



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

September 2009

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Meeting:

Sept. 21

7:00 PM

N.P.
Murray
Center

Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo



Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Communications is an important part of amateur radio. Whatever your level of interest in this aspect of amateur radio, in the event that a major emergency arises you will turn to your radios when other communications avenues are closed. The program this month will feature Charley Speelmen, WA6RUZ, The Radio Officer for Mission Viejo RACES. Charley will demonstrate and discuss the basic emergency preparations and supplies to be prepared for a local emergency. He will also cover the basics of a GO KIT — the radio gear that one can grab in order to be an effective communicator under emergency conditions.

The presentation will be followed by a general discussion of Emergency preparedness. You may have seen the editorial in the September issue of QST regarding the FCC's latest interpretation of when hams who are employed by emergency services can make use of their ham radios. They seem to indicate that, for instance, a firefighter can not use amateur radio in a fire related emergency whether on duty or not!

The ARRL is working on a response, but has stated that it must walk a narrow path to come up with a suitable resolution. Come to the SOARA meeting on Monday and join the discussion.



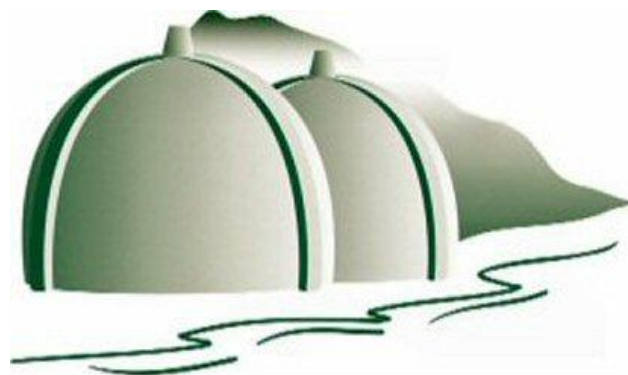
Annual SONGS Siren Testing

We have a need for operators on October 21 to help with the siren test. The time frame is 8:00 am in the morning until about noon. Each volunteer will be assigned a siren tower to monitor and report on the operation of the siren. The city with the most need is San Clemente with 20 towers. San Clemente and Edison officials are really looking at that city to be completely covered by HAMS.

Heiko, AD6OI, is coordinating the volunteers for that city. Contact him (e-mail: ad6oi@soara.org) to sign up and reserve a tower if you have a preference.

Anyone wanting more info can contact me, W6BGR 949-857-8876 or by e-mail

at: w6bgr@soara.org. We have been providing this service to the cities for several years and it does provide a positive image of the amateur radio service.



San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station



Events:

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

The next hunt will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 PM. All are invited to join in this fun club activity.

*October 3
Simulated
Emergency Test
(S E T)
City and County
Emergency Drill
See your local
RACES or
ARES group for
more informa-
tion.*

T-Hunt News

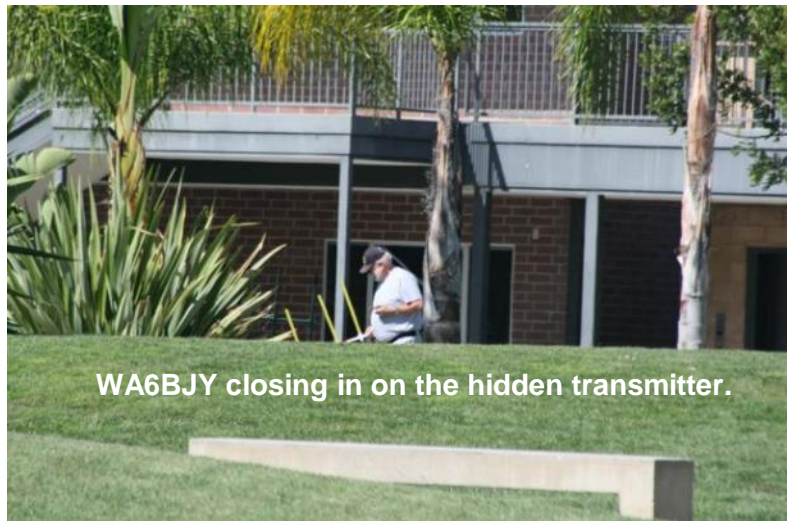
On Sunday, September 7, what started out as a simple T-hunt turned into another SOARA first but first some background. Timothy McGowen, AF6GL was assigned to hide the transmitter. The night before he checked the equipment ensured the battery was topped off, a signal was being transmitted and the call sign was reprogrammed. So far, so good. Tim left home and on his way to his secret elusive spot he observed the traffic on the freeway was so bad that it would make the hunt far too unenjoyable, so on the fly the location was changed and the "T" was hidden.

