



The **Propagator**

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

March, 2007

SOARA members K6RBS, NJ6N and K6TEK participated in the International Space Station contact with Mission Viejo High School.

After several days of careful planning and preparation, led by the UCI amateur radio club, students of Mission Viejo High School were ready with questions for the astronaut Michael Lopez-Alefria in the International Space Station. It was Thursday, March 8, and the space craft whizzed by without hearing the transmission from the school. A second try was quickly arranged for the next day, and on Friday morning the connection was successful. Richard, K6RBS, who helped with the operation, met with SOARA members for the regular Friday lunch. "The look on the students faces made it worth the effort."

Brian, NJ6N, supplied some of the antennas and the tracking control, an important part of the system. (The Space Station circles the earth in only 90 minutes.) Contact with the astronauts is only possible for roughly seven minutes as they pass overhead. Brian took several pictures of the preparations and of the actual contact. They can be found at <http://nj6n.com//0307-ARISS/>

Both video and voice recordings were made of the event. Richard, K6RBS, will have information when they are available. Watch the web site for announcements.



The announcement by the control operator:

I am pleased to announce to you that the K6UCI Amateur Radio Club (in collaboration with members of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association and UCI Satellite Project) will be hosting a direct radio contact between the students of Mission Viejo High School and NASA astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria currently in orbit aboard the International Space Station! Twenty students from the high school were selected to interview the astronaut, and will take turns asking him questions as the space station passes overhead at 8:30 AM this Thursday morning. The communication link for this interview will be established by amateur radio satellite communication gear on-site at the school, and will support communications for the eight minute window that the station will be in view (photos from the setup date can be found at <http://nj6n.com//0307-ARISS/>).

Matt Bennett
KF6RTB
K6UCI Control Operator for Mission Viejo / ISS
Contact



QST, QST, QST, de AE6H



Hello to all. This is an update of some significant events and issues we are currently facing and working to bring to positive outcomes for SOARA.

First, here are some upcoming events I want to bring to your attention.

On Sunday, March 25, 2007, we will be having a practice Field Day at Gilleran Park to work on antenna placement and other strategies for making this upcoming Field Day (June 22, 23, & 24) more competitive and more fun.

May 18, 19, & 20, 2007 are the dates for the Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Trotwood, Ohio. This is, of course, the annual pilgrimage for the Ham loyal and Faithful.

June 22, 23, 24, 2007 is the ARRL annual Field Day, the preeminent annual Ham Radio event. SOARA will set up at Gilleran Park, Filepe Rd., South of La Paz Rd. in Mission Viejo. (Thomas Guide 922 F 1&2)

We will support the Amateur Radio booth at the Orange County Fair again this year. The Fair runs from July 6 through the end of the month.

Plan on attending Hamcon 2007, ARRL SW Division Convention, September 7, 8, & 9 2007, in Torrence Ca. SOARA will be presenting the Wouff Hong ceremony, a traditional event at ARRL Ham Conventions dating back to the days of the founder of the ARRL, Hiram Percy Maxim. We still need a few cast members and some stagehands, etc. Also, we have "Early Bird" registrations for Hamcon, \$15.00 that includes a limited addition cloisonné enameled pin. See me at the next meeting. The admission price will be \$24.00 at the door.

We have a number of projects and issues with which we are dealing. There is the continued work of implementing all phases of the D-Star digital radio system. We are working on getting the Gateway function up and running, and programming in the SOARA member/ users. This is the portion that facilitates worldwide communication and user location internationally. SOARA's own Brian, NJ6N, has become very instrumental in software development for the entire worldwide D-Star system.

We are attempting to negotiate some relief from the approximately 250% rent increase we were served with as of the first of this year. We are communicating with our landlord, attempting to make them understand the impact and hardship imposed on us by such a drastic sudden increase.

Finally, our landlord at our Laguna Beach site, the Laguna Beach County Water District has directed us to reduce and/or consolidate the number of antennas (and the profiles of these antennas). This, just after we have added the D-Star equipment, and associated antennas. Apparently the neighbors don't share our appreciation of the beauty of nice, shiny new ham antennas! Anyone got some invisible antenna paint?

As you can see, there are always challenges and adventures. If you have any desire to help us accomplish our goals of bringing these challenges to positive conclusions, you will certainly be welcomed!

73, de Ray, AE6H

**When I works, I works hard.
When I plays, I plays hard.
When I sits, I sits loose.
And when I thinks, I fall asleep.**



The International Side of Ham Radio

Our speaker for the March meeting (this coming Monday, the 19th at 7:00PM) is SOARA's Membership Director, Ron, W6OM. The topic will appeal to both new and experienced HF operators.

Ron Weaver, first licensed as a Novice Class Operator at the age of 11 in Pasadena, California with the call sign of WV6CZH. Ron's first QSO was with UA3AB in Moscow, Russia, and his second contact was with FO5BI in Tahiti. This set the path for his life long exploits and DX

operations around the world.

Ron has operated from several "Rare" countries and continues to chase DX for the simple fun of it all. He currently holds the ARRL Honor Roll certificates for working all 326 countries of the world on both CW and SSB plus has achieved DXCC on all bands except 160 meters.

