



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

February 2008

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Meeting:

Feb. 25

7:00 PM

Unisys

**25725
Jeronimo Rd.**

Mission Viejo

February Meeting at Unisys

The next general meeting will be on Monday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. The location will be: Unisys Corp., 25725 Jeronimo road, Mission Viejo.

Location is between Alicia and Los Alisos on Jeronimo Rd.

The 24 hour entrance is located toward the north end of the Jeronimo side of the building. The

main entrance will not be open. If you need directions on Monday evening call on the 147.645 – (110.9) repeater.

The speaker for our Monday, February 25, meeting will be Arnie Shatz, N6HC. He will relate his adventures on the 3B7C DXpedition to St. Brandon Island in the Indian

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Some General Observations

You are probably aware that the construction at the N. P. Murray senior center, our normal meeting location, has been delayed. We hope it will be available for the March meeting, but Check the web site and the *Propagator* for the notice for next month's meeting.

SOARA is a progressive and growing club, and the range of club activities is quite broad. We support nine repeaters, one featuring Echo-Link, three D-STAR digital voice, and one D-STAR high speed digital data. SOARA conducts a weekly net on VHF/UHF linked repeaters,

and a 40 meter HF net. We have an active education program and hold monthly testing sessions. For almost any aspect of amateur radio, we have members who are proficient and willing to Elmer.

As you will see inside, the T-hunts have resumed. Now is a good time to try your hand at that. There is some interest in building "home brew" or kit projects. Several activities in the coming year will provide opportunity for participation.

We have a great club, lets keep it growing and lets keep it fun.



Events:

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

A Tech-Day is scheduled for March 29 and 30 coincident with CQ WPX SSB contest.

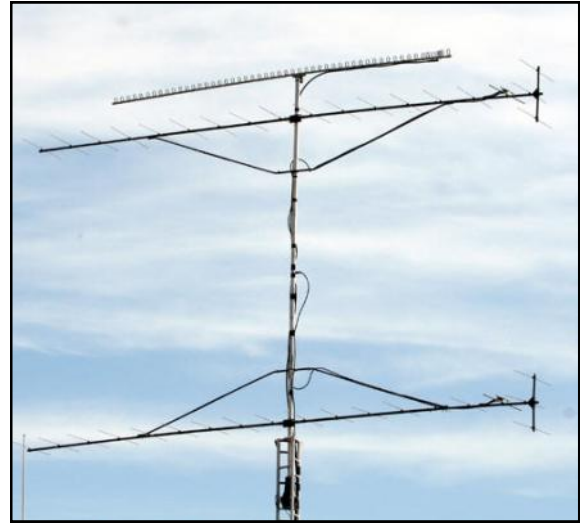
The success of SOARA activities depends on the efforts of many members. Please consider volunteering your talents as a volunteer in one of the activities. We need YOU.

T-Hunt Report

The February monthly SOARA T-hunt was held on Saturday, Feb. 2. Richard, K6RBS, and Dave, KG6QCI, did the hiding after offering a "pre-hunt" class at Gilleran Park in Mission Viejo. The transmitter was hidden in Costa Mesa at the QTH of Gordon West. Since commercial power was available, the "hiders" chose to run with an output power of 50 watts. There was no trouble hearing the signal in Mission Viejo,

The challenge proved to be too daunting for the inexperienced hunters and only the teams of KF6MDF / W8RRV, and KA6BJY made it to the site of the transmitter. Richard's notes and several pictures are posted on SOARA's web site.

KF6MDF / W8RRV will hide the transmitter for the March hunt to be held on March 2. The hunt will be



Stacked 2 meter beams at The QTH of Gordon West, WB6NOA, gain ~ 20dB.

a bit more oriented toward the beginning hunters, but there will be enough of a challenge to make it interesting. Beginning hunters should not hesitate to request some help if they feel stumped. T-hunting is learned by doing it and by seeing what factors made the location hard to find. Good hunting, and we hope to see you on the next hunt.

