

The PROPAGATOR

June, 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Preparing for Field Day	SOARA Storage	Fall Auction Report
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The June general meeting will be devoted to preparation and final planning for this year's Field Day exercise at Gilleran Park. Lou Frank, KG6FCT, our current Activities Chair will oversee the activities.

The meeting will start with an overview of the club's plans and needs for Field Day this year. Some of the meal planning and preparation slots are still open, and there are still opportunities to volunteer to bring radios and computers. Sign up lists will be available. If you have a laptop computer that could be used for Field Day logging, bring it to the meeting so it can be loaded with the logging program.

Brief presentations will cover the efforts we will make in PSK31, NTS (National Traffic System) message handling, Satellite communications, and the use of the logging software.

After the break, the meeting will change format with the featured topics set up in different corners of the room. Participants can visit the areas that they find interesting to see PSK31 in operation, learn about and generate NTS messages (we need 10), see the mapping and satellite location software in operation, and get the logging software loaded on a laptop and see it in operation.

Toward the end of the evening we will again assemble to go over the schedule and plans for the following weekend. We want to have everything settled by the end of the meeting.

On the evening before Field Day starts we will have our traditional hot-dog roast at Gilleran Park. Saturday Morning the antennas will go up and the fun will start. See you there. □

New Members

Welcome to SOARA's newest member

Rich Oldfield KI6DPT

Where does SOARA store their Field Day antennas? Well, it has been at one or more member's homes. Good news: we now have a storage container at Gilleran Park. When you visit the Field Day site this year, be sure to go over and take a look at it. At last we have a convenient place to store the club's gear. □

May T- Hunt Report

A roasty 95 was peaking on the thermometer; it was one o'clock on the dash and the "Mouse" was turned on. But only as a spoiler, the real fox was miles away in San Juan Capistrano on the bluffs. And it was 74 there. Sly ol' Richard was sending the hot fox signal of 50 watts right up the coast. As I closed in, he heard the spoiler.

Is that a bloody cat toy I hear? Why yes it is, so fresh you can smell the cat nip! Cat didn't mind if I used it for the afternoon. We got a good laugh out of that, mostly because it sounded so ridiculous. But it did fill in the long points between the 50 watter. It was set at every minute. The mouse was chirping constantly.

One of the clues as to the location of the "T" was Richard's programming the fox to play *Smoke on the Water*. (How did he do that?) Both Karl and Matt caught it right away. First in was Karl with 47 minuets. Next in was Matt with 1 hour 43 minuets. He took a stroll down the beach with his girl friend then came in for something to drink and munchies. Down to 2 hunters but we still had a good time.
de Dave, KG6QCI □



The Fall Auction was held on May 15, with a turnout of over forty members. Heiko, AD6IO, served as auctioneer. Among the items offered for sale were the regular assortment of radio items, along with estate offerings.

The club derives some benefit from each sale, and there were several items for which the entire proceeds were donated to the club. Accessories for the ham station are always popular at the auctions and generate the most intense bidding. It seems that the more expensive items are more apt to be offered on E-Bay, where a wider range of buyers are found.

Still the auction is an enjoyable event, even if one only goes over the equipment for the joy of seeing old and sometimes, unusual, gear. □

Raffle News



As you know there was no raffle in May due to the auction. To make up for this, The June \$5 raffle will feature two radio prizes! One lucky winner will be the proud new owner of a Yaesu FT-1802M, VHF FM Mobile Transceiver AND a VX-170 VHF FM Handy Talkie! Don't miss the June meeting for your chance at win

ning the pair of radios!



There will be other great prizes in the \$1 raffle including:

- ☛ a tape measure Yagi kit (it's one of Marvin Johnson's, KE6HTS, ARDF Kits),
- ☛ books,
- ☛ PowerPole power connectors, and more! I hope to see you at the June meeting. 73, NJ6N □



The Way I See It: Field Day Bonus Points

Although Field Day is designed to be a fun experience, it does have a serious purpose; well, it has more than one purpose. Primarily it is an exercise in operating under the conditions you would expect to find during an emergency situation. Another purpose is to gain some visibility to the general public and to local officials.

