How many hobbies have that same characteristic?)

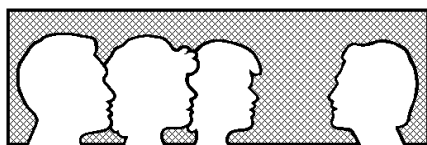
Amateur radio is clearly a social activity — we communicate with each other. Oh, we spend a lot of time and effort on the means of communications, but still we communicate.

The stereotypical HF QSO goes something like:

My name is . . .  
I live in . . .  
My rig is a . . .  
I am running . . . watts  
My antenna is a . . .  
It is up . . . feet  
The weather here is . . .  
Well, I have to go now because . . .  
73 and I will see you a little further  
down the log.

(Have I been listening to too many CW exam tapes?)

The reality is that although most of us (hams) like to tinker with radios and antennas, what we really like to do is talk. We get together on weekly nets and at lunches, at monthly club meetings, and at other events. We spend a lot of time talking. OK, we are probably talking about radios, antennas and such, but



we *are* talking.

The point is that radio clubs like SOARA are an integral part of amateur radio. Clubs give us the opportunity to get together and pursue the hobby. Just attending club meetings and chatting with friends adds a lot to our enjoyment of amateur radio.

Each year SOARA holds monthly general meetings (except for December). We have three major events: Field Day (in June), the picnic (in August), and the year-end party (in December). Each of these events give club members a chance to participate in the activities as well as a lot of time to visit and talk.



SOARA offers many of the possible benefits of a club. We all are aware that things could be improved. (That is always true isn’t it!) One area in which SOARA has done quite well is in recruiting new members. Certainly some of the credit for that goes to the

VE testing team under the guidance of Paul, NZ1M, and Alan, WB6T. We have a long history of providing convenient testing, from when Lou, KA6BJO, and Muriel, KA6BJP, were conducting the testing.

A more recent development was the creation of a membership committee under the leadership of Jim, K6EEE. Rather than just waiting for new members to walk in the door, this committee has been quite active in seeking out potential members and bringing them into the club.

Recently the board has been looking at other areas where organized committees could benefit the club. Tony, AE6QT, has just recently taken on the task of creating a “Ways and Means” committee. This committee will devise and implement activities to raise funds to help cover the costs of running the club.

Tony is looking for people to serve on his committee. If you have an interest in working in this area, please contact Tony by e-mail (ae6qt@soara.org) or at the club meeting.

Other committees under consideration

include: Executive Search, Activities, Education, Finance, Technical, and Welcome & Refreshments.

The **Executive Search** committee will be charged with finding candidates for club officers and directors. Officers and directors are elected to two year terms. Occasionally a board member finds it necessary to leave the board due to work demands, moving, etc. At the present we have one officer and one director who will soon be leaving the board. We need to find replacements soon. It would be beneficial to have a committee ready to find candidates. If you have an interest in serving on this committee please let Ray, AE6GH, know of your interest.

The **Welcome & Refreshments** committee will be tasked with ensuring that new members are made to feel welcome at the meetings and club functions. We don’t want to loose new members by neglect.

Under the guidance of the education director the **Education** committee will plan and implement entry level and upgrade classes. Similarly the **Finance** committee will work with the treasurer to plan the club budget. The **Activities** committee will assist the activities chair in planning and organizing Field Day, the Picnic and the party in December.



A **Technical** committee will aid the Technical Director and the Repeater Director when there is technical work to be done on the club repeaters. We have had such a committee in the past and there are several members who have volunteered their services as the need arises. This committee will also plan for occasional clean-up parties at the repeater sites.

Finally, the club would like to find a member who has an interest in researching and writing the history of the club. Apparently General Cirtus LeMay, K0GRL/ K4FRA/ W6EZV, was involved in founding the club.

You could get more out of the club and you could put more into it. SOARA is a great club. Consider volunteering for a position on one of the committees. □

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	FD prep					Auction	
VEC Testing	26	23	15	19	17	26	19	16	20	18	15	—
SOARA T-Hunt			7	4	2	6	11	1	5	3	7	5
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								1				
SOARA Holiday Party												5

**Update From Up North**

It does happen; SOARA members do move out of the area. We like to keep in touch with them, and EchoLink and the Sunday AM 40m net help to do that. Jeff Stai, WK6I, left Orange County and the high-tech world for Calaveras County to open Twisted Oak Winery. After a couple of years, the

winery is making wine (and winning awards). Visit the Twisted Oak web site at: [www.twistedoak.com](http://www.twistedoak.com).

Jeff may be too busy with his new business to get on the air much, but we will be listening for him. We wish Jeff continued good luck in his venture.