The announcement was made on 447.180 "Tally Ho". Shortly thereafter hunters reported they could not hear the transmitter. A few 50 watt "hints" were transmitted in an effort to get teams into closer proximity. Hunters still could not hear it so several over-the-air recommendations were made in order to make a field repair to enhance the signal. Several of the suggestions were already in place such as high power, whip antenna and of course it had been tested the night before. After an hour and 35 minutes still no luck so the transmitter was checked again. The signal seemed to improve somewhat but quality was still in question. After 2 hours and 35 minutes Gray Bickford, WA6BJY made the first find. Hot on his heels, literally, was Mark Hergesheimer, KD6WLY. At 3 hours and 20 minutes Dale Griffith, W8RRV and Karl Miljevich, KF6MDF made the find.

Immediately following the T-hunt, the transmitter was returned to Brian Roode, NJ6N and he hooked it up to his service monitor. That's when the history making moment was discovered. SOARA had held its first QRP T-hunt. The transmitter was found to be putting out a mere 2 milliwatts!

Congratulations to those who persevered and found the fox. As Brian appropriately points out, we practice our skills should they ever be needed in an emergency. The skills used for hidden transmitters are the same as those used for finding jammers as well as downed aircraft or someone transmitting a distress signal that may be disoriented and not know their location. Another lesson learned here is that even the best plans can fall short. Although the equipment worked fine during testing, it failed when it was needed. All of our equipment can have the same fate so this is a message to all of us to test and maintain our equipment regularly. If available have back up gear.

Let's chalk up this month's hunt as a lesson learned and put it in the history books as another SOARA first.



WA6BJY closing in on the hidden transmitter.

Welcome

New members:
this month

Ferdi Zittlau
KJ6BAM

Thomas Matheson
WA7PTG



Testing

Results of Testing
on 8/17/09

Upgraded to Extra

Morrison, Glenn
WB6RLC (previous
call sign KI6YWF)

Passed Both Techni-
cian and General

Cox, Jason
KJ6RVS

New Technicians

Beiley, Leif
KJ6BVQ

Burford, Lisa
KJ6BVR

Dayley, Jennie
KJ6RVT

French, Richard
KJ6RVU

Schindele, William
KJ6RVV

73, Ernie, W6ETS

Education

SOARA has started an upgrade from technician to general class license. The class has met once and will meet five more times. I have my notes that I will be willing to share.

It is not too later to join. You may attend all of the remaining classes or just a few to get enough information to pass the test.

I teach from the ARRL General Class Q&A manual. The manual has the FCC question pool in the back of the book. The Gordon West manual may also be used in place of the ARRL manual.

The subject matters covers operating procedures, rules and regulations, as well as electrical technical data. The class covers different modes of operation such as CW, AM, SSB and the different digital modes.

I make reference to various web sites so the student can enhance his understanding of the subject matter. Students are encouraged to spend time doing self study as well as taking practice exams put out by ARRL. FCC and QRZ.com

If you have any questions, please E mail me at WB6WXO@SOARA.com

73.....Hal Silverman
SOARA Education Director

Membership

September is the last month of the SOARA fiscal year. The new year starts on October 1, and collection of the annual dues become due. Regular member annual dues are \$50 and family member and student dues are \$25. You should receive an e-mail notice within the next few weeks.

Please respond in a timely manner. This will reduce the workload on the club's volunteer workers who process and account for the finances. If you have been a member for less than one year you will be billed for only a portion of a year. If you have questions please contact:

Horst and Marie Zitzmann,
KD7JHR and KD7JHS

More Education

Hal, WB6WXO's Ham Radio 101 will return next month. He is busy working on the restoration project this month.

To satisfy your thirst for knowledge here are a few web based suggestions:

A very basic introduction to radio communications can be found on the web site: <http://www.linxtechnologies.com/support/application-notes/>

[AN00100.PDF](#) "RF101"
[AN00500.PDF](#) "Antennas"
[AN00501.PDF](#) "Antenna specs"

Raffle Report

Congratulations to Edward Steiner, AF6RE for winning the MFJ 259 analyzer in last month's five-dollar raffle! Congrats to all of the lucky winners of the one-dollar raffle as well! I want to thank those of you who support the raffle each month. This month's five-dollar raffle is for a Yaesu FT-60 dual-band handie-talkie. This is one of the most popular hand-helds out there these days.

Also let me remind everyone that you do not have to be present at the drawing for the five-dollar raffle to win. Best of luck to everyone who enters the raffles.

73, NJ6N



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	EmmCom WA6RUZ		Fall Auction	—
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 (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 8:00 AM.

SOARA OFFICERS

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ki6ddb@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

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w8rrv@soara.org

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wb6wxo@soara.org

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nj6n@soara.org

Communications: Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC
ki6iuc@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

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w6ets@soara.org

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