Raffle Report

Congratulations to Brian, KI6MKG, who won the Yaesu VX-150 VHF Handi-Talkie in the five-dollar raffle at the January meeting. I also want to congratulate the many winners in the one-dollar raffle.

The next five-dollar raffle prize will be a Kenwood TM-V71A, VHF/UHF

Dual-band mobile radio that features simultaneous receive on both VHF and UHF bands, 50 watt output on VHF and UHF, and 1,000 memory channels. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

73,
NJ6N

From the membership Directors

Welcome

Welcome to
SOARA's new-
est Members:

Ken Campbell
KE6AVE

Greg Hahn
KI6OIM

Tim McGowen
KE6BSV

HANDBOOKS 2008

SOARA has a new *K6SOA Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual* now printed and available for members. It includes a membership roster, emergency numbers and frequencies plus guidelines for using the repeaters, Auto-patch, Echolink and the D-Star capabilities.

These new handbooks are available at club meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on February 25th and your handbook, is available at the membership directors' table. Members

may purchase additional copies of the handbook at the price of \$2.00.

Dues

Some of our members have forgotten to send their dues payments for Oct.2007 to Sept. 2008, and a few members, for various reasons, have asked to be put on the "inactive" list so that they can reinstate their membership at a later date. Please notify the membership directors at membership@soara.org if this applies to you or if you are unsure about whether your dues are paid.

Marie Zitzmann KD7JHS
Horst Zitzmann KD7JHR

February Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

Ocean which took place in September of 2007.

Arnie has been a ham since 1957 and currently holds an Extra class license. He has been a resident of Southern California since 1976. He is a retired urologist and his medical skills allow him to add an extra dimension to any DXpedition team. He has also been a team member of the K7C Kure Island DXpedition in October of 2005 and will be leaving at the end of this month to join the TX5C Clipperton Island DXpedition team. He has operated from many states including Alaska and Hawaii and has participated on contesting teams in Baja Mexico and Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Arnie enjoys CW, RTTY and SSB

operation. He is an avid contester and DXer. He serves the local amateur radio community as an ARRL and CQ Awards QSL Field Card Checker. He is a member of the Southern California DX Club and Southern California Contest Club and is active in the Orange County Amateur Radio Club. He is also a member of the Medical Amateur Radio Council, Ltd. (MARCO) and the Chiltern DX Association of the UK. He has been an ARRL member for more than 40 years.

Arnie holds many awards including the A-1 Operators Club, DXCC honor roll, 8 band DXCC and 6 band WAS, WAZ, WAC, CQ-WPX and VUCC. He has ranked in many contests as the number one scorer in the Orange section in many domestic and DX contests.

Year 2008	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	No meeting
Program	Red Cross	DX trip N6HC	TBA	TBA	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	28	25	17	21	19		21	18	15	20	17	
SOARA T-Hunt	6	3	2	6	4	1	13	3	7	5	2	7
Board Meeting	2/4	3/3	24	28	6/2	23	28	25	22	27	24	29
Special Events												
ARRL Field Day						28-29						
SOARA picnic								3				
SOARA Holiday Party												7

☛ **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
- 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.

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- President:* Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-496-8020
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SOARA DIRECTORS

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SOARA COMMITTEES

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Ham Radio 101

How and What to do After Getting Your License

By Hal Silverman WB6WXO
SOARA Education Director

Ok, you studied hard and passed the test for your Technician or General Class License. Now, what do I do? I remember when I got my novice license (WN6WXO); I was afraid to call CQ because someone might hear me and answer the CQ. Here are some operating tips to help you get started. If you just got your Technician license and are going to operate in the VHF/UHF spectrum, then I urge you to review your license manual to make sure you are familiar with the frequency allocations for your class license.

Your very first rig might be a hand-held 2 or 3 band radio that covers 2 meter, 440MHz and, perhaps, 220MHz. If you are a SOARA member, then you should have your handbook ready to add the SOARA repeater frequencies to memory. What, you say: "How do I do that?"

