

The PROPAGATOR

June, 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

This Month: Field Day

Field Day is perhaps the major event of the year for SOARA. Plans have been made and preparations are well under way. As usual, the June general meeting will be dedicated to final plans and preparations. There will be some demonstrations and explanations of the rules and procedures.

This should be a very successful event. We always score very high in our category, and we always have fun. Plan on attending the meeting and, especially, plan on visiting the Field Day site (Gilleran Park) on the weekend of June 25 - 26.

Lou, KG6FCT, who is coordinating the event presents more information on Page 2. □

Laguna Beach Slides

On June 1, a hillside in Bluebird Canyon in Laguna Beach moved, destroying several homes and endangering many more. The Red Cross quickly opened a shelter at the Laguna High School. Shortly after staffing the shelter they found that the communications was not effective in that area. They contacted SOARA, requesting the use of our repeaters. Later, they needed hams to help with the communications. Richard, K6RBS responded immediately. Jerrod, K6TEK, and Stu, KF6RCY, also answered the request. Later Ray, AE6H, responded and provided liaison between the ARC/SOARA, and The Fire Chief, who was the incident Commander.

At various times during the Bluebird Canyon incident, the Red Cross utilized SOARA's 147.645, 145.240, and 445.66 repeaters. The Red Cross has expressed thanks to the SOARA membership for the use of their repeaters during this incident. The availability of equipment and experienced communications operators is a major value of the amateur radio service. We can all take pride in the contributions of our hobby to benefit society at large. □

T-Hunt Report

It was a cool misty morning as we watched the first of what was hoped to be many people running in with strange looking antennas, and most of them looking like they should do this 'running' more often.

Ah yes, another T-hunt was upon us. Howard, KG6GI, Robin (my mom), KG6MCA, and I began setting up shop around 11:30. Food was laid out, burgers started smoking on the grill, and I locked the box to a trusty (but prickly) cactus, and we were set. With a minute to go, I made my announcement about the T-hunt, and proceeded to unlock the PICON via DTMF. This didn't work, and much to my dismay, I had to go back to the hill and fight with the cactus to activate it manually.

When I first started T-hunting, I was amazed at how long the transmitter would stay on. It was almost 100% duty cycle. With this fox, I decided to change that. I put it at a maximum 50% duty cycle, with the sequence: delay (30 seconds), 'music' (30 seconds), Morse code id with hidden message, 30 more seconds of music, then 30 seconds of off the air delay. This added up to a total of a minute of dead time, not transmitting, and was a major source of headache for many.

When on the hunt, many were wondering what was attempting to be said on the end of the CW ID. For some reason, the PIC didn't want to take the characters added at the end. (Many also heard my attempt at reprogramming it, which lead to confusion, and which I didn't comment on at the time). It was supposed to read: KG6JAD/T DONT BE A FOOL. It was supposed to be for Richard, and his still-on-going joke with Gordo, WB6NOA.

At around 45 minutes into the game, Richard, K6RBS, came in wearing a lobster bib. He didn't say a word (not even responding to my humorous jokes about the 'Brit' winning again) as he took a tape measure yagi and proceeded on foot from his truck. He announced victory

May Auction

Thanks to the SOARA members who parted with their precious Ham Radio possessions and to those who bought them the May auction was a huge success! SOARA's very own auctioneer,



Malcolm, KO6SY, presided over the auction with help from Jeremy, KG6JAD, and Tony, AE6QT. Over 30 buyers participated in the auction where 62 items ranging from antennas and radio transceivers to cameras and solar panels changed hands. Over \$700 was collected from the winning bidders. Thanks to the generous donation of equipment from Charles Morse, N6KNX, and the small commission on each item sold, SOARA made over \$300 on the auction, which will be used to help fund other club activities. Thanks again to those who participated in the auction and made it a such a great success. Brian, NJ6N □

approximately 5 minuets later with an 'official' time of 51 minutes. Dave, KG6QCI, arrived a short time later.

Karl, KF6MDF, and Dale, W8RRV, were in next, with 1 hour 3 minute and 1 hour 37 minute respective times. Matt, KE6ALM, and Kareem, KG6USK were up next with 2 hour 3 minute and 2 hour 23 minute times.

