



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

December, 2008

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**No Meeting
in
December**

**N.P.
Murray
Center**

**Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo**

A Look Ahead at 2009

Technically, this is the December issue of the Propagator. It is just a bit late. The January 2009 issue will reach you a few days before the January meeting. A note for members new to the club: although SOARA general meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of the month, in January and February those Mondays are holidays and the N.P. Murray Center is closed. Thus the January and February meetings are held on the fourth Monday. See the 2009 calendar of events on the last page of this newsletter.

The presentations for both January and February are set and will be on the topic of antennas. Ron Weaver, W6OM, and Mike Slygh, KI6IRA will be the presenters for this two part series. Among the guest speakers planned is Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon is a very popular speaker and author, watch for the notice of when he will be visiting SOARA. Our Vice President, Tom, AE6SH, has several other possible speakers in the works. We should have our usual interesting and informative programs this year.

If you recall the very interesting presentation Kris, KI6IUC, gave on Rally Racing in July of 2007, then you will be interested to know that Kris and XYL Christine are organizing a rally (High Desert Trails) to be held on February 21. Talk to Kris about the possibility of volunteering as a communicator. Several SOARA members will be helping with the Rally. The web site is: <http://highdeserttrails.com/>.

April is Earthquake Awareness Month, and there will be activities associated with emergency communications. In the case of a major earthquake much of the public communications infrastructure will be disrupted. To be rally effective we need to have both training and familiarity with the agencies to whom we could be of service. Generally this means joining a local ARES, or RACES group.

It has been a while since we have held a work party to maintain the building at the Temple Hill repeater site. On Saturday, May 2, such a work party will be held. There will be a wide variety of jobs so if you have any interest plan on joining the party. Watch for details as the time draws nearer.

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NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

I am not much one for making New Years resolutions, but I thought we could make one together as a club. I became a member of SOARA because of the efforts of a few to make me feel a welcome part of the amateur community.

We are experiencing growth in our local ham community and we need to make those new to this wonderful avocation as well as those old timers lurking in the woodwork, feel welcome.

In order to do this, I invite all of you to join with me. My resolution is that when I hear someone throw out their call on the repeater, I will

try to come back to them, even if I don't know them. Maybe just a quick hello to acknowledge that they are getting into the machine and that we do care about them as a member of the HAM community. I have made many new friends and Elmer's this way.

This was done for me and it works. Nothing is more discouraging to a new HAM than going through the trouble to study, pass the exam, and then have no one that will talk to them. Let's all get on board and not only make the new folks feel welcome but encourage those lurking to become active on the bands.

73 and Happy New Year, de AF6GL



Events:

Except for December SOARA holds a general meeting each month. In January and February that meeting is held on the fourth Monday, Other months it is held on the third Monday.

Meetings are open and guests are welcome

Generally there is FCC license testing on the evening of the meeting.

A hidden transmitter hunt is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month.

Each Friday at noon there is an informal lunch at the Carl's Jr. at the corner of La Paz and Marguerite in Mission Viejo. All are welcome.

Watch the newsletter and the web site for news of upcoming and special events and activities.

<http://www.soara.org>

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Also in May is the major Ham convention held in Dayton Ohio. Usually several of the SOARA members make the trek back East. If you don't go you can still look forward to hearing about the latest equipment that will be unveiled at Dayton from those who did attend.

Field Day will be held on June 27 - 28. Current plans are to use our regular location at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. This has been an excellent site. It has a good height above the local terrain and convenient facilities. Several club members have been experimenting with anten-

nas with the goal of improving our communications ability. SOARA always makes a good showing and we will be looking for both improved scores and fun for all participants. Field Day is an event in which all club members can participate. Don't miss it.

The club picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, and the location for that will be Baby Beach in Dana Point. As always the final event of the year is the Holiday party in December. The date will be Sunday, December 6, and the location will be announced as the date approaches.

A Look Back at 2008

The year started out with a cold and rainy Surf City marathon. An intrepid group of SOARA members went out to direct the parking for 10,000 runners and were rewarded with a good soaking. We stopped for breakfast afterwards and then went on to the super bowl entertainment. In May we worked the Laguna Hills 1/2 Marathon which went very smoothly and even had time for some H.F. while we were working. As usual we went out to lunch afterwards and had a good time.

Patti and I missed Field Day due to a trip to Utah but were back in time for the picnic in August. Since Lou's, KG6FCT, retirement as events director and Ray's, AE6H absence I was nominated to coordinate the picnic and the holiday party. I received very good help for both events. At the picnic Ray, KG6QWY, saved our spot and Marie, KD7JHS, arranged for the food and drinks. Dave, KG6QCI came along and helped with the cooking and a good time was had by all who showed up.