My suggestion is to study the manual that comes with the radio. Hey, you say, I am no electronic genius. I just studied the license manual, memorized what I needed to pass the exam. Believe me, I know the frustration and have gone through the same exercise and even with an EE degree, the manual left me somewhat confused. Do I press this button for greater than 1 second or do I press the button momentarily? Each company that makes radios has a different scheme for storing frequencies. However, all of the models that I have used have the operator start with the radio in the VFO mode.

Then select the simplex frequency, or repeater frequency you wish to store. Select the correct CTSS frequency (or "PL") for that repeater, the correct frequency off-set, and the transmitted power level. Once you have done that, then try to add that to memory. If you find that you can't store the frequency, then my suggestion is to bring the manual and the hand-held radio to the next SOARA meeting, and we will be glad to Elmer you and get you familiar with the procedures.

Next, you buy a mobile radio from one of the popular companies that manufacture VHF/UHF radios, and you want to install it. ***If you are thinking of buying a used radio, make sure that the manufacturer is still supporting that model.***

Here are some tips for installing a mobile radio into a car or truck. The radio comes with heavy duty cables to hook up to the battery. They usually have some magnetic chokes in line with the cable. The purpose of the choke (Inductor) is to reduce or eliminate the alternator noise.

The best thing to do is to connect the cable directly to the battery terminals. The red lead goes to the positive terminal, and the black or red/black lead goes to the negative terminal. Most new cars have a convenience sockets. You might want to try using the convenience

socket for the radio. If you are told that you have an alternator noise, then you can attach the cable to the battery itself. The cables also come with in-line fuses that will protect the radio. Make sure that the in-line fuses are installed with the DC cables that are attached to the battery.

There are a number of antenna mounts ranging from a variety of trunk mount brackets to the mag-mount (Magnetic Mount) that attaches to the steel car roof. You can check the Diamond or Comet web sites to get a picture of what the mounts look like.

Ok, you have the mobile radio installed, connected to a power source and to an antenna. You have programmed your radio to the SOARA repeater. Now what? There are some definite dos and don'ts on the repeater. First of all listen to see if the repeater is being used. Never, never call CQ on the repeater. It is permissible to say: "This is KI6XXX monitoring the repeater". That will let anyone listening to the repeater give you a response.

Do not key the repeater transmitter (known as kerchunking¹ the repeater) just to listen for a response from the repeater. Give your call sign and ask for a radio check. Conversely, if you hear a station announcing that he or she is monitoring the repeater, then go ahead and give the person your call sign and carry on a QSO. It is also permissible to ask for a radio check. "This is KI6XXX requesting a radio check." You may want to try this from an outlying area.

Do not hog the repeater. It is for the use of everyone within range of the repeater. If there is a QSO going on, then let the other hams finish their QSO. Keep your transmissions short to allow others to break in with priority traffic. I used the LA County Sherriff's 2 meter open repeater to report a traffic accident to the system operator. He in turn called 911.

If you want to engage in a longer QSO, then use an open simplex frequency. 146.52Mhz, 146.55Mhz and 146.58Mhz are examples of approved simplex frequencies. The watchword is courtesy. It is advisable to look at the license manual section of rules and regulations. You will find that the license manual stresses courtesy.

To get a comfort zone with the SOARA repeaters, come and join in on the SOARA net every Tuesday evening at 8:00PM. There is access to the net via the Laguna Repeater 147.645 MHz (PL 110.9; offset -.6MHz), Santiago Peak Repeater 224.640MHz (PL123.0; -1.6MHz), and the Santiago Peak Repeater 447.180MHz (PL 131.8; Offset -5.0MHz).

Continued next month: Dos and Don'ts for operating the HF bands.

1 Kerchunking is a term used in ham radio that refers to the act of transmitting a momentary signal to check a repeater without identifying. The act is a technical violation of FCC rule Part 97.119 — Wikipedia.org