**APRS Link**

Brian, NJ6N, has added a convenient feature to his APRS page (<http://nj6n.com/aprs>). It now includes a pull-down list of known SOARA members that use APRS. He is going to add an entry box where you can enter a call that is not in the list. □

**2004 ARRL Southwest Division Convention**

The Southwest Convention is usually within a short driving distance from home, but this year it will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Despite the distance, a good number of SOARA members are planning on attending. The convention starts on Friday, Aug. 27, and runs through Sunday, Aug. 29.

Located about 15 miles from downtown Phoenix, the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort will house the event. Rooms are available at a special convention rate of around \$90 per night. Information is

available on both the convention and on the resort at <http://www.hamradio2004.com>. Follow the links to the information you want.

Technical sessions run from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Friday and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday. If you check the Program listing you will find several familiar names. SOARA's own Malcolm Levy, KO6SY, is giving a presentation Friday afternoon on PSK31. □

**Driving Directions**

Go East on I-10 to exit 162 (Wild Horse Pass Blvd.) Exit right on Wild Horse Pass Blvd. Take the first right and continue straight following signs to Sheraton Wild Horse pass.

**Talk-in Frequencies**

146.940 -	162.2 PL
147.200 +	162.2 PL
443.050 +	100.0 PL

**Exhibit Hall Hours**

Friday	1:00 PM	6:00 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM	12:00 PM

**Registration**

Friday	12:30 PM	6:00 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM	12:00 PM

**FOR SALE**

- Radio Shack HTX-420 \$120**  
2m/440 HT Includes Li-Ion Battery+Alkaline Case
  - Alinco DR-M03SX \$90**  
10M FM Mobile
  - Alinco DJ-280T \$140**  
220Mhz HT - Drop in Charger + Alkaline Case
- Brian, NJ6N  
[nj6n@soara.org](mailto:nj6n@soara.org)

**FOR SALE**

**TS 850AT \$1500**  
This beauty is in mint condition and has the best sounding audio on the air. With the modified DSP 100 module the operator may choose a transmit bandwidth from 2.7 up to 6.0 KHz. The audio is warm and smooth and the radio has two Inrad filters in addition to the standard filters. The TCXO is installed and the DSP 100 has a Jenson transformer installed as well. I have the user and the service manuals, mike as well as the original box. Price for this bundle is \$1500.

Scott, N6RRV  
[sjdradio@cox.net](mailto:sjdradio@cox.net)

# The PROPAGATOR

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



**Meeting: August 16, 2004 at 7:00 PM**  
**Chad Ohanian, W6VAB**

☛ **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](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 (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM.

## SOARA OFFICERS

*President:* Ray Hutchinson, AE6H . . . . . 949-496-8020  
[ae6h@soara.org](mailto:ae6h@soara.org)

*V.P.:* Jim Yetter, K6LIO . . . . . 949-581-3123  
[k6lio@soara.org](mailto:k6lio@soara.org)

*Secretary:* Mike Mullard, KF6HVO . . . . . 949-249-2846  
[kf6hvo@soara.org](mailto:kf6hvo@soara.org)

*Treasurer:* Steve Perluss, KR6CE . . . . . 949-364-6195  
[kr6ce@soara.org](mailto:kr6ce@soara.org)

## SOARA DIRECTORS

*Repeater:* Howard Brown, KG6GI . . . . . 949-581-2634  
[kg6gi@soara.org](mailto:kg6gi@soara.org)

*Publications:* Dale Griffith, W8RRV . . . . . 949-830-3767  
[w8rrv@soara.org](mailto:w8rrv@soara.org)

*Membership:* Jim Riedel, K6EEE . . . . . 949-498-0922  
[k6eee@soara.org](mailto:k6eee@soara.org)

*Education:* Chad Edwards, KQ6TL . . . . . 949-493-3063  
[kq6tl@soara.org](mailto:kq6tl@soara.org)

*Technical:* Bob Grant, W6CIC . . . . . 909-780-4788  
[w6cic@soara.org](mailto:w6cic@soara.org)

*Communications:* Dave Seroski, KG6QCl. . . . . 949-459-7153  
[kg6qci@soara.org](mailto:kg6qci@soara.org)

## SOARA COMMITTEES

*Activities:* Position open  
[board@soara.org](mailto:board@soara.org)

*Testing:* Paul Levey, NZ1M . . . . . 949-481-5454  
[nz1m@soara.org](mailto:nz1m@soara.org)

*Website:* Richard Saunders, K6RBS . . . . . 949-770-5099  
[k6rbs@soara.org](mailto:k6rbs@soara.org)