Throughout the year our newer members showed up to help out in many areas. Mike, KI6IRA coordinated Field Day and did a great job and now that he knows how much fun it is he'll be even more excited in the new year. The Tri-Cities group had a good year but they should have their own report. It's nice to have Alan, WB6T back out of the hospital and on the air fairly regularly. For the annual Holiday party Sara, KA6QLT and Christy, AE6SH's partner, worked with me to arrange the party and then they did all the decorating and centerpieces to make the party a success.

Not forgetting the May and November auctions which were very successful especially since Luci Berkowitz (Ted Brunner's, K6LLL, widow) donated Ted's station equipment to the club to be auctioned for our benefit. This included several trips to Luci's house to take down antennas and catalog the equipment. We met Mallory (Luci's dog) and she helped us by following us everywhere. All in all a very good year. If I have omitted any one please forgive me as my memory is not as good as it once was.

Heiko, AD6OI, Ambassador



Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC, and wife Christine are organizing the High Desert Trails Rally to be held on February 21. Talk to Kris about the possibility of volunteering as a communicator. Several SOARA members will be helping with the Rally. The web site is:

<http://highdeserttrails.com/>.

Welcome

New members:
this month

Welcome to

Richard Heryford,
WD6ESZ

Vern Vihlene,
KI6THG.



Testing

The results of
Testing on November 17, 2008

Marcus F. Julian
KI6SYM upgraded to Extra
Bruce C. Reese
KI6TXS upgraded to General
New Technicians
Richard D. Grifasi
KI6UMW
Bruce D. Kilgore
KI6UMX
Richard S. Salas
KI6UNT
The next testing session will be
January 26, 2009
Ernie W6ETS.

Canyon Report

SOARA's efforts to bring a reliable radio communication network to the last bastion of humanity north of Trabuco Canyon is on its way. With the help and knowledgeable personnel of local hams, a small solar cell / wind powered, business band repeater is taking shape.

Residents have long tried many promising radio and hard wire techniques to communicate, not only to each other, but to the outside world in the case of emergency. But all have fallen short or have experienced problems too frequently to make them reliable. While pursuing a solitary life style in the Cleveland National Forest, these hearty souls, both men and women have elected to live in the last true wilds of Orange County. Not having the grocery store, city water, or Edison power only adds to their life style and serenity.

This poses the question to us hams: "How can we provide a radio link, and leave the smallest foot print?" What will serve them best? How can it be implemented? Of course, cheaply. Right off the bat the answer is ham radio, but what do they have now and can it be used? The answer is that over the years they have one by one acquired business band radios, most repeater capable. With business band repeaters falling by the way for cheaper Nextel's, these repeaters are plentiful. Of course ham

radio is not out of the question and a number of residents are studying for their license. But that is down the road, what about now?



First I started to shake the bushes and Joe W6BGR popped up with a contact to get a licensed repeater, well just that, licensed. That is currently under way. Next the hunt for repeater equipment. Always start at Heiko's back yard for that. Out comes 2 antennas, seen here in the photos being delivered via Jeep. One antenna is twice as long as the vehicle!

With wife Susan hanging on to a rope from inside the Jeep to keep the big antenna from falling out of the back, we took the two hour ride to deliver the two antennas to Holy Jim fire chief Mike Milligan.



If you have any equipment that can support this cause don't hesitate to give me a call at 949/533-7153 or on the high level 440.

Dave Seroski, KG6QCI

Ham Radio 101

At the suggestion of Mike Slygh, KI6IRA, I embarked on a program of seminars dealing with understanding of the electronics of Ham Radio. This was aimed at the fundamentals that would challenge the attendees but not overwhelm them.

We started at the beginning making simple measurements with both an oscilloscope and a digital multimeter. We observed what happens in a simple AC to DC power supply as more capacitor filtering is added and what happens when components are added to improve the regulation.

At the last seminar, we dissected a Heath Kit HW22A single band transceiver. We are able to look at most of the signals and follow a

block diagram. The plan for next year is to build a hybrid single band transceiver modeled after the Heath Kit HW32A. So far I have bread boarded some of the transmitter circuits. I have been able to salvage the crystals and the transformers from the HW32A.

I recently received an e-mail from a middle school teacher who has his technician license. He has a student that also has a technician license. They want to start a club on their camps. I suggested that they attend one of our meetings to get a flavor of a club and its activity. If they have an interest, then I can put together a technician license class for them and any other one interested. It also seems to be a good way to get some younger members into the club. Hal Silverman, WB6WXO

Year 2009	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	26	23	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	—
Program	Antennas W6OM et al. part 1	Antennas W6OM et al. part 2										—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	27	20	17	21	19	16	—
SOARA T-Hunt	4	1	1	?	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	28
Special Events				Earthquake Preparedness Month	2: Repeater Work Party 13: HamCon Dayton, OH							
ARRL Field Day						27-28						
SOARA picnic								2				
SOARA Holiday Party												6

☛ **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 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Prior registration is encouraged, but walk-in applicants are welcome. For information call Ernie Senser, W6ETS, at 949-458-2504.

☛ **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
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 UHF/VHF 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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