



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

November 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

Nov. Program	1
QST de AE6H	1
Events	2
Raffle News	2
Communicators corner	3
Education News	3
2007 Calendar	4
Club Directory	4
A look at last month's meeting	5

Fall Auction on Nov 19.

Twice a year SOARA holds a club auction. It is a chance to recycle some of your old equipment and pick up some new toys at a good price. Even if you don't participate as a seller of as a buyer (you might decide

to buy something anyway), the auction is a lot of fun. Come to the meeting this Monday and enjoy the bidding and the fellowship. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Come early if you bring things to sell.



QST, QST, de AE6H

Now that the smoke has cleared from what has been officially designated as "Firestorm 07", it is now time to take stock of what actually happened within the SOARA Ham community. I will try to begin the process, so here goes.

K6HIV, Mission Viejo RACES members, all worked in communications at the Incident Command Post and Base Camp, located in Irvine Regional Park. Dale, KE6ZGR, participated in canyon fire watch, and Dave, KG6QCI, monitored fire activity, and kept as many as possible aware of the fire location and progress. I'm sure others assisted as well.

Now, for what didn't go so well? All emergency communications groups needed more folks. We simply couldn't provide enough properly trained, equipped, and organized hams to meet the needs. We need to become more involved, for our own good, the good of the community, and for the good of Amateur Radio. Find an organized emcomm group in your community and join it! SOARA supports all of these groups with resources and repeaters. There's lots of opportunity to get trained, get credentialed, and get involved, and you just might find it to be fun. 73, de AE6H

First, it appears that all of our members fared well, although some were temporarily evacuated from their canyon homes. Second, SOARA equipment in Trabuco Canyon and on Santiago Peak sustained no obvious damage. Third, the repeaters functioned well and remained available, except for a brief power interruption at our new Santiago Peak location.

Now for the recognition of those SOARA members that contributed to the emergency efforts. Charlie, WA6RUZ, Lou, KG6FCT, and Knute,



Meeting:

Nov. 19

7:00 PM

N. P. Murray

SOARA Holiday Party 12/9



Events:

November 15
EchoLink class
7:00 PM at
N.P. Murray
Community
Center
In Mission Viejo

December 6
SONGS test
rescheduled for
December 6.
Contact Dave,
KG6QCI for in-
formation.

December 9
6:00 PM
SOARA Holi-
day Party.

*Tickets are \$25
per person and
will be available
at the meeting
on Monday,
November 19,
or contact
Lou, KG6FCT.*

*This is our last
club event of
the year (there
is no regular
meeting in De-
cember)*

The holiday season is here. Start the holiday season 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 9, at the SOARA Holiday Party. Please plan on purchasing your Holiday Party Tickets for \$25 each, at this coming meeting. November 9 is the last meeting before the party, so find out your spouse's menu selection and bring your money. This year we will be having our party at:

Antonucci's Italian Restaurant
24190 Alicia Parkway
Mission Viejo

It is located in the shopping center at the corner of Alicia and Muirlands.

We will be served our choice of minestrone soup or house salad. For the main course you can choose from:

1. **Spaghetti- Rigatoni- Fusilli- Mostaccioli- Linguine-** pasta served with marinara or meat sauce (available with meatballs or sausage).
2. **Cheese Ravioli-** cheese filled ravioli with marinara or meat sauce.
3. **Homemade Lasagna-** lasagna noodles layered with meat, ricotta cheese, imported parmesan, mozzarella and fresh herbs, then baked with marinara sauce.
4. **Homemade Vegetarian Lasagna-** lasagna noodles layered with spinach, ricotta cheese, imported parmesan, mozzarella and fresh herbs, then baked with marinara sauce.

5. **Eggplant Parmigiana-** eggplant layered between mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce, then baked.

Served with a side of fusilli marinara.

6. **Fettuccine Alfredo-** fettuccine sautéed with butter, cream, and imported parmesan cheese.

7. **Baked Rigatoni-** rigatoni noodles baked with parmesan and mozzarella cheese in meat sauce.

8. **Homemade Manicotti-** home-made crepes filled with ricotta cheese, parmesan, mozzarella and fresh herbs, then baked in marinara sauce.

9. **Linguine with White Clam Sauce** - sautéed with fresh garlic, chopped clams, and fresh herbs.

10. **Chicken Parmigiana-** lightly breaded chicken breast baked with marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese.