They were followed by Jeff, KG6YXT, and rounding out the list were Brian ,NJ6N and Jarred, K6TEK, for a total of 9 hunters.

With the Richard/Dave team once again at the top, I hope that this next T-hunt will be enjoyable as ones before (if a bit harder then their last one was for me). Hi Hi.

Jeremy, KG6JAD □



The Way I See It:



It is JUNE and that means Field Day is fast approaching at Gilleran Park. Everyone should

plan on attending Friday night June 24th dinner and spud gun firing. Yes, we put ropes over light towers in preparation for

antennas. We use every means possible, spud gun, sling shots and good old arm toss. There will be fish line and weights for anyone wanting to do the toss. We'll be firing up the grills for hamburger & hot dogs and will start serving at 6:00 PM.

The BIG DAY will be Saturday, June 25th starting at 7:00 in the morning for the work crew. Come for coffee, donuts and the fun of putting up antennas. Ray, AE6H, will arrive with a truck and trailer loaded with all the good stuff, like generator, cables, table top covers, and, of course, lots of

antennas, poles and towers. There will certainly be something for everyone to grab and unload. Then the true fun begins. There will be small work groups assembling the beams, and then we will all help with guide ropes and lifting to set up the towers and beams for the 20, 15, 10 meter band. OH YES, and the 6 meter beam also. Then we will string dipole antennas for the 40 and 80 meter band. We

have from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM to set up and be ready to start calling CQ. Last year we were ready by 10:00, can we beat this time?

We will have 3 main stations and operate under the category of 3 alpha (three simultaneous transmitters, club station independent of commercial power). In addition we have the GOTA (get on the air)

station for everyone to try. We want the general public, non-hams, children, young adults and EVERYONE to get a chance to make radio contacts. Last year we had the Mayor of Mission Viejo Gail Reavis on the radio.

There will be an Amateur TV station operating, a solar powered radio station, a station for satellite communications, and lots of equipment to see and try. Of course there will be lunch and dinner. This year we're in for a real treat because Randy & Vicky Davis from R & D Running are preparing some of the food and serving the

calls reach a fever pitch as we approach the end of the contest. No sooner than the contest ends, its time to pack up for another year. We will leave the park as we found it with great memories of another Field Day.

Our final planning will be at the regular meeting on Monday June 13. We will demo ATV, and the logging computer program. See You There
Lou, KG6FCT



	Friday, 6/24/05	Saturday, 6/25/05	Sunday, 6/26/05
7:00 AM		Coffee & Donuts	Breakfast
		Set up F.D. Site	Final hours of operating
11:00 AM		"CQ FD"- we're on the air	Contest is over.
Noon		Food	Take down, clean up.
		ATV	A job well done.
		VE testing	Afternoon nap, anyone?
6:00 PM	Ant. Prep. Party:	T-Hunt	Z
	Food and Fun,	More Food	Z
	With antenna lines	Yes, we are going to	Z
	and a "Spud Gun"	operate all night long!	

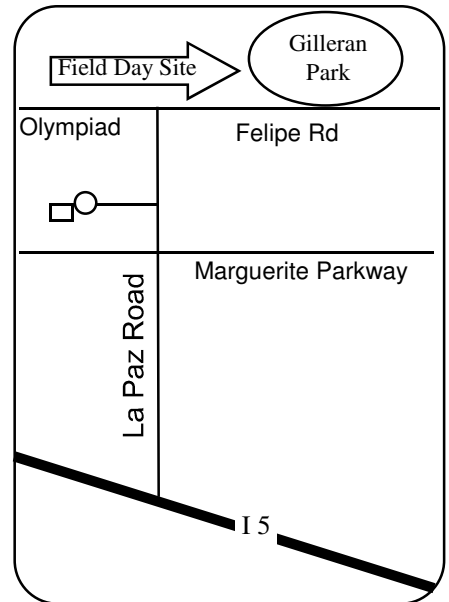
meals. They are doing this to say THANKS for all the help they've received at their running meets from many of the SOARA members.



Do you have equipment you'd like to bring and try? The afternoon is a perfect time.

