

The PROPAGATOR

November, 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Holiday Party on Dec. 4

Come one, come all. Come to the SOARA Holiday Party. Come and help us celebrate another great year of SOARA activities. Did you know that our Field Day score was second highest in California and first in the Orange Section for our class? There will be awards, entertainment and surprises. Join us for a good time for all.

Bring a wrapped grab bag gift, one per person for an entertaining gift exchange. The gift value should be about \$10. It may be suitable for a ham or of a more general nature (for an XYL). It may be useful or a gag gift. You don't know who will get any particular gift in this exchange game.

Your meal will include a salad, a variety of non-alcoholic drinks, the main course, and a surprise dessert. Please indicate a choice when you purchase your ticket of either Sirloin Steak, Grilled Whitefish, Chicken Picata, or Vegetarian.

Cost per ticket is \$22 and covers the meal and gratuity. Payment can be made by check made out to SOARA. Tickets will be available at the upcoming meeting, or by mail.

Lou Frank, KG6FCT
22951 Stoneridge
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Again, remember to indicate the meal choice for each ticket. It is important that you get the money for your tickets to Lou no later than November 28. We must give the restaurant a final count on that date.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Casta Del Sol Golf Course Restaurant on Sunday December 4, 2005, at 6:00 PM for our annual Holiday Party. The Casta Del Sol Golf Course Restaurant is located off Marguerite Parkway at:

17601 Casta Del Sol Rd.
Mission Viejo, CA 92692.

Lou KG6FCT

November Raffle

As usual, the last regular meeting of the year is the auction in November. SOARA holds two auctions each year, six months apart. Now, certainly one of the fun aspects of Amateur Radio is the chance to own and tinker with some really exotic equipment. Auctions allow us to own more equipment than we really need by easily selling what we no longer need and buying more equipment (that we really don't need) at a reasonable price.

It is not clear how the particular timing of the SOARA auctions came about, but one theory is that the November auction was timed to let us clean out our storage area to make room for all of the new gear our XYLs are planning on buying us for Christmas.

How ever you view of this interesting theory, bring your spare equipment to the auction on Nov. 21. Also bring some money to buy some of those irresistible bargains.

Red Cross Appreciation

Mel Goldberg, N6MEL, representing the OC Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented SOARA with a certificate of Appreciation for our support of their local disaster communications. Several SOARA members have been trained by and served the Red Cross, and in several instances the Red Cross has made use of SOARA repeaters. (See the image of the certificate below.)

Gordon West, WB6NOA, and other Red Cross workers accompanied Mel and participated in a presentation dealing with emergency communications. The material presented related to disaster preparation and with the recent Gulf area hurricanes. One of the main points of the presentation was that in order to be an effective and communicator during an emergency, you must have training. The ARRL continuing education courses on emergency communications provide one opportunity for training.



American Red Cross

Disaster Relief

In Grateful Appreciation to

South Orange Amateur Radio Association

In acknowledgement of your demonstrated commitment to providing essential disaster communications resources over the last 10 years.

Activated during the Laguna Fires, Capistrano Floods, Prado Dam Failure and Laguna Landslides

*Presented on the 17th day of October, 2005 by the
Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross
on behalf of those effected by disaster.*

Stanley Perdue
Stanley Perdue
Director, Family Services

Mel Goldberg
Mel Goldberg N6MEL
Perfection Lead, Disaster Communications



The Way I See It: Taking Responsibility to heart

What follows are excerpts from an editorial in a recent issue of *Electronic Design*. See: <http://www.elecdesign.com/Articles/Index.cfm?AD=1&AD=1&ArticleID=11164>

Investigations into the communications breakdowns in our national emergency response systems continue. Yet I'm struck by the contrast between the hue and cry for upgraded infrastructure solutions and the much quieter revelation that old-school ham radio provided the only trustworthy communication during Hurricane Katrina.

Ham radio operators proved that older technology can be the most reliable technology. During and after Katrina, hams running on generators (sometimes with makeshift antennas) worked throughout the hurricane zone to put emergency stations on the air. They guided rescuers to stranded victims and updated weather services via the Hurricane Watch Net.

Amateur radio was the primary means of

contact with the outside world for many shelters. It's estimated that some 1000 amateur radio volunteers helped serve the hurricane-ravaged communities and shelters, even providing communications for the Red Cross.

Still, the real lesson of the ham radio successes isn't that old sometimes trumps new. Upgraded, reliable hardware is vital for adequate emergency response. Amateur radio has continued to upgrade too. Hams use satellites, digital systems, cross-band repeaters, and more. As the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) puts it, the Morse code key may still be on the desk, but generally it's next to a modern system operable under extreme emergency conditions.

Katrina taught two key lessons. First, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization proved effective because hams don't depend on a centralized infrastructure. When cell towers, phone switching centers, or other central communications networks are down, hams aren't. Many operators have their own generators and are ready to fire them up to get on the air when there's no power. National disaster response plans must assume that the centralized communications infrastructure likely will be crippled, so the emergency system must include a distributed or "mesh" networking scheme.

Second, ARRL succeeded because operators subscribe to a mission that comes with their licenses—to be ready to provide emergency communications whenever and wherever they're needed. ARES has a well-conceived action plan coordinated through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). ARES is part of the ARRL, and RACES is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). But like the broadcast system, the emergency plan is decentralized. Radio operators can work independently to serve their community as circumstances require.

A decentralized emergency plan requires deputized people who truly understand and care about their responsibilities. The best emergency response relies on distributed manpower, with first responders empowered to make decisions at the scene of the crisis.