### Friday, August 27th Time Program Description Presenter

1300 State-of-the-Nation Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (4 hour) Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL EmComm  
1300 Zenith Transoceanic Radio Collecting Bob Davies, K7BHM  
1400 Logbook of the World - A Quick Start Mike Fulcher, KC7V  
1500 How to Keep E-mail Connection in Remote Areas Bob Johnsen, K7TR  
1600 VHF DXpeditions Ned Stearns, AA7A  
1700 "Pass the Ham" Gordon West and Bob Heil

### Saturday, August 28th Time Program Description Presenter

0800 Antenna Ideas for Portable HF Operation Tom Kuehl, AC7A  
0800 AMSAT Update - Project Echo Operational Status Larry Brown, W7LB, AMSAT Area Coordinator  
0800 History of Two Meter Radios Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, ARRL Section Manager, San Diego Section  
0800 VHF Roving Adventures With Three 10-Band Stations Wayne Overbeck, N6NB  
0800 Inside and Out Mobile Antenna Review Gordon West, WB6NOA  
0800 IOTA DXpedition to NA-180, Belize Art Phillips, NN7A, President Northern AZ DX Association  
0830 Radio, Robots, and ROVs: Relevant 3R's at Carl Hayden High School Dr. Allan Cameron, N7UJJ, and Fredi Lajvardi, KD7WKD - Carl Hayden High School  
0900 Demonstrating HF Digital Modulations Rick Checketts, KA0KZB  
0900 Introduction to Collecting and Restoring Vintage Vacuum Tube Amateur Radios Tom Boza, NE7X  
0900 Kitt Peak Observatory Chuck Claver, NJ6D  
0900 VHF QRP Portable Contesting Gary Hembree, N7IR  
0900 Emergency Communications Tom Fagen, WB7NXH  
1000 EchoLink & Emergency Communications Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL EmComm Grant Manager  
1000 What's Going on at TAPR Steve Bible, N7HPR  
1000 Introduction to High Altitude Ballooning Michael Gray, KD7LMO  
1000 Fact, Fiction, or ? Tom Schiller, N6BT  
1000 Project Goodwill Albania and CADXA Contribution including the 80 & 160 meter Operation Dan Brown, NA7DB  
1000 Microwave Forum Jim Vogler, WA7CJO, WA8ULG and W7CS  
1100 The ARRL Petition for Amateur Radio Restructuring Rod Stafford, W6ROD, ARRL Int'l VP and Past President  
1100 Sonoran Sky Students and ISS Astronauts Link Up Carrie Cunningham, N7NFX - Sonoran Sky Elementary School  
1100 Getting Around Antenna Restrictions Wayne Overbeck, N6NB  
1100 Digital Television - Are You Ready? Jay Adrick, K8CJY - Harris Corporation  
1100 Remote Controlled Amateur Radio Terry Hahn, W7KW, & Terry Godley, W6WTG  
1100 Card checking; DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ N6KZ, N6UO, KC7V, KI7NF and more  
1300 "It All Starts at the Microphone" Bob Heil, K9EID, President and Founder of Heil Sound Inc  
1300 10-10 International Net Chuck Imsande, W6YLJ, President 10-X, International  
1300 Rodeo-Chediski Fire Emergency Communications Cris McBride, KB7QXQ  
1300 Barry Goldwater Autobiography "The Spirit of Barry Goldwater"  
1300 Portable VHF Operation: The Case for not Staying Home for the Big Contest Pete Scola, WA7JTM  
1300 BPL Update for Cottonwood, AZ Bob Shipton, K8EQC  
1400 How the ARRL is Fighting Spectrum Pollution from BPL Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, CEO ARRL  
1400 Getting Started in ARDF Jay Thompson, W6JAY  
1400 The Most Fun You Can Have With a Rock - VHF Digital mode Meteor Scatter Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV  
1400 PSK31 Primer **Malcolm Levy, KO6SY**  
1400 An Overview of Skywarn in Arizona Steve Sipple, KB7QHP  
1400 Record Your Barry Goldwater Memories Convention Attendees, Recordings by W8AEF  
1500 The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) - Important to Every Amateur Radio Licensee Rod Stafford, W6ROD, ARRL Int'l VP and Past President  
1500 MARS Bob Sutton, N7UZY/AAA9A, Chief, Army MARS  
1500 The Amateur Radio Newline Story Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF  
1500 DXCC Forum Vince Thompson, K5VT, ARRL SW Division DXAC Representative  
1500 Station Integration - Voice and Data Distribution in a Contest Station Ned Stearns, AA7A  
1600 ARRL Southwestern Division Forum Art Goddard, W6XD