



The

# Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

January 2010

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**Meeting:  
Jan. 25  
7:00 PM**

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



## K4M (Midway Atoll)

Arnie Shatz, N6HC, will be back with us on January 25, to present an account of his latest DXpedition. In the past few years Arnie has been kind enough to share his experiences with us. If you have participated in one of his presentations then you know that his photos and descriptions give what seems like a first-hand feeling of the DXpedition.

Arnie was first licensed as KN3ANU at the age of 13 in Philadelphia, Pennsyl-

vania. He moved to Southern California in 1976 with his wife (KA6DOW) and son (N6COG) and started a solo private urology practice. He upgraded to the Extra Class license in 1977 as N6HC. He retired from full time urology practice in 2001. One of his ham radio goals was to be part of a DXpedition team to an exotic locale. The opportunity presented itself in 2005 on the K7C operation to Kure atoll. Midway Atoll, K4M, was the fourth DXpedition for Arnie. We welcome him to SOARA's first 2010 meeting.



## QST, QST, de AE6H: 2010

As we enter 2010, your club has many events, projects, and challenges for the new year.

Perhaps one of the least exciting, from an amateur radio standpoint, but potentially very significant to the club, is the anticipated completion of a "Site License" (think lease) agreement for our primary repeater site: Temple Hill, in Laguna Beach. We have been operating from this site since the 1980's, and built our current building in 1992. We have been occupying the site without any formal written, legal agreement. While this has been a concern of ours, we weren't about to "rock the boat". Finally, in the spring of 2009, our landlord, the Laguna Beach Water District, decided that a formal agreement was needed. Their original proposal to us was far from "friendly",

and involved significant costs both financial, and operational, the net effect of which, had it been enacted, would have left SOARA no option but to vacate the site. Fortunately, and thanks in no small way, to Dave Brown, son of Howard, KG6GI, and a communications site attorney, after significant and lengthy negotiations, we are nearing the finalization of a formal agreement that will allow us to remain at the site, with little increase in operating cost to us.

We will continue to refine the D-Star system, updating the software, and thanks to Brian, NJ6N, keeping up with the rapid developments in the nationwide, and worldwide D-Star system. In San Clemente, we will continue to work on upgrading the radio and other systems at that site.

Planning is already underway for Field Day, 2010. The organizers are looking at several new antenna configurations, and are even in-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Welcome

Welcome to new members:

David McCoy,  
K6JUME

Travis Williams,  
KJ6DTD



## Testing

The results of testing on November 16, 2009:

Upgraded to Extra:

Gregory Cook  
K6USO

New Technicians :

Daniel Kirkham  
KJ6DTA

Payton Kirkham  
KJ6DTB  
(9 years old)

Aaron Mendoza  
KJ6DWQ

Leonard VanZanten  
KJ6DTC

Travis Williams  
KJ6DTD

73  
Ernie, W6ETS

## FIELD DAY 2010

Field day 2009 was a huge success with one of our best finishes ever in the contest, with many new "Hams" passing their Technician test, a fine Area/Races display, and numerous "newbies" getting their first HF experience with the GOTA station. It will be difficult to improve on last year.

The planning process for this year's Field Day had begun with a few goals:

1. Improve on last years Contest score (First in State ?)
2. Get more first year General class people on the GOTA station (Have fun while trying multiple bands and multiple antennas.)
3. Involve more SOARA members. (More fun for everyone.)

If you would like to be involved with the planning, please send Vern and e-mail [W6VDV@SOARA.org](mailto:W6VDV@SOARA.org)

Field day this year will be June 26th and 27th. We are also planning a "practice day" on Saturday, April 3rd where we will set-up some of the antennas for maintenance and fine tuning. Please mark your calendars for both dates.

Vern, W6VDV, Field Day Coordinator



Many thanks to Mac Garrett, KD6KSP, for organizing our volunteers for the Orange County Fair ham radio booth.

(Continued from page 1)

investigating the possibilities of using a larger alternate site. The challenge will be to equal or exceed our excellent standing from FD 2009.

Planning for a SOARA Club House and Station is continuing, with several possibilities under consideration.

We have a full schedule of the usual events, with some new activities in the planning, as well. This, along with the unanticipated, but ever present unforeseen events, will make 2010 another interesting and exciting one for all of us.

73 de Ray, AE6H

## Education

As I get a little more involved with the education requirements for SOARA, I want to build on the seminars and classes that were held in the year 2009. I will start on February 10 and hold a 4 week seminar on the practical approach to making electronic measurements. We will meet at the Murray Center from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on Wednesdays.