It doesn't take a federal investigation to realize that the government's emergency-response debacle was caused by centralizing the decision-making with politically appointed bureaucrats who didn't have a personal mission or a true sense of ownership in ensuring preparedness. As we saw in the recent emergency response, technologies are only effective when managed by people—like the hams—who take their responsibilities to heart.

Are you a member of the ARRL? Did you know that you can get a membership certificate suitable for framing? The following URL will take you to the ARRL website where you can download the certificate in PDF format. <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-MEMC>

SOARA November T-hunt

SOARA T-hunt boundaries are the county line to the East, West and South, and the 55 and 91 freeways to the North. No one had hidden the T in the northern portion of the allowed region — yet. So we (Karl, KF6MDF, and Dale, W8RRV) decided to wander into that unknown region in search of a suitable park. Actually they wandered about as far West as was inhabited.

Canyon Rim Park in Anaheim Hills (at the intersection of E. Serrano Ave and E. Canyon Rd.) is a pleasant park (and School) with picnic tables and a fairly clear view to the south. Well, it is clear for some distance, but there are certainly hills directly to the South and West. In checking out the propagation to the Mission Viejo area we found that the transmitting antenna had to be directed to the Southwest, and the receiving antenna got the

strongest signal when pointed West rather than North. Hmmm, this might mislead the hunters on Sunday, but "What can you do?"

At 1:00 PM Sunday the Transmitter went on the air and several SOARA hunters started. The first person to arrive at the park was N6MJN, Dave, who is not a SOARA member, but a dedicated hunter who heard the transmitter and start tracking it. N6MJN arrived at 2:30 PM. About an hour later the first SOARA hunters showed up. Dave, KG6QCI, and Richard, K6RBS, logged in at 3:32 PM.

Most of the other hunters were misled by the reflections off of the surrounding hills. Joe, W6BGR, and Brian, NJ6N, both arrived about 5:22 PM shortly before Howard, KG6GI, and Lou, KG6FCT. Kareem, KG6USK, had to drop out early. □



SOARA Fashions

SOARA caps, with the SOARA logo and your call sign, are available — see Tony, AE6QT, to order one. □

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	18	9	6	4
Board Meeting	31	3/7	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	—
ARRL Field Day						25/26						
SOARA picnic								7				
SOARA Holiday Party												4

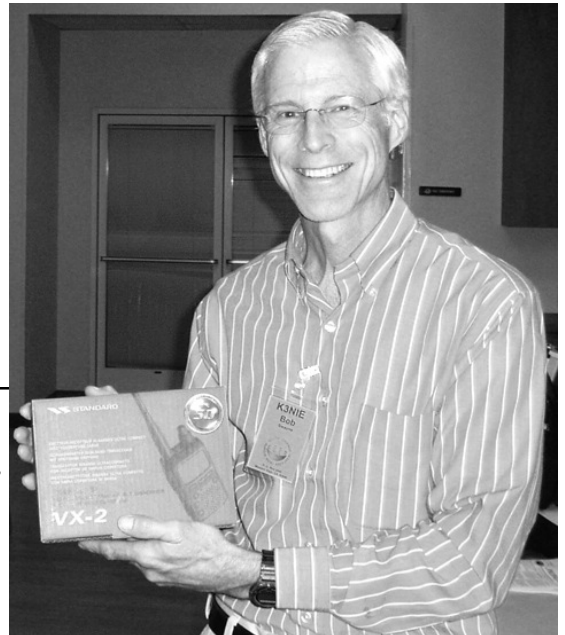
Only 2 weeks away!

The HROC Corner

The one HROC meeting of the year that never failed to pull a crowd was the annual Christmas dinner meeting. Since we only had 4 meetings a year, this was our time to hear the state of the association, vote on the new budget, thank the outgoing board of officers and install the new ones. We used a variety of locations. I can recall restaurants in Woodcrest, Riverside, Corona,

Anaheim, and elsewhere. In recent years, Keno's in Yorba Linda was our dinner meeting spot, and we had many great times there. The SOARA holiday affair always features an excellent dinner and camaraderie, but without a business meeting. I can recommend the SOARA dinner to all veteran HROC holiday dinner aficionados. See you there.

73, Roger-W6SQQ



Raffle Winner Bob Swayne, K3NIE, Shows off his new VR-2

SOARA Members-DUES TIME

Thanks to those who have paid their dues, but we have many who have not yet sent in their checks. Payment date was October 1, 2005. Please send yours right away. Your dues support the club and all our activities. Also, you will need to be a paid up member to be eligible for the holiday raffle.

We know everyone is busy this time of the year, but payment of your dues now will help your club remain a vital and growing organization. Send your check to the Post Office Box or use Pay Pal on the web site. Call me if you have any questions.
Jim, K6EEE

Raffle News

Congratulations to Ray, KG6QWY, Patti, AD6OH, Jim, K6LIO, Tony, KG6IGZ, Heiko, AD6OI, Kathleen, KG6YXF, Howard, KG6GI, and Steve, N5YRJ who won prizes in the \$1 raffle at the October general meeting. Congratulations to Bob, K3NIE who won the Yaesu VX-2R in the \$5 raffle!

Thanks to those of you who have supported the raffle throughout the year, we've been able to raise over \$400 for the club!

Remember, there is no raffle in November due to the auction and no raffle in December due to the holiday party.

The 2005 holiday party door prize will be a Kenwood, TM-G707A dual band 2m/440, 50/35 Watt mobile transceiver. Happy holidays and best of luck to everyone,

NJ6N

The PROPAGATOR



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

**HAVE YOU RENEWED
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**Meeting: November 21, 2005 at 7:00 PM
Fall Auction**

☛ **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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