

# The PROPAGATOR

April, 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## Bob Heil Video



### The Science of Audio

with Bob Heil, K9EID

The program this month will be a Bob Heil video, from the 1999 Visalia DX Convention. In this video presentation Amateur Radio's Premier expert on sound, Bob Heil, K9EID, covers the following topics:

- \* Audio signals
- \* The human ear
- \* Microphones
- \* Phasing
- \* Parametric equalization
- \* Utilizing professional broadcast techniques
- \* And much more!

You will hear how different microphones and equalization settings actually effect the audio that you broadcast. Bob demonstrates different techniques and equipment that Amateur Radio operators can use to boost their signal. Use these techniques to cut through the pileups and make more contacts. Come and see this presentation — as Bob says: "It all starts at the microphone!" □

## 2006 Amateur of the Year

Gordon West, WB6NOA, a good friend of SOARA, has been honored by the Dayton Hamvention for his recruiting and training efforts. His classes, books, and perhaps most of all, his enthusiasm for amateur radio have been the catalyst for a generation of hams to both enter and advance in the hobby. Congratulations Gordo; you richly deserve it. □

## New Members

Welcome to SOARA's newest members

George Lefebvre	WB5OLP
Ken Simpson	W6KOS

## Tech Day is Here!

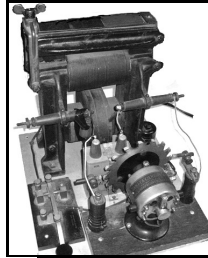
Yes, it is **this Saturday**. See Page 2 for details on the activities.

Date: Saturday, April 15

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Florence Joyner Park, M.V.

Talk-in: on the 147.645 machine. □



## Spark Gap Demo.

Steve Jensen, WN6RHM, Enlightened and entertained the SOARA membership with a discussion and demonstration of an actual early spark gap transmitter. It was one his grandfather had used in the early 1900s.

It was an interesting demonstration — you really had the feeling that the thing was transmitting even with no antenna attached. We appreciate Steve's presentation and his contribution to preserving radio history. □

## There's no place like home

by NJ6N

It was my turn to put on the monthly T-hunt. I was feeling a bit under the weather, recovering from a really bad cold, so I picked a really convenient location to hide the transmitter this month - in my own back yard!

For the hunt I used a Byonics "PicCon" t-hunt controller combined with a Radio Shack HTX-202 transmitter which fed a 11 element 2 meter beam mounted to an azimuth/elevation adjustable rotator system. The antenna was mounted low to the ground, on top of my backyard picnic table to be precise, so I could point it at a nearby hillside and houses to get some good, and hopefully confusing, reflections. In practice, this didn't seem to slow the hunters down much. I also pointed the beam into the sky for a while and then aimed it so that the broadside of the beam was parallel to the hunters to try to attenuate the signal depending on where I thought they were located.

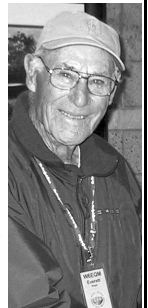
Early reports were that the transmitter might be located in Irvine and I confirmed that my brother Dana, K6NR, could hear the signal extremely well in Irvine. Joe, W6BGR, got into the hunt a bit late and was at Alicia and the 5 freeway when his equipment failed and he had to stop hunting.

It turned out to be a pretty short hunt, and it only took Howard, KG6GI, and Karl, KF6MDF, about 45 minutes to find the transmitter at my house. They were initially confused by the transmitter being in a residential area but as far

Continued on page 3

## Everett Baggs, W6EQM, SK

Sadly, we must announce that Everett Baggs, W6EQM became a Silent Key this past March. He was 87. Everett was a long time member of both SOARA, and the BCWS.



Everett lived almost his entire life in south Orange County, mostly in the communities of Laguna Beach and Dana Point. He operated an auto repair business in Laguna for many years. Everett served in the US army in the Pacific Theater during WWII.

Everett started in ham radio in the 60's. He was active in the AM mode in the early days but embraced SSB when it came along. He spent many hours running telephone patches to the then thriving southern California tuna fishing fleet. One anecdote he told was about his being the main US contact for some of the local boats when they were impounded by a South American nation and held in their port. Everett was the main contact with and information source between the crews, their families, and the State Department until the vessels were released.