11. **Chicken Marsala-** boneless chicken breast and fresh mushrooms, sautéed in Marsala wine sauce, served with a side of fusilli marinara.

There will be entertainment and surprises; come for a good time. Bring a grab bag gift, one per person. As a suggestion, grab bag items should be between \$5 and \$15 in value. I am looking forward to seeing every one at Antonucci's Restaurant on Sunday December 9, 2007, at 6:00 for our annual Holiday Party. 73, Lou KG6FCT

Raffle Report

Congratulations to Ernie, W6ETS, who won the IC-91AD D-STAR equipped hand-held in the October five-dollar raffle! There will be no raffle at the November (auction) meeting.

There will be a door-prize at the Holiday Party in December. This years prize is an ICOM IC-91AD D-STAR transceiver

73, Brian, NJ6N



New members are always welcome at SOARA. But, remember, they may not feel welcome unless YOU greet them and make them feel like YOU want them at our functions. Watch for new members or visitors at our meetings and reach out to them.

New to SOARA this month are:

Jim Loudon,
N6ERX

Bill Ajera,
AC6OX

JOKE

Why do programmers get Halloween and Christmas confused?

Oct 31 ==
Dec 25

Communicators Corner

This is just a brief report on the two most recent events that we (SOARA) participated in as support communicators.

On Sunday, Nov.4, the Tustin Dinosaur Dash took place and was so well run that the most exciting part of the race (for us) was checking in to the 40M net through Brian's mobile set up. The operators were Brian, NJ6N, Kriss, KR6ISS, Ken, K6KCR, Tom, KI6DDB, Patti, AD6OH, Tim, KI6LOP, (our newest operator) and myself. Mike, KI6IRA, could not be there because of a family emergency. Breakfast was at the Snooty Fox and was well enjoyed.

On Saturday, the 10th of November,

we worked a marathon (26.2miles) and a 50 mile race. The marathon was uneventful, but the 50 miler ran into a few snags and some of our operators did not make it home till midnight. More on this story next month. The operators were Joe, W6BGR, John, AC7GK, Mike, KF6HVO, Kriss, KR6ISS, Lee, K6QAX, Patti, AD6OH, and two (new to our racing scene) young hams from San Juan Capistrano: Douglas, KI6TSA, and Clarke, KI6IZE. Also, Ray, AE6H, and his wife Debbie showed up in the evening to pull our irons out of the fire with his truck and trusty winch.

To be continued next month.

Heiko, AD6OI



Participants in the November 9 - 11 SOARA expedition to the Lake Alamo area in Arizona were (left to right) Vlad, WY6DX, Vlad, KI6BLP, Nancy, AE6XL, and Carl, AB7KD. The possibility of such an expedition was suggested by Vlad, KI6BLP, at the October SOARA meeting. Congratulations on making it a reality. More pictures are available at: <http://soara.digitalfracture.net/viewtopic.php?t=84>

Education News

The third seminar this year is scheduled for November 15, at the Murray Center starting at 7:00 PM. The topic is "How to use the EchoLink Repeater." The presenter is Howard Brown, KG6GI. His presentation should last about two hours.

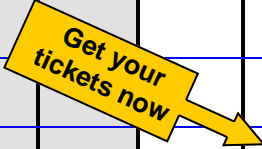
Brian, NJ6N, has agreed to put on a seminar early next year on the D-STAR system. This will be a hands-on session with the emphasis on actual operation of the equipment and using the

system. Also, plans are in progress for other seminars on the practical use of test equipment.

Saddleback is offering three electronic classes for the Spring Semester. They are an introductory class offered in the morning. One will be a more comprehensive AC/DC class that meets two nights a week. The other will be a semiconductor circuits' class. These classes are both lab and lecture.

73, Hal, WB6WXO

Year 2007	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	22	26	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	No meeting
Program	KI6BLP Sat. trk ant & APRS	K6LCS Clint Bradford	W6OM Ron Operatin g DX	Program on D-Star	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep.	KI6ICU Rally Racing & APRS	WU6D Reaching Youth	KC6MMF Winlink for EmComm	Future of Ham Radio Forum	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	22	26	19	16	21	23	16	20	17	15	19	—
SOARA T-Hunt	7	4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Board Meeting	29	3/5	26	23	29	23	23	27	24	22	26	
Special Events			24	25	19							
ARRL Field Day						23/24						
SOARA picnic								5				
SOARA Holiday Party												9



☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. For the months of January and February the third Monday is a holiday and the meeting is held on the fourth Monday.

