



The

# Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

September 2007

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**Meeting:**

**Sept. 17**

**7:00 PM**

**N. P. Murray  
Center  
Mission Viejo**

## Winlink for EmComm

Our program speaker this month is Scott Byington, KC6MMF. Scott is a Lt. with the OC RACES and holds the position of assistant radio officer. His topic Monday evening will be the Winlink system and how it is used for emergency communications.



Winlink was developed to provide e-mail service to private ships at sea using amateur frequencies. Emergency groups have found that it is fast, accurate and reliable for sending messages and attachments. Come and hear how Winlink compares with other modes.



## QST, QST, de AE6H

I'm pleased to report that Hamcon 2007, the ARRL SW Division Convention is over, and by all

reports, SOARA's participation was a great success. SOARA was one of the sponsoring clubs, so a number of SOARA members put in some long hours, both in preparation for, and participating in the events. We presented two of the technical sessions and the Wouff Hong, as well as assisting in other areas. SOARA was also well represented by a large number of attendees. There is more about this great event inside.

Also, by the time you read this, Ron, W6OM, will have presented his antenna technical session at the Murray

Center scheduled for Sept. 11.

Knute, K6HIV, Club PIO, has secured booth space for SOARA at the upcoming So Cal EE trade show on September 19<sup>th</sup>, in Costa Mesa. Contact Knute if you can assist him with the booth. <[k6hiv@soara.org](mailto:k6hiv@soara.org)>

October 24<sup>th</sup> is the date of the So. CA Edison SONGS Siren and Tsunami Warning System test. Amateurs will be stationed at or near each siren or PA speaker to verify that it is working properly and then will report their results via radio. A few more ham operators are needed. If you can participate, contact Dave, KG6QCI.

At the August meeting, the SOARA Board carefully analyzed the 2007-

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Events:

**Sept. 19**  
So. Cal. Elec-  
tronics Expo  
SOARA  
will have a  
booth.

**October 24**  
SONGS test  
A few more  
volunteers  
needed.  
Contact  
Dave,  
KG6QCI

**December 9**  
The annual  
SOARA  
Holiday party  
If you would  
like to be in-  
volved in the  
planning of  
the party,  
please con-  
tact Lou,  
KG6FCT

## SoCalEE

SOARA will have a booth at the SOCALEE trade show in Costa Mesa on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 9AM to 4PM. The location is the O. C. Fair grounds, building 10. We will have booth #729. Admission and parking are free.

Driving directions: Take 5 north or 405 north to the 55 south, exit Del Mar/ Fair Drive, turn right on Fair Drive.

Visit their web site at:  
<http://www.socalee.com/>



## N6AA

Dick Norton, N6AA, will visit SOARA on Monday, Sept. 17, to give a brief report on his work as the

Director for the Southwestern Division.

Dick is running for a second term and will present his view of where the ARRL should put their efforts in the coming years. Come out and hear his views on our national organization.



The **ARRL** election for Southwestern Division will be held soon. ARRL members must have their ballots in the mail before November 16, 2007. Watch for them to arrive via mail. The candidates and their web sites are listed below for your convenience.

### Director Candidates

Dick Norton, N6AA  
Carl Gardenias, WU6D

[richardjnorton@gmail.com](mailto:richardjnorton@gmail.com)  
[wu6d@scdxc.org](mailto:wu6d@scdxc.org)

<http://n6aa.com>  
<http://wu6d.com>

### Vice Director Candidates

Tom Fagan, WB7NXH  
Joe Madas, AE6JM  
Tuck Miller, NZ6T  
Marty Woll, N6VI

[wb7nxx@yahoo.com](mailto:wb7nxx@yahoo.com)  
[ae6jm@arrl.net](mailto:ae6jm@arrl.net)  
[nz6t@arrl.net](mailto:nz6t@arrl.net)  
[n6vi@earthlink.net](mailto:n6vi@earthlink.net)

<http://wb7nxx.com>  
<http://ae6jm.com>  
<http://tucknz6t.com>  
<http://n6vi.com>

## Raffle Report

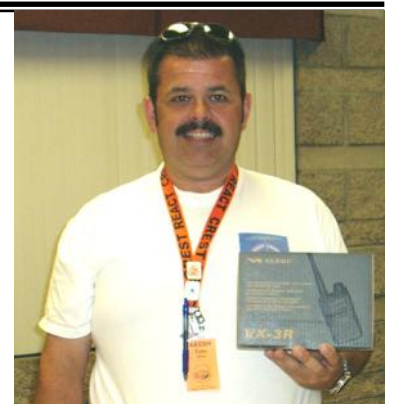
Congratulations to Tom Hobbs, AE6SH, for winning the five-dollar raffle prize, a Yaesu VX-3R ultra-compact dual band hand-held transceiver, at the August membership meeting. Congrats to the many winners in the one-dollar raffle as well.

Tom is already using the new HT and has even figured out some things that the guys from Yaesu at the recent

Hamcon 2007, didn't know about.

This month's five-dollar raffle prize is an ICOM IC-91AD dual-band, FM + D-STAR digital handie-talkie!

See you at the meeting, 73, NJ6N





You will be receiving in the mail a dues statement for the next calendar year (October 2007 to September 2008). For those members who joined us during the last 11 months, dues are prorated since you paid the full amount when joining. Please pay the amount indicated and return it to the SOARA address in the dues letter. You may also pay via Pay Pal on our website. Your dues are important as they provide the club the ability to keep our programs and repeaters going, so please try to pay by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Marie and Horst

## SOARA at HamCon 2007



A picture of the SOARA table on Sunday morning at the end of the convention. SOARA had a very good attendance with members participating in activities from T-hunting, attending talks and visiting, to shopping the exhibits for new radio gear.