Everett lived a full and interesting life, and we will greatly miss his friendly ways and great stories about ham radio! □



## The Way I See It: TECH DAY April 15

**FLASH** — *SOARA has made a special arrangement with the IRS for you to put off filing your Tax forms so that you can participate in TECH DAY on April 15 at Florence Joyner Park!*

(You can put outrageous statements like that in the APRIL issue. But the reality is that Tax forms are not due until April 17 this year. Still, mail them early because April 17 is the evening of the regular SOARA meeting.)

Instructions: Take an eraser and erase anything you have on your schedule for April 15. Write in: "Tech Day at Florence Joyner Park." Pick out the activities you would like to participate in, and collect the appropriate materials. On Saturday drive to the park at the corner of Alicia and Olympiad in Mission Viejo. The entrance to the park is off Olympiad just north of Alicia.

We plan to start arriving at the park by 11:00 AM. We have a picnic shelter reserved from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. In the morning we will set up and get ready to serve a lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, and drinks will be provided. Participants may bring chips, salads and any other goodies to share. Lunch is scheduled for 12:00 noon.

We have requested that the weather man ensure us a dry, sunny day. If he fails us, we will conduct our activities in the protection of the picnic shelter. If it is nice, we will set up antennas in the garden area at the South end of the park. We will have some poles to enable us to get wire antennas (HF) up, but we need bungee cords to facilitate attaching the poles to supports we find there (trees, fence posts, etc.).

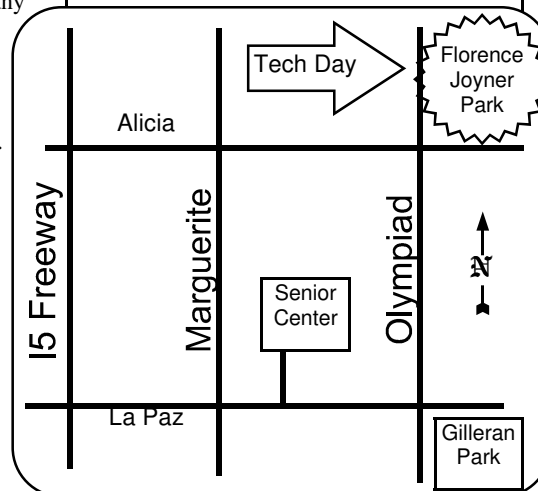
The activities we have planned include:

- ① HF operation.
- ② Antenna construction & testing.
- ③ T-hunting equipment & skills.

#### ④ Emergency preparedness.

**HF Operation:** This is, in part, preparation for Field Day. There has been a change in the rules governing the scoring for contacts made on the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. This station, you will recall is for the use of operators who do not have HF license privileges. Tech class hams and visitors are encouraged to try HF operation, and we get a few points. This year the rules enable us to get a significant number of points. (Does this have anything to do with the FCC proposal to drop the CW barrier on HF licenses?) Anyway, we will get 50 bonus points for an operator making 50 contacts on the GOTA station. We need some Tech class members who will be able to rack up those points this year. So come out and get your feet wet with the HF gear on Saturday.

We will operate on several bands and will use the club call sign: K6SOA, with a control operator. Lets see how many contacts we can make in the time we have, and, if conditions are good, we may work some DX stations.



**HF Antennas:** Our objective is to set up some radios and try out different antennas. We will have an antenna tuner to allow us to evaluate non-resonant antennas and compare them to resonant antennas. There will be an antenna analyzer available to let us do some testing. Just bring wire if you wish to build an antenna. We will provide the soldering irons, hot air gun and heat shrinkable tubing.

Several local hams have been using a capacity loaded dipole antenna which is made from coaxial cable. We will have plans for anybody interested in building one, and you need about the same amount of coax for the antenna as you would with a plain wire resident antenna. For example, you would

need 64 ft of coax to make a 40 meter dipole plus maybe another 30 ft as the feedline. We will have a 100 ft measuring tape to facilitate these measurements

**T-Hunting:** You can get started in T-hunting with simple equipment. Actually you can do a lot with just an HT, but some of the most useful equipment is easy to build. The widely used "tape measure" antenna is constructed from plastic pipe for the boom and pieces of metal tape (they bend without breaking — a good plan when you are "crashing through the brush"). If you are interested in building one we will have some material available, and we're only a block away from an ACE hardware, for any supplies you may need, like pipe clamps, or plastic "T"s.

