



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

February 2010

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Meeting:
Feb. 22
7:00 PM

N. P.
Murray
Center

Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

AE6SH on Disaster Operations

Tom Hobbs, AE6SH, will be our February speaker. Tom, an Orange County Fire-fighter, is an expert on communications and emergency operations. You may recall that he was a part of an Orange County team that was active in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. His first hand report to the club was both interesting and educational. Tom will discuss both Katrina and the re-

cent earthquake in Haiti. In addition to getting some valuable insights into emergency communications preparation and operations we will hear some of the inside stories of the professional workers in emergency situations, both domestic and international. This promises to be an interesting and insightful talk. Don't miss it.

Next Month



Gordon West, WB6NOA, yes, the author of the book you used when studying for your amateur radio license exam, will be our speaker on March 15. SOARA members who regularly check into the Tuesday evening VHF net will be familiar

with Gordon's regular reports on the important developments in amateur radio. Others may be more familiar with his regular columns in various radio magazines. We are very fortunate to have Gordon based in Orange County and available (and willing) to support our club.

Plan on attending the March meeting to hear one of amateur radio's most enthusiastic proponents. It would be a good occasion to invite your radio friends to visit.

Silent Key

Regretfully we acknowledge the loss of our member, Fred Ruckser, WB6IIQ who became a silent key last month.

Eagle Scout Project

SOARA member Ryan Pugh, KI6SHE, is in the final stages of work toward achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Achieving his goal has already taken years of effort, working through five ranks already, earning a variety of merit badges, and serving in a leadership position in his troop. A major challenge is the Eagle Project. Ryan has chosen a project that he calls Freedom Flags. It involves sending pocket sized flags to armed forces personnel currently fighting overseas. One aspect of the Eagle Project is to generating the funding for materials through donations.



Electricity
Merit
Badge



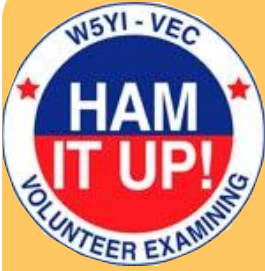
Electronics
Merit
Badge



Radio
Merit
Badge

Although busy with school and scouting activities, Ryan obtained his amateur radio license in July of 2008, and upgraded to General Class after one year. If you would like to help Ryan with a small donation he can be reached via e-mail at:

ki6she@soara.org



Testing

Testing Results
From
January 25, 2010

Upgraded to **Extra**

Joseph Andras
K16OBY

Gary Giddings
K6EKE

Steven Kuver
KD6MHL

David McCoy
KF6UME

Upgrade to **General**

Keith Anderson
KJ6EJZ

Clark Croisette
K16IZE

Michael Honeyman
K5MGH

Gary Woods
KJ6EJW

New **Technicians**

Ben Berry
KJ6EZN

Cynthia Gielow
KJ6EZO

Jaspal Kamboj
KJ6EZP

Jesse Katzenberger
KJ6EZQ

Paul Knapp
KJ6EZR

Jean Savage
KJ6EZX

Stephen Siemer
KJ6EZT

Alfons Wagner
KJ6EZU

Matthew Weiss
KJ6EZV

73
Ernie, W6ETS

Public Service

Saturday the 13th of February a group of hams went out to do communications support for the first of the Chili Winter trail run series races in O'Neill Park. The weather was nice (cool and sunny), and the race started off just after 8:30. Sean (AD6SW) and his wife Mishi came to help out as well as another ham on his first event Mikkel (KJ6EKX). Our experienced helpers were John (AC7GK), Patti (AD6OH) and David (KG6QCI) who was our liaison with the park rangers. The race went smoothly with no calls to Jeff (AD7YT) or Timothy (AF6GL) our friendly firefighters on duty at one of the local fire stations. Some of us went to breakfast afterwards at Latte Da in Santa Margarita and had a good time there.

Our next event will be the 50 Kilometer race from Blue Jay in the Cleveland National Forest on the 6th of March. One week after that we have another Chili trail run on the 13th of March. If anyone would like to sharpen their emergency communications skills, they should feel free to come out and help.

Heiko
ad6oi@soara.org
or 949 859-3868

Raffle

Congratulations to the many lucky winners of the one-dollar raffle at the January meeting! We didn't sell enough tickets to raffle off the five-dollar prize, an Alinco DJ-G7 FM Tri-band Handheld Transceiver. If you haven't heard of this new 2m/70cm/23cm handie-talkie, more information can be found on the web at: <http://www.alinco.com/Products/DJ-G7/>

Best of luck in the raffles, we hope to see you at the next meeting!
73,
NJ6N

DaytonTrek 2010

In the competitive spirit of the winter Olympics it is time to announce another of this years club activities. Jeff, AD7YT, and Timothy, AF6GL, will once again make the pilgrimage to the Dayton Hamvention. They will once again drive cross-country working stations along the way. Equipment upgrades and a review of the contest process are being made. Stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come, and get your gear ready to work them again on FM, RTTY, SSB, D-Star, Echo-link, IRLP and maybe a few surprises. Tentative dates are May 9-22.