The course outline is as follows:

**Week 1-** Differences between analog and digital multimeters: Oscilloscope fundamentals

**Week 2-** Oscilloscope and counter measurements of amplifier gain, oscillator signals, and transistor or FET switches.

**Week 3-** Power supply fundamentals.

**Week 4-** Signal tracing of a single band Heathkit transceiver.

There are many circuit designs available that can be built and tested where the parts are available on line or through local parts houses.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [WB6WXO@SOARA.org](mailto:WB6WXO@SOARA.org)

. Hal, WB6WXO, Education Director



## Events:

### January 25

*SOARA general meeting at Murray Center in Mission Viejo. 7:00 PM Speaker: Arnie shatz, N6HC*

### February 7

*The next hunt will be held on Sunday, February 7 at 1:00 PM All are invited to join in this fun club activity.*

### February 10

*Fri 7:00 to 9:00 PM, the first of four classes on electronic measurements.*

*This session will cover multimeters, and introduction to oscilloscopes.*

## Hidden Transmitter Hunting

T-Hunting is a popular activity among Amateur Radio operators, also known as; transmitter hunting, fox hunting, radio direction finding. A SOARA T-hunt starts with a transmitter on the 2-meter band that is actually hidden somewhere in South Orange County that is "hunted" and located using radio direction finding techniques. The transmitter is usually on the air intermittently, and automatically identifies itself either in Morse code or a tone sequence. Amateurs participating in the SOARA T-hunts can expect low pressure, fun events and we encourage new Hams to participate. This is a good time to ask other Hams for help but they may not tell you ALL their secrets. The T-hunts start at 1300 hrs (1:00 pm) on the first Sunday of the month and usually last 2 to 4 hours. This is a good time to ride with a friend. Snoop around and you should be able to find an experienced SOARA T-hunter to ride with.

When the transmitter is on the air, the hunters "take bearings" using directional antennas by determining the direction where the signal is the strongest. This is done throughout the hunt until the transmitter is found. Usually, driving to the immediate area of the hidden transmitter is part of the game. Once there, the remainder of the hunt takes place on foot while you "sniff" out the actual location of the hidden-T. The transmitter transmits on 146.565 MHz and coordination is on the SOARA repeater 447.180 MHz, PL is 131.8. The transmitter may be hidden anywhere that is safe and has public access in Orange County, south of the 55 Freeway. The hunters may start anywhere they choose.

To put a rumor to rest, you do not need expensive equipment for transmitter hunting! All you need is a 2-meter receiver (a handheld will do), an attenuator and a directional antenna (yagi, quad, etc.). The "tape measure" antenna is a good choice. Other items

that can help, but aren't necessary, are a map of Orange County, a compass, a protractor and some refreshments! Most of the equipment just mentioned can be built for a rather cheap price, and it performs exceptionally.

T-hunting is both a fun and a serious activity. The "winner" of a T-hunt is determined by the person who finds the transmitter first. The winner is then the person who hides the transmitter on the next hunt. T-Hunters also use their skills to locate downed airplanes, boaters in distress, and sources of radio interference, unlicensed operators and jammers. T-hunters use competitions like our monthly hunts to test their equipment and practice their skills in preparation for more serious situations.

You may want to be included on the T-hunt email list. If so, please contact Richard at k6rbs@soara.org. Please include your call sign in the subject line.

Be sure to check out some of these links for T-hunt projects:

<http://www.homingin.com/>

[http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)

<http://www.west.net/~marvin/k0ov.htm>

[http://www.lbara.net/2\\_meter\\_4\\_element\\_quad.pdf](http://www.lbara.net/2_meter_4_element_quad.pdf)

<http://www.homingin.com/dualfeed.html>

<http://www.foxhunt.com.au/index.html>

See you on the next hunt on Sunday, February 7, 2010. The transmitter will start operating at 1:00 PM. Check in and monitor the 417.180 repeater before the start of the hunt.

Mark, KD6WLY

## For sale



I have a few Tele-comm back up batteries for sale. These are a 10 year battery with at least 6-7 years left on them. They are 170 Ah, 12 Volt. They weight 132 lbs each and are VRLA AGM batteries so they are spill proof. They are roughly 5" wide, 13" tall, and 22" deep. These cost about \$600 each new and I'm asking \$50 each. You can use them as backup at home, or Field day. One of these should run a mobile radio for a week. Put a couple behind the work bench and be totally set next time Edison fails. These are FIAMM UMTX 170 FT if you want specs.