A hidden transmitter will be available for a hunt. If there is enough interest we will have a contest to see who gets the best (most accurate) bearing on a hidden transmitter. If you have wanted to try your hand at hunting, this will be an excellent opportunity to get started.

**Emergency Preparedness:** For all you emergency communicators, or anyone else that is interested, this will be a great opportunity to add Anderson Power-Poles in the power lines of your radios. These connectors are very reliable and have been adopted as the standard connectors for RACES and other emergency organizations. A standard connector type ensures that field changes can be made if you have to move a radio from one power source to another

You will be able to purchase the power poles and 12 gauge power wires. The tool will be available for installing the power poles. This is a special crimping tool for these connectors. If you have power poles and have not installed them bring them and take advantage of the opportunity to use the proper tool.

An example of a modified automobile battery charger, with placing power poles in the lines between the charger and the clips, will be shown. This makes it very handy to insert a Saratoga power panel and both charge the batteries and power some radios.

We hope that you will find this event useful and that the club will have more in the future. Come out and participate, and then let us know what you liked and what activities we should have in following Tech-Days.

□

## South Orange Amateur Radio Association 2006 Election Ballot

This is your official 2006 SOARA Ballot. 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, the ballot has space provided for write in candidates.

Please vote () , clip out ballot and either bring to the April 17 meeting or mail to SOARA, P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, 92690. Election results will be published in the May Propagator.

### SOARA Ballot 2006

- |                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>President:</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ray Hutchinson, AE6H (incumbent) | Write in: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <b>Vice President:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Hobbs, AE6SH                 | Write in: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <b>Secretary:</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Scott, N6REG                | Write in: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Perluss, KR6CE (Incumbent) | Write in: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <b>Education Dir.:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Heiko Pechel, AD6OI (appointed)  | Write in: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

### Cars 4 Causes Benefits SOARA

If you have an old car you don't need and you would like to donate it to help SOAR, it is really quite easy. Just call 1-800-766-CARE (2273) and tell them you want to make your donation to SOARA. One donation has been made, pictured below.

For more information visit [www.cars4causes.net](http://www.cars4causes.net).



### Catalina Island Adventure

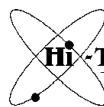
SOARA's Communications Director, Dave "Cruser" Seroski and Gordon "Gordo" West took their camping and communications gear for an outing on Catalina. The occasion was a Boy Scout Adventure Race on the island. Communications for the event was supplied mainly by amateur radio. No guarantee was made for good weather — so they got to communicate in the rain.



Gordo & Cruser grab a bite while not busy handling communications chores.

**T-hunt** Continued from page 1  
as I know, that's not against the rules! Karl was side-tracked by the reflections for a short time and took a nice hike in a nearby park behind my house, but he quickly discovered that the transmitter was in my back yard.

This was certainly not one of the most challenging hunts, but I think everyone who hunted had fun, and I got to take it easy and save my really challenging hunt location that I didn't use for another time!  
73, NJ6N



### Hi-Tech LIQUIDATORS

2060 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627

A very special thanks to Hi-Tech Liquidators for their monthly donations to the club raffle.

Located at 2060 Placentia Ave, in Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Phone: (949) 646-1686

### Raffle News

Congrats to the winners of last month's \$1 raffle and once again thanks to Richard, WD6X, of Hi-Tech Liquidators for providing the LED flashlight prizes. We should sell enough \$5 tickets at the April meeting to be able to raffle off the Yaesu FT-840 HF rig. So make sure you buy a ticket or two if you haven't already done so, or even if you have, buy another for a better chance at winning! 73, NJ6N



# The PROPAGATOR

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



## Meeting: April 17, 2006 at 7:00 PM Bob Heil, K9EID Video

☛ **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 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 8:00 AM.

### SOARA OFFICERS

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*Secretary:* Position Open

*Treasurer:* Steve Perluss, KR6CE . . . . . 949-364-6195  
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