Ron's second home is in Tahiti where he holds the call sign of FO5VO and can be found working contests with other members of the Tahitian Club named "CORA".

As Ron puts it, we all come into Amateur Radio with a perspective or vision of what we want to do. In my case, the vision is "International" and connects me with friends around the world who I have know all my life.

This hobby fundamentally changed my life, gave me a direction and a sense of how the world is inter-related and how we are all connected and is the reason behind the founding of my telecommunications business. I cannot image being alive and not being a Ham.

Monday evening's talk will include but not be limited to:

- HF Bands for International Communications
- HF bands for public service, health and welfare
- Propagation, what is real and what is not real
- DX operating tips for you to use tonight and every night (Beacons)
- DX Cluster for everyone, use it tonight and work more DX
- QSLing, QSL managers, ARRL, Green Stamps and awards
- How to get a license if you visit a country
- Operating protocol for CW and SSB
- If time allows, I will do a brief overview of the International team I am taking into Butan later this year to light it up for Ham radio and train prospective hams in the Government.

2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Meeting	22	26	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	--
Testing	22	26	19	16	21	23	16	20	17	15	19	--
Board	29	3/25	26	23	29	23	23	27	24	22	26	
T-Hunt	7	4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2

Activities

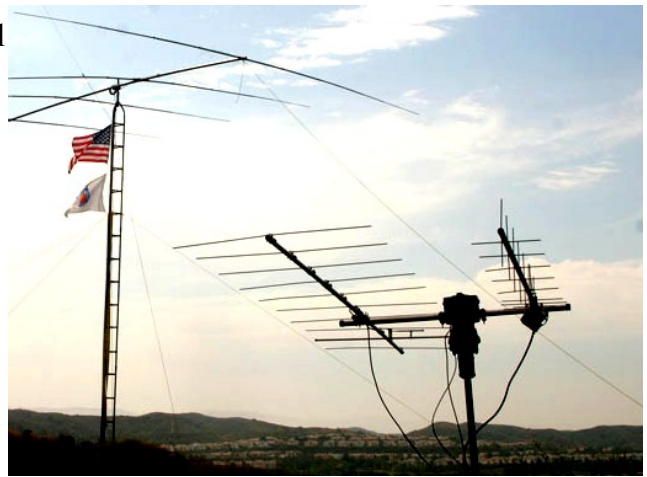


Field Day is fast approaching. Can you believe it's only 3 months away? A great way to start our preparation would be with a Minnie field day. Come join us on Sunday March 25th at Gilleran Park for our practice field-day and picnic. We have the picnic area reserved from 10:00AM to 5:00 PM and will fire up the grill for hot dogs and hamburgers at 1:00PM. The plan is to start putting up wire antennas at 10:00 AM and fire up the radios at 11:00. We will use power from the batteries cage rather than generators.

There will be sign-up lists at our March meeting for those who will bring food, antennas and radios. Let's HAM it up at Gilleran Park.

Let me know if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Lou, KG6FCT



Congratulations to our very own club Vice President, Tom, AE6SH for winning the Yaesu, FT-1802M 2M mobile rig at last month's meeting! Congrats to all of the winners of the \$1 raffle as well. I would like to thank Heiko, AD6OI, and Richard, WD6X, (from Hi-Tech Liquidators) as well as Ham Radio Outlet, Anaheim, for their support of the club raffles.

This month's five dollar raffle prize will be an Alinco, DR-235T 220 MHz, 25 watt FM transceiver with a 7 character alphanumeric display. Howard, KG6GI, won the same model of radio in last year's raffle and is quite happy with it, I'm told.

With the recent fine-tuning of the repeater system by Barry, W7BF, and Tom, AE6SH, our private 220 repeater on Santiago is working very well now and has fantastic coverage. SOARA also has an open 220 repeater on Temple Hill in Laguna Beach on 224.100- PL110.9 that covers the South Orange County and coastal areas very well.

73, and good luck,

de NJ6N

Ted Brunner, K6LLL, Silent Key

I am saddened to announce that former SOARA member, Ted Brunner, K6LLL, became a Silent Key at his home Wednesday, March 7, 2007, after a bout with lung cancer. Ted was a retired Classics professor at UC Irvine. He had many academic accomplishments, including establishing the world's largest computerized database of the Greek language that revolutionized the study of ancient Greek writings. Ted was 72.

Ted was an active ham and was noted for maintaining the 10 meter K6LLL propagation beacon at his home at Top of the World in Laguna Beach. Ted was a member and faculty advisor to the UCI ham club and was very instrumental in establishing the K6UCI ham shack and station. For several years he was Radio Officer of Laguna Beach ARES/RACES and coordinated the communications for the joint Laguna-Seal Beach Baker to Vegas running team as well.

A native of Nuremburg, Germany, Ted and family moved to the US in 1953. Ted served in the US Marine Corps. Ted loved the California Desert, and he spent many hours exploring and camping there and working HF mobile.

Ted became active in Laguna Beach Civic affairs and eventually became a reserve police officer for the city.

Personally, I am a better ham and person for having known Ted. He will truly be missed.

Ray, AE6H, SOARA President