



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

August 2009

Open Forum with Carl Gardenias, WU6D

IN THIS ISSUE

WU6D Visit	1
Picnic	1
Dayton Trek	2
Tech Note	2
New Members	2
Dues Time	3
Raffle	3
Education	3
Testing	3
2009 Calendar	4
Club Directory	4

**Meeting:
August 17
7:00 PM**

**N.P.
Murray
Center**

**Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo**

Our guest speaker for August 17, will be Carl Gardenias, WU6D, the current Orange Section Manager. Carl has visited SOARA several times in the past. His presentations are always informative and entertaining. On Monday evening he will conduct an open forum with the topic: *From Volunteering to Just Enjoying Ham Radio.*



Carl, WU6D, has been the Orange Section Manager for the ARRL since 2003. He was first licensed as WN6RMN in 1969, and has been active in amateur radio since then. He is very active in motivating, encouraging and mentoring the

Amateur community. He regularly makes presentations to clubs on Volunteerism and Growth of Your Club. A high priority is public awareness of our hobby and our ability to assist as communicators during disasters and at public events.

He developed and continues to encourage and support the Amateurs who volunteer their time with the Amateur Radio Expo which started in 2005 and is still active today. Carl enjoys operating DX on the HF bands and talking locally on 2 meters. He shares a ham shack with his wife Cathy, K6VC.

Picnic Marked End of Summer Activities

Summer is the time for outdoor fun, and SOARA has two major summer events: Field Day and the early August picnic. Field Day is a busy time setting up, operating and taking down radio gear. It is fun, but it is, among other things, a contest and a drill of emergency preparedness.

The picnic, on the other hand is primarily a time to enjoy the beach, the weather, good food, and plenty of time for casual visiting with other club members. By all accounts the years picnic was a grand success. The food was wonderful and the weather was perfect.

Yes, there was an HF radio there, but it was strictly for casual QSOs. Well, since it was held on the first Sunday of the month,

the "ever ready for a challenge" T-hunters did hold their hunt at the picnic. Richard, K6RBS, was this month's designated "master of deception" (he hid the transmitter). But just to make it more fun, he set the transmitter for a very short transmission. This frustrated the hunters (well, the guy that hides the transmitter has to have some fun too!).

That hunt was followed by a more standard hunt, and the hunters were successful in finding both transmitters.

The next event will be the Holiday Party on December 6. Right now SOARA does not have the Activities Chair filled. Anyone who would consider taking that position please contact the Board.



Events:

September 10 marks the start of a six week class General upgrade class.



Welcome to the following new members!

David J. Althoen
K6YHL

Dennis Blough,
call sign to be announced.

Larry D. Hanks
KI6ZTA

Olaf Kilthau
KI6YCH

Craig Leventhal
KI6WLP

Jim Reynoha
KI6BAL

Edward Steiner
KI6WKL

Joan Steiner
KJ6AIK

Dayton Trek Report at July Meeting

At the July meeting the club was treated to a complete report and travelogue on the K6SOA Dayton Trek 2009. Tim McGowen, AF6GL, and Jeff Pederson, AD7YT, started planning early in the year for trip to the Dayton Hamvention (Dayton Ohio). As they discussed the idea occurred that it would be fun, and add to the club activities if they set up a contest for SOARA members to see who could make the most contacts with them while they were on the trip.



They approached the board with the idea and got a resounding approval. A small amount of money was appropriated for prizes and volunteers agreed to help with the arrangements. The contest rules were posted on the net and by May 11, they were on the road.

For twelve days they made contacts with SOARA stations and other hams, allowing them to collect the various states, counties and grid squares. During the trip they were active on HF and VHF bands,

using SSB, FM, D-STAR and, of course, tracking on APRS.

At the July meeting they entertained us with a narrated slide show of the trip. It was a well done presentation which even included video clips of the radio operations while on the road. Next year Tim and Jeff are planning to repeat the adventure and are hoping that some other teams will take a "Dayton Trek."

If you missed the presentation, you can get some flavor of the trip by visiting the SOARA web site and click on the link to pictures of the trip.