This is when we will try and establish a satellite contact and do all those things for extra points. But don't forget, we will be operating for 24 hours from 11:00 AM on Saturday to 11:00 AM on Sunday. We will need radio operators for this entire period, especially on the GOTA station.

Whether you've worked all night or just come Sunday morning be prepared to enjoy a great breakfast. Sunday morning CQ



Year 2005	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	24	28	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	No meeting
Program	WU6D (Org. SM)	KG6UOS "Long Waves"	N6NHP "Ham Radio & Astro."	AA6MH Calif. ACS	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep.	Show & Tell	K3AW Video on Antennas	K6RIX Radio KFI	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	24	28	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	—
SOARA T-Hunt	9	6	6	3	1	5	10	7	11	9	6	4
Board Meeting	31	3/7	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	
ARRL Field Day												
SOARA picnic								7				
SOARA Holiday Party												4



The HROC Corner

Hi, gang. Field day is coming up (June 25, 26), and if you want to see a well oiled field day machine at work, come and visit the SOARA site at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. If you like, you can sneak in a little operating time. If not, come and visit for a while and cheer on the team. If you look closely at the CW position you will see the

familiar face of our own Bill DeSmith, K6BWZ, swinging the dits and dahs. *Directions:* Take the La Paz exit off the 5 Fwy and go east on La Paz Rd, past Marguerite Pkwy, and up the hill to Olympiad Rd. Turn right and you will soon see the upper park entrance on your left. Park and look for the antenna farm.

73, Roger-W6SQQ



Just a Thought

Just the other day I needed to replace an ordinary TTL IC. I didn't have one and had to drive all the way into Santa Ana to get it.

I really miss having R-VAC in Lake Forest! It makes you realize how lucky we are to have an **HRO** store within driving distance. Just a thought — **Support Your Local Ham Radio Store.**

June Raffle, "... and now for something a bit different!"

As you already know from attending the monthly SOARA general meeting, there are two raffles: a one dollar per ticket raffle and a five dollar raffle. The one dollar raffle prizes are usually less expensive items such as volt meters, batteries, repeater directories, cables, etc. The five dollar per ticket raffle typically has such prizes as mobile VHF/UHF transceivers or hand-held transceivers.

This month we will have two lucky five dollar raffle prize winners!

The first will be a West Mountain Radio "CBA II" computerized battery analyzer. Several club members have purchased the

CBA II battery analyzer and have found them to be extremely useful. Most of us have one or more hand held radios with several spare batteries and knowing just how long your various batteries will last can be very important. The CBA II will allow you to determine each battery's operating capacity. The CBA II is easy to use and works with just about any type of battery: NiCad, NiMH, Lead Acid, Li Ion, etc. The Windows program that is included with the analyzer can print a graph, report and label for each battery you test, allowing you to keep track of each battery you use. For more information on the CBA II, point your web browser to:

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/CBA.htm>

The second prize is a RigBlaster "Nomic" computer-to-transceiver interface. Once

you have your computer hooked up to your radio transceiver, a whole new world of fun and exciting new Amateur Radio modes are available to you including PSK31, SSTV, RTTY, and many more! You can even use the interface to do Voice keying for contesting, copy CW, or create an EchoLink Internet link. For more information on the Rigblaster Nomic, please visit the West Mountain Radio web site:

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/RIGblaster.htm>

If you have suggestions for raffle prizes that you would like to see in either of the two raffles, please feel free to contact me through e-mail at nj6n@soara.org or catch me at the raffle table at the next club meeting.

Brian NJ6N



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

**FIELD DAY
JUNE 25, 26**

Meeting: June 20, 2005 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 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 Laguna Beach, San Clemente, and Trabuco repeaters are open. The Santiago Peak repeaters are closed. For details or questions on the repeaters contact the Repeater director, KG6GI.

2m — 147.645 – (110.9) Laguna Beach
2m — 146.025 + (110.9) San Clemente
2m — 145.240 – (110.9) Trabuco
220 — 224.100 – (110.9) Laguna Beach
220 — 224.640 – (123.0) Santiago Pk. (C) 440 —
445.660 – (110.9) Laguna Beach
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.

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