Education

The measurements class started on February 10 with a full enrollment of 10 people. At the first meeting we looked at how to use an oscilloscope and made some measurements on a simple bridge rectifier power supply. We also looked at two simple voltage dividers using an analog multimeter and a Fluke 27 DMM (Digital MultiMeter). The analog meter loaded down the divider so that the accuracy of the measurement was compromised.

This week we will look at an improved simple power supply, some amplifiers and an oscillator. We will use both the DMM and the oscilloscope. Next Wednesday we will look at multistage amplifiers and begin to put together building blocks for a simple QRP transmitter.

Hal, WB6WXO, Education Director

February T-Hunt - AKA Richard's Revenge



Events:

SOARA holds a hidden transmitter hunt on the first Sunday of each month. Join us on **March 7** at 1:00 PM. Check-in and coordination is on the 447.180 MHz repeater.



Welcome to new members:

Joseph C. Andras
KIOBY

Brian Dayley
KIVPB

Jennie Dayley
K16BVT

Mikkel Hansen
KJ6EKX

George Pontiakos
KA3ZHX

Sean Reigle
AD6SW

John Sand
KF6CPL

Looking forward to talking with you on the radio and seeing you at club meetings.

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann,
KD7JHS

Many of you remember my embarrassment back in December when it turned out that I had hidden the transmitter a few hundred feet from where Gray, WA6BJY, started hunting. I was determined that this hunt would be different.

We agreed to start the hunt at the earlier time of 11:00AM and finish at 2:00PM, giving everyone plenty of time to find the "T" and get to Super Bowl parties before the game started. I used the phone patch to run the pre-hunt check-in to reduce the possibility of anyone DF-ing me on the repeater input. Tom, AE6SH, Mark, KD6LWY, and Gray, WA6BJY, started the hunt with N6UZS, AD6OI and others lurking on the repeater and providing comments and signal reports. WA6BJY was also joined by Gary, KJ6EUH, who wanted to learn about T-hunting first hand. Tom gave up early due to equipment failure.

I hid the "T" a few hundred feet inside Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness park, near the west end of Hollyleaf in Aliso Viejo. There was a high ridge between the street and the transmitter which was hidden in some bushes in a small canyon overlooking El Toro Road and the 73 Toll Road. The park was also closed due to the recent rain.

A few days before the hunt I met another new ham, Mikkel, KJ6EKX, on one of the



SOARA repeaters. It was no coincidence that I suggested to Mikkel that he listen in during the hunt... the "T" was literally line of site to his house. Mikkel not only listened in, but he joined us at the end of the hunt and was even able to try some hunting for himself thanks to our winner, Mark, who lent him his antenna and sniffer,

So why was this one named Richard's Revenge? Gray is the best one to answer that. He first arrived at Hollyleaf around 11:25. After pausing to take bearings he headed off back down the street only to return 15 minutes later. This time, Gray and Gary walked to the top of the ridge, complaining about the workout and comparing it to a treadmill test. They walked toward the "T", took some more bearings, returned to their car and headed off back down the road. How do I know this? I was hiding a few feet away behind bushes near the top of the ridge!

Mark showed up around 12:00 and was the first to find the "T" at 12:10. After a couple more hours of searching every cul-de-sac near El Toro Road and the 73, Gray finally returned to Hollyleaf for the third time uttering many of the words that make up the FCC's infamous list.

Congratulations to our winners Mark and Laura who will hide the T on March 7th.

de Richard, K6RBS



D-STAR Notes

Not much news of D-STAR operations and equipment has appeared in this newsletter recently. Brian, NJ6N, assures us that D-STAR is alive and well. There has been a consistent growth in users, repeaters and (in part thanks to Brian) in system features. Brian and his friend Darren, G7LWT, have launched a web site:

<http://www.dstar.info/index.htm>.

A different web site: www.dstarinfo.com is a worthwhile location for improving your understanding of

The DSTAR system and operating procedures. They publish a regular newsletter, and Brian has an article in the latest issue.

One interesting piece of new equipment by the same company that builds the D-STAR Dongle is a small fob that plugs into a computer's USB port and will communicate with the user's hand-held D-STAR radio, connecting it to the system through the internet as does the Dongle.

Year 2010	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	25	22	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	—
Program	Midway Atoll N6HC	AE6SH Disaster Comm	Digital Modes WB6NOA		Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	25	22	15	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	22	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				
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? Postal mail: P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690. 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 (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 8:00 AM.

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