Probably the most active supporter of the trip and the winner of most points in the contest was Richard, K6RBS. Thanks Jeff



Tech Note: Linearity

Linearity is familiar to most hams. We use linear amplifiers to boost our transmit power on SSB. We worry about small non-linearity in our receivers, and for critical applications we worry about non-linearity in passive connectors.

A technical definition of linearity is:

*If an input **a** produces an output **A**,
And an input **b** produces an output **B**,
then for a linear system an input **a+b** will
produce an output **A+B**.*

Note that this definition does not put any limitations on the nature of the signals.

The input **a** could be equal to **b** (and thus **A** is equal to **B**) so input **2a** produces an output **2B**. Just what you expect a linear system to do. A plot of the output vs. the input is a straight line!

Also note that a filter might pass the signal **a** and block the signal **b** if they are of different frequencies. That does not violate the definition. So a linear system may distort a signal on the basis of frequency, but the distortion does not depend on amplitude. Well, I guess every system has a range in which it goes non-linear. Think lightning strike!



Testing

Results of Testing on July 20, 2009

Edward Steiner,
AF6RE, upgraded
from General to Extra
(Previous call sign
K16WKL)

Stephen Shobe,
K16YWH, upgraded
from Technician to
General

**Denise Durant-
Wilson,** KJ6BGT,
passed her Techni-
cian test

Edward Gonzales,
KJ6BGS, passed his
Technician test.

Special thanks to
Ken Simpson,
W6KOS, for leading
the testing team while
Ernie, W6ETS, was
out of town.

Education

Starting September and running for six weeks, SOARA is offering a class to teach members the information required to pass the General Class Licensing Exam.

The class starts September 10, 2009. There is no cost for the class except the students need to provide their own text book. The book that I will teach from is the ARRL General Class manual. It is available from the ARRL or from one of the local Ham Radio Stores.

I will provide a set of my notes that are done in PowerPoint. This will be done by E- Mail. Each student is responsible for printing out his/her set of notes.

Those wishing to enroll, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org

73, Hal Silverman, Education Director

It's Dues Time Again!

In October, yearly dues for 2009 to October 2010 will be due. Letters will be sent in September, mainly by e-mail to all members for whom we have addresses.

Dues are \$50 for a whole year; however new members who joined after October, 2008, will receive prorated (reduced) dues assessments.

If you mail a check or bring it to a club meeting, please put your call sign on the check and also write "membership dues, 2009/2010" on the check so our treasurer and the membership committee can credit you as paid. Please include the same information and your name, if you pay your dues by Paypal.

Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR and
Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS,
Membership Committee,

Raffle

Congrats to the winners in the one-dollar raffle at the July meeting. Thanks to Heiko, AD6OI, for taking care of the July raffle in my absence. We didn't sell enough tickets to award the five-dollar prize, but I'm confident that we will be able to do that at the August meeting. For those of you who were not at the meeting, the five-dollar prize is an MFJ 259B Antenna SWR/RF analyzer. Antenna analyzers provide a wealth of information about the performance of your antenna and feed line as well providing a frequency counter, RF signal generator, Capacitance and Inductance meter. I look forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting!

Brian, NJ6N



Note on dues calculations: If you joined the club since last October, you paid a full year's dues. In order to have a single time for all dues collections you are required to pay again by October. You will be credited with the unused portion of the dues you paid when you joined and billed for what is required to complete next years total dues. You will then be in sync with the rest of the membership.

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	Antenna W6OM et al. part 1	Antennas W6OM et al. part 2	EME Vlad, W6BVB	Red Cross Tom, KI6GOA	Spring Auction	F.D. Prep	Dayton Trek Report	Forum WU6D				—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	27	20	17	21	19	16	—
SOARA T-Hunt	4	1	1	5	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		General upgrade class Thursdays		Earthquake Preparedness Month	13:HamCon Dayton, OH		O C Fair Radio Booth					
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, 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 UHF/VHF 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: Robin Whaling, KG6MCA 949-395-4049
kg6mca@soara.org

Treasurer: Tom Parkes, KI6DDB 714-224-2982
ki6ddb@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: Brian Roode, NJ6N 949-495-5336
nj6n@soara.org

Communications: Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC
ki6iuc@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Open

Testing: Ernie Senser, W6ETS 949-458-2504
w6ets@soara.org

Website: Richard Saunders, K6RBS 949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org