Howard, KG6GI, Brian, NJ6N, Ray, AE6H, and Patti, AD6OH, discussing the successes of the weekend. Howard & Brian conducted two sessions on D-STAR (with very good attendance). Also SOARA conducted the midnight ritual of the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong with 32 hams inducted into that secret circle.

*(Continued from page 1)*

2008 annual budget, and very reluctantly determined that in spite of trimming in areas and accounts where it was deemed feasible, there is no way SOARA will be able to meet its financial obligations in the upcoming fiscal year. We had a very sizeable rent increase for our Santiago Peak repeater site this year. Soon after the expense of the involuntary repeater relocation to a different site on the mountain last summer, our landlord nearly tripled the rent effective January 1, 2007. This was after the dues letters had been sent out, so we had to sustain the increase from our reserves. Those reserves are now depleted, so the only two options are to either abandon the site, or increase SOARA's primary revenue source, our member dues.

Santiago peak is now the most used site in our system, and investigation has determined the higher rent is still below that of most other sites on the

mountain. In this information age, competition for prime sites like Santiago Peak is very fierce, and if we were to abandon it, we could never go back there. Therefore, after much deliberation, the Board unanimously agreed that a dues increase was the better option. Accordingly, effective October 1, 2007 the new dues rate will be \$50.00 for regular memberships, and \$25.00 for additional family members and students. I assure you that this decision was not made lightly, and only after much investigation, consideration of alternatives, and serious discussion. We also have inquired of other local clubs, and we firmly believe that given the 9 repeaters and number of events and activities sponsored by the club, that SOARA still offers much more for your dues dollar than any other area club. We sincerely hope that this increase will not cause hardship for our members.

73, Ray, AE6H



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 Operating DX	Program on D-Star	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep.	KI6ICU Rally Racing & APRS	WU6D Reaching Yputh	KC6MMF Winlink for EmComm		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](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, 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     |
|        | 220  | — | 224.100  | — | (110.9)   | Laguna Beach     |
|        | 220  | — | 224.640  | — | (123.0)   | Santiago Pk. (C) |
| D-Star | 440  | — | 445.660  | — | (K6SOA B) | Laguna Beach     |
|        | 440  | — | 447.180  | — | (131.8)   | Santiago Pk. (C) |
| D-Star | 1.2G | — | 1282.600 | — | (K6SOA A) | Laguna Beach     |

☛ **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](mailto:ae6h@soara.org)  
**V.P.:** Tom Hobbs, AE6SH . . . . . 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)  
**Secretary:** Phil Lonzello, WA6LDI . . . . . 949-362-8534  
[wa6ldi@soara.org](mailto:wa6ldi@soara.org)  
**Treasurer:** Steve Perluss, KR6CE . . . . . 949-364-6195  
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**SOARA DIRECTORS**

- Repeater:** Howard Brown, KG6GI . . . . . 949-581-2634  
[kg6gi@soara.org](mailto:kg6gi@soara.org)  
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- Education:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO . . . . . 714-897-5002  
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**SOARA COMMITTEES**

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

## Ham Radio 101: Rules and Regulations (Continued)

SOARA Education Director  
By Hal Silverman, WB6WXO

*Last month we looked at the Technician and General Class licenses, now we turn to the:*

### Extra Class License

The extra class license holder is entitled to all of the frequency privileges afforded by the FCC for amateur radio service. It is important to know for the exam which frequencies on which bands are specifically set aside for the extra class license holder. The prospective amateur extra class license holder must know what to do if spurious signals are being transmitted. This is a slightly different way to ask the same question that has been asked in the Technician and General exams.

Who is responsible if messages that violate FCC rules are transmitted via packet radio? The extra class license holder must understand the ITU rules on frequency allocation. Who allocates the frequencies? Who must approve the usage of an amateur radio station on a commercial ship?

An amateur license holder may accept compensation under certain conditions. What are those conditions? What antenna restrictions apply in a canyon or valley and what are the restrictions near an airport?

You must understand and answer questions regarding alien reciprocal licensing. There are several possible questions covering this category, and the prospective extra class license holder should know them all. There are also a number of questions in the pool that cover RACES. The extra class license holder may be asked one or more of these questions.

Another section covered on the extra class exam covers Amateur Satellite Service. The question pool covers the definition of the Amateur Satellite Service, the definition of a space station, what is an earth station and what amateur stations may operate as an earth station. While the above topics are just a few, they reflect the kind of questions asked in the exam. The prospective ham should review all of the topics.

There are a number of questions covering the appointment of a VE and a VEC. You should review who is eligible to be a VE and a VEC. You should know the duties of a VE and a VEC.

There are a variety of other topics that cover such items as National Quiet Zones, repeater control operators, and frequency allocations for satellite repeaters.

While this and last month's articles do not cover all of the part 97 topics, it is intended as an overview to give a list of study topics to the potential licensee, whether a new license holder or a person who is upgrading their license.

If there any questions regarding this article please contact me at [wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org).

73.....Hal, WB6WXO



One of the common threads that are in all three of the license exams is the requirement to understand FCC Part 97, **Amateur Radio Service**, rules and regulations. It is the understanding and application of these rules that allows the Ham Radio community to police itself.

It would be too long for me to go into all of the rules here. I thought that if there were a set of concepts and guidelines for each license class, it would help point the direction for a prospective ham or a ham that was studying to upgrade his class license