☛ **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, KG6GL.

	2m	—	147.645	—	(110.9)	Laguna Beach
	2m	—	146.025	+	(110.9)	San Clemente
	2m	—	145.240	—	(110.9)	Trabuco
D-Star	2m	—	146.115	+	(K6SOA C)	Laguna Beach (DV)
	220	—	224.100	—	(110.9)	Laguna Beach
	220	—	224.640	—	(123.0)	Santiago Pk. (C)
D-Star	440	—	445.660	—	(K6SOA B)	Laguna Beach (DV)
	440	—	447.180	—	(131.8)	Santiago Pk. (C)
D-Star	1.2G	—	1282.600	—	(K6SOA A)	Laguna Beach (DV)
D-Star	1.2G	—	1299.900		(K6SOA AD)	Laguna Beach (DD)

☛ **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

President: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-496-8020
ae6h@soara.org
V.P.: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org
Secretary: Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI 949-362-8534
wa6ldi@soara.org
Treasurer: Steve Perluss, KR6CE 949-364-6195
kr6ce@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

Repeater: Howard Brown, KG6GI 949-581-2634
kg6gi@soara.org
Publications: Dale Griffith, W8RRV 949-830-3767
w8rrv@soara.org
Membership: Horst(KD7JHR) & Marie(KD7JHS) Zitzmann
949-768-8552
kd7jhr@soara.org or kd7jhs@soara.org

Education: Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002
wb6wxo@soara.org
Technical: Bob Grant, W6CIC 951-780-4788
w6cic@soara.org
Communications: Lee Krank, K6QAX. 949-201-6708
k6qax@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Lou Frank, KG6FCT 949-206-1986
kg6fct@soara.org
Testing: Paul Levey, NZ1M 949-481-5454
nz1m@soara.org
Website: Richard Saunders, K6RBS 949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org

The Future of Ham Radio



The topic of the October meeting was :”The Future of Amateur Radio”

The format was an open discussion ably moderated by Howard Brown, KG6GI.

A lively discussion centered on Emergency communications, attracting young people to amateur radio, increasing the relevance of SOARA, and various other areas.

It is clear that SOARA members have thought seriously about the future of our hobby.

Howard, KG6GI, started the October meeting with an overview of SOARA’s uniqueness among local clubs. SOARA has avoided the membership decline which has plagued most of the clubs in the area. “We must be doing something right, but maybe not enough.” Several topics were presented for discussion. We started with a look at what SOARA could do to better meet the needs and interests of its members. Vlad, KI6BLP, suggested undertaking expeditions to remote areas. (This was the first suggestion and it was the first to be accomplished.) The idea of an expedition operations during contests seemed to appeal to several members.

Joe, W6BGR, saw reaching out to young hams as a priority. This should involve both individual efforts and a programmatic effort of the club. Two or three volunteers to work on the development and implementation of such a program are needed. Working with the BSA both through the merit badge program and in providing “Service hours” from assisting in communications for civic events was suggested.

Emergency communications came up before long, with most members well aware of its importance to society and to the preservation of our frequencies. SOARA is fortunate to have several members who work in public safety and who have good insight into the needs of public agencies during emergencies. Although the Public safety agencies have good robust communications systems, the rest of society will be in need of communications in the event of a major emergency inci-

dent. Tom, AE6SH, pointed out that society is increasingly dependent on technology and hams generally understand the technology. Amateur radio will be useful after a major incident whereas cell phones may well be unusable.

In a discussion of new ham technologies (digital voice and data) it was pointed out that volunteers are needed who can help club members become proficient at the operation of equipment and systems. Some hams are adapting used commercial digital communications gear for amateur use. Hal, WB6WXO, noted that it is a long standing ham tradition to adapt surplus gear.

In summary, SOARA is doing a lot right, and there is much more that we could be doing. We need to involve more people in the operation of the club. Our education director has started a series of educational workshops that are proving to be very popular. We need to expand that area with some volunteers to be active in mentoring people in digital modes (D-STAR, PSK-31, etc.) and in internet based modes (EchoLink, etc.). We need volunteers to take the lead in reaching out to youth (through the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as programs in the schools). We need to always be on the alert for ways to attract people of all ages to the radio hobby. Dave, KG6QCI, has been very effective in his local community. We need volunteers to be greeters at the club meeting to ensure that visitors realize that they are welcome and wanted. How can you help?