Contact: Mark Hergesheimer, KD6WLY

[kd6wly@soara.org](mailto:kd6wly@soara.org)

Once again the year's special events started with the Surf City Marathon. We went out and supported the event by handling the parking at the beach for the race on Super bowl Sunday and continued it the next week with th first of Chili winter trail runs. In all we did three short trail runs and one 50k run in the national forest. Then it was on to the Laguna Hills Half Marathon on Memorial day for a quiet day at the races followed by lunch at the pizza place across the street.

Some of our operators also supported the Warrior society's mountain bike rides in the national forest. They (Chris and his crew) organize several of the best events in Southern California bike riding and racing. On July 4th the Mission Viejo ARES RACES crew supported the fireworks under the leadership of Charley WA6RUZ. Our next event was the SONGS drill which is always a lot of fun. This drill included the cities of Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente as well as Capistrano Beach.

In November we had the Saddleback Mountain Marathon and then came December. On Saturday Dec 12 Steve Harvey ( the old goat) put on a 100 mile race in the Cleveland National Forest in

the face of the year's first real rain storm. The conditions for the runners and the support crew became so rough that the event was called off shortly after lunch. With crews all over the local mountains it was midnight before the last support people were back on pavement. It is to be noted that Saddleback received 6 inches of rain in that 24 hour period. With many thanks to a great communications support crew it all ended well. Special thanks to Richard K6RBS for his support in all this. Also I would like to thank David KG6QCI for his efforts in making communications better in the Trabuco/ Holy Jim Canyon areas as well as for running the San Clemente SONGS drill net. Again thanks to all of you who volunteered your time and expertise at all of our events this year

In the coming year we will again support the local trail runs, Vision Quest and anything else that the Warrior society would like help with. Also there is the Memorial Day Half Marathon. The July 4th fireworks are in Mission Viejo, and there will be more races and likely another SONGS siren test in October. If anyone can think of other worthwhile events to support please feel free to call me or send me a note. Thanks again for all your support.  
Heiko, AD6OI



## Palm Springs Hamfest 2010

The Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society of Palm Springs ( The Desert RATS ) would like to invite SOARA members to attend "Palm Springs Hamfest 2010", January 30. We will also be participating in Winter Field Day and having a Special Events Station that day. Hope you can attend our first major ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest.

73, Peter VE7REZ / W6

President --- Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society of Palm Springs

" The Desert RATS" Club Web Site: <http://desertrats.am>



Year 2010	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	25	22	22	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	—
Program	Midway Atoll N6HC		Digital Modes WB6NOA		Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	25	22	22	19	17	26 Field Day	19	16	20	18	15	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	7	7	11	2	6	11	1	5	3	7	5
Board Meeting	Feb 1	Mar 1	29	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	TBA
Special Events				3 F.D. Prep	14-16 Dayton		O C Fair Radio Booth		17-19 SW Div Hamcon			
ARRL Field Day						26-27						
SOARA picnic								1				
SOARA Holiday Party												TBA

☛ **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](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, 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 (7.200 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:**  
[@soara.org](mailto:@soara.org)

**Treasurer:** Tom Parkes, KI6DDB . . . . . 714-224-2982  
[ki6ddb@soara.org](mailto:ki6ddb@soara.org)

### SOARA DIRECTORS

**Repeater:** Howard Brown, KG6GI . . . . . 949-581-2634  
[kg6gi@soara.org](mailto:kg6gi@soara.org)

**Publications:** Dale Griffith, W8RRV . . . . . 949-830-3767  
[w8rrv@soara.org](mailto:w8rrv@soara.org)

**Membership:** Horst(KD7JHR) & Marie(KD7JHS)  
Zitzmann . . 949-768-8552  
[kd7jhr@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhr@soara.org) or [kd7jhs@soara.org](mailto:kd7jhs@soara.org)

**Education:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO . . . . . 714-897-5002  
[wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org)

**Technical:** Brian Roode, NJ6N . . . . . 949-495-5336  
[nj6n@soara.org](mailto:nj6n@soara.org)

**Communications:** Kris Marciniak, KI6IUC . . . . . 949-680-9906  
[ki6iuc@soara.org](mailto:ki6iuc@soara.org)

### SOARA COMMITTEES

**Activities:** Tim McGowen, AF6GL . . . . . 760-310-7634  
[af6gl@soara.org](mailto:af6gl@soara.org)

**Testing:** Ernie Senser, W6ETS . . . . . 949-458-2504  
[w6ets@soara.org](mailto:w6ets@soara.org)

**Website:** Richard Saunders, K6RBS . . . . . 949-770-5099  
[k6rbs@soara.org](mailto:k6rbs@soara.org)