Most of the points we accumulate toward our final score for the year come from making contacts with other Field Day stations. But there are also "bonus" points to be had. Bonus points are earned for activities that support the above purposes of the event. Both because it is in the spirit of the event, and because we really like to earn high final scores, we attempt to earn as many bonus points as possible. The following is an explanation of the bonus points available this year.

100% Emergency Power (300 points)

We will be running on power from a generator. Between the generator and the rigs will be batteries and battery chargers. This is to ensure uninterrupted operation if the generator stops. (It is not advisable to refuel the generator while it is running!)

Media Publicity (100 points) We will send press releases to the local media. Sometimes we get the publicity and other times we don't. The points are given for sending the press release.

Public Location (100 points)

This is one reason for selecting Gilleran Park.

Public Information Table (100 points)

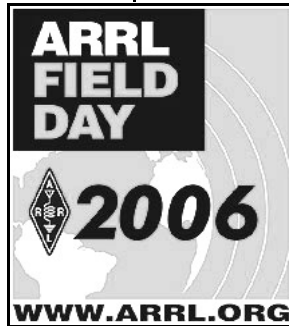
Greeting the public is important, and in the past we have been found by local hams who then joined the club.

Message Origination to Section Manager (100 points)

A brief greeting to the Section Manager and we get these bonus points.

Message Handling (10 points for each message up to 100 points)

Anyone can send a message via NTS (the National Traffic System). Some of our members are active in handling these messages (a large portion from military personnel). We need to send ten messages, so feel free to write a note to a friend for these bonus points. Be sure to have the correct address (as complete as possible, include zip code and telephone number) and limit the message to 25 words or less.



Satellite QSO (100 points)

We have tried to accomplish this the past few years and have not succeeded. This year we plan on getting the bonus points.

Alternate Power (100 points)

We have used a solar panel and a QRP rig to get the five QSOs we need. It has

worked well and, we will use the same equipment this year.

W1AW Bulletin (100 points)

It will be broadcast in CW, phone and TTY. The West Coast station K6KPH will also broadcast the message in CW and digital modes. The updated schedule can be found on the web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/w1aw-fd-sked-2006.html>

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstrations

(100 points for each mode up to 300 points)

For the past few years we have selected Amateur Television (ATV), Slow Scan Television (SSTV) and APRS for the demonstration modes. This has worked well, and we have members who have the equipment and the experience to make these points easy.

Site Visitation by an elected government official (100 points)

For the past two years we have had good response from the Mission Viejo officials. The mayor and one Council member visited the site.

Site Visitation by a representative of an agency (100 points)

Invitations should go out to all of the local

agencies that SOARA is associated with. The relationship between SOARA and various local agencies is generally through the specific RACES, ARES, and other groups which SOARA supports through our system of repeaters.

Field Day Youth Participation (20 points per youth [not over 18 years] up to 100 points)

We hope to have at least five young people working or visiting the site this year. Please do your best to encourage visitors and include the youth in that encouragement.

Web submission of entry (50 points)

This is an easy one — its purpose is to encourage the electronic submission of the clubs Field Day entry. It saves everyone work and reduces the chance of the entry being lost. Last year several entries were lost in a mail mix-up at the ARRL. Ours was among them and fortunately Richard, K6RBS, noticed that we were not listed as having an entry. We got it straightened out, but it was a close call.

GOTA [Get On The Air] Bonus:

This is the area with the most changes from previous years. It now carries a large number of potential bonus points. In order to obtain these bonus points we must make a commitment to getting them.

50 QSOs for one operator (50 bonus points)

100 QSOs (additional 50 bonus points)

These QSO can not be combined among several operators. We must find people willing to operate long enough to get 50

QSOs. Additional GOTA

operators can earn these bonus points up to a 500 bonus point limit. (There is no partial credit for making only a portion of the 50 QSOs.)

If the GOTA station is supervised full time by a **GOTA Coach**, then the bonus points for each 50 QSOs will be doubled. (This brings the

possible GOTA bonus points up to 1000.)

Note that all bonus points are in addition to the regular points for the QSOs. Also, in order to obtain the doubling of GOTA bonus points, we **must** have a GOTA Coach on duty all of the time the station is in use.

Come out to Field Day for one hour or 24+.

Everyone can have a good time and all contribute to the event and to the club. See you there! 73 and good luck in the contest. □



Year 2006	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	23	27	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	No meeting
Program	AE6SH	WU6D	W6RHM Spark- Gap Xmtr	K9EID Bob Heil Video	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep.	WB6WXO				Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	23	27	20	17	15	24	17	21	18	16	20	—
SOARA T-Hunt	8	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	8	5	3
Board Meeting	30	3/6	27	24	22	24	24	28	25	23	27	
ARRL Field Day				Tech Day 15	F.D. Planning 11	24/25			Tech Day 9			
SOARA picnic								6				
SOARA Holiday Party												3

Orange County Fair Amateur Radio Booth

There will be an Amateur Radio booth at the Orange County Fair again this year. SOARA will have the privilege of staffing the booth on **Saturday, July 15**, and **Sunday, July 16**. Volunteers to staff the booth get free admission to the fair and free parking.

The theme of the booth is "Amateur Radio in Bloom." SOARA's theme for that weekend will be "APRS." We try to have enough members on duty at the booth so that no one feels stuck in the booth alone. It is an opportunity to meet the public and show them some of the magic of amateur radio. We will have SOARA literature at the booth, and this has been an effective means of getting local hams acquainted with the club.

Mark your calendars and plan to spend a few hours at the fair this summer.

Half Marathon Communications Volunteers

You have heard Heiko, AD6OI, asking for volunteers for communications support of various races. Last month the following hams (most of them SOARA members) turned out to support a the half marathon race on Sunday, May 28, 2006:

Brian, NJ6N Richard, K6RBS Roy, AC6LN
Tom, AE6SH Joe, W6BGR Lou, KG6FCT
Bill, KI6FB John, AC7GK Dave, KG6QCI
Ken, W6KOS David, W7KTS Tom, KI6DDB
Ken, K6KCR Tek (Jerrod), K6TEK
and of course: Heiko, AD6OI

There may have been others whose names were not included in the list. Patti, AD6OH, Lou, KA6BJO, and Muriel, KA6BJP, were in the area and rumor has it that they were involved also.

In another venue Knute, K6HIV, was active with RACES, coordinating the election returns on June 6. All of these volunteers are appreciated.

Help Wanted

Volunteers needed for Field Day:

- ◆ People to take responsibility for a meal.
 - ◆ People who can bring a Rig.
 - ◆ People who can bring a laptop computer.
 - ◆ CW operators.
 - ◆ Phone operators.
 - ◆ GOTA Coaches.
 - ◆ Greeters for public information table.
- But most important:
- ◆ People to come and enjoy Field Day!



Hi-Tech LIQUIDATORS

2060 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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

Phone: (949) 646-1686

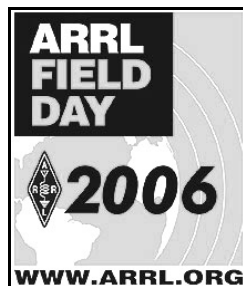
A very special thanks to **Hi-Tech
Liquidators** for their monthly
donations to the club raffle.

Schedule at Gilleran Park

- Friday** June 23, 6:30 PM
Hotdogs & site planning (+ spud guns?)
- Saturday** June 24, 7:00 AM
Start setting up equipment & antennas
- Saturday** June 24, 11:00 AM
On the air. 24 hours of fun begins.
- Sunday** June 25, 11:00 AM
Take down, clean up, go home to rest.

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



**FIELD DAY
JUNE 24, 25**

Meeting: June 19, 2006 at 7:00 PM Field Day Preparation

☛ **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 8:00 AM.

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