



The

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

June 2010

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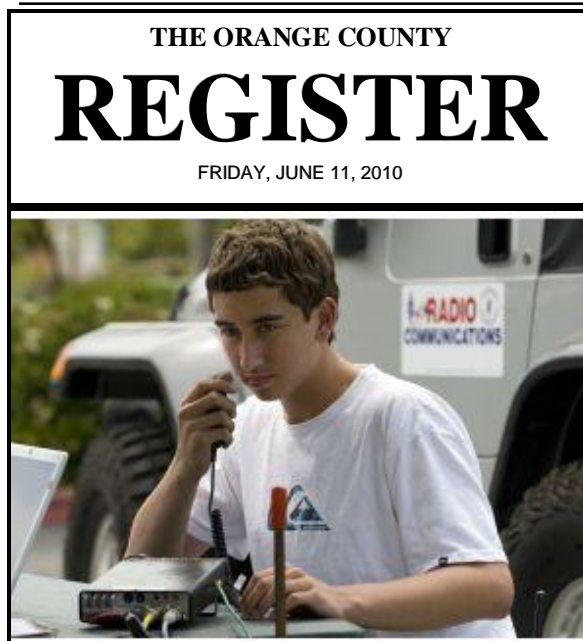
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Getting Ready for Field Day 2010

Monday's meeting will be dedicated to Field Day preparations and familiarization. The emphasis this year will be on getting all interested members involved. If this will be your first Field Day then you are especially urged to attend the meeting to become familiar with the range of activities you can pursue. The contest is a large part of the event and experienced contesters will have the opportunity to sign up for their desired operating slots. We expect to have three HF stations active for the entire [24 hour] contest period. Each station will have an operator and a person to log the contacts. Training on the logging software will be available at the meeting.

The emphasis of the GOTA station will be on letting the newer members get some experience at contesting, and we will make significant bonus points at the same time. The radios we will use at the Field Day site will be operating during the meeting so you can gain some familiarity before the big day.

Come to the meeting to get ready for Field Day and plan on spending some time with the club at Gilleran Park on Saturday the 26th or Sunday the 27th. It will be fun and there will be plenty of time to watch the action and to participate in a HAM's favorite activity — talking about radio.



Spencer, NG6K, as pictured on the front page of the O. C. Register last Friday. Columnist David Whiting responded to an invitation from SOARA to do an article on Amateur radio and emergency communications.

David met with SOARA members: Spencer, NG6K, Vern, W6VDV, Tom, AE6SH, Tim, AF6GL, and Mike, NM6X, to see a demonstration of modern HAM radio communications and its application in emergencies. If you did not see the story in the paper, just follow the link on the SOARA web page.

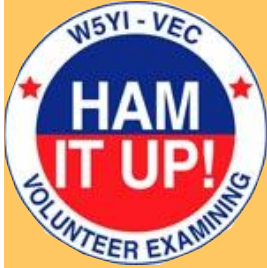
We could not have asked for a better promotion of the upcoming Field Day operation. Our past success in getting our Field Day operations publicized has varied, but it is going to be hard to beat this year's results. We can expect a sizable turnout of visitors on June 26.

An additional opportunity to publicize the event will come on the Wednesday before Field Day. The City of Mission Viejo is sponsoring a presentation on Planning for Communications During a Disaster. The MV RACES group will conduct the presentation and will emphasize the opportunity to see Amateur radio in action at Field Day.

**Meeting:
June 21
7:00 PM**

**N. P.
Murray
Center**

**Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo**



Testing

Last Month 52 tests were administered at the regular SOARA testing session. Regretfully the names and call signs of those who passed the tests were not available as this was prepared. However we do send our congratulations to those who obtained their new or upgraded FCC licenses. It is no small accomplishment and we share your pride in the accomplishment.

There is no testing session before the June meeting, however there will be testing at the Field Day site (Gilliran Park in Mission Viejo) on Saturday, June 26.

Those wishing to take a test at the Field Day session, please notify Mike, NM6X, at nm6x@soara.org Or call him at (949) 305-1374.

SOARA Field Day 2010 Highlights

A lot of effort and planning has already gone into Field Day, but the weekend activity will start early (6:30AM) on Saturday, June 26. Antennas, towers, coax and other gear will be deployed to the proper locations on the field and assembly will start. Lots of hands are needed when the assembly and raising of the antennas is under way. There is plenty for everyone to do, so don't be shy about coming out early. The contest starts at 11:00AM local time and we expect to have everything up and operational at that time.

Operators of the three HF contest stations will be busy, but for most the pace will slow a bit when all of the gear is functioning. We should have an unusually large number of visitors this year. We want to make them feel welcome. There will be some unofficial (non-contest) radios which may be used to let visitors experience HAM radio first hand. A couple of FRS/GMRS radios will illustrate short range communications and an HF rig operating on 17 meters (a band not involved in the Field Day contest) will allow a taste of non-contest (normal) operation. Bring your friends and neighbors to the Field Day site to show off this fascinating hobby, and spend some casual time showing the public what we do for fun.

Visitors will be greeted at the visitor's table where they can pick up literature on Amateur Radio and get some orientation. There will be demonstrations of emergency communications equipment by RACES groups, and a working ATV station. We will have streaming video on the internet direct from the Field Day site.

There will be an opportunity for taking FCC exams during the day, and we expect a fair number of people to take advantage of the

opportunity. The testing site will be somewhat removed from the main activity so that those taking exams will not be distracted. In addition to making visitors welcome please be aware of those who have just taken their exams (and any visiting hams) as they will be especially interested in the activities. You may be instrumental in getting an inactive or new ham excited again about the hobby.

An activity designed especially for members is an educational demonstration on Amateur TV (ATV). Some of the exotic aspects of amateur radio are not particularly difficult to master and can add a new dimension to your fun.



Did I mention food. Do we always have exceptionally good food at Field Day, or is it just the picnic like atmosphere? What ever the reason, the food is always good, so be sure to show up for lunch or dinner on Saturday. Sunday breakfast is also special.

The contest ends at 11:00AM on Sunday, a full 24 hours of non-stop operation. Yes, we have dedicated contesters who will operate (at a frantic pace) all night long. When the final contact is logged then the process of taking down the antennas and packing up all of the gear starts. Remarkably it all gets done and packed away neatly in much less time than it took to set it up.

So, plan on coming out for part of Field Day, you will find plenty to do, and you will enjoy it. ☺ Put on sunscreen and wear a hat. You don't need a sunburn to remind you how long you stood in the sun chatting. ☺ If you bring any gear please remember to mark everything with your call sign. It always happens that some items are left and no one knows who they belong to. ☺ See you at Field Day!

Get On The Air (GOTA) this Year

Welcome

Field Day is SOARA's main activity of the year.

It is a good chance to see and visit with SOARA members with whom you may have lost touch.

Recently SOARA has experienced considerable growth and there are many new members—this is a good time to meet them and get to know them.

We expect a significant number of visitors at the Field Day site. Be sure to greet visitors and answer their questions. This is great PR for Amateur Radio.

We often get local hams who are not familiar with SOARA but hear about or stumble onto the Field Day site. These are potential new members and friends. Make them feel welcome and introduce them to other club members.

Everyone is WELCOME at Field Day, make sure the feel welcome.

The GOTA station uses a different call sign than the three main HF stations in the contest. It also is limited in the number of total contacts that may be made during the contest. But—it can qualify for a significant number of points. There are regular points for contacts and there are bonus points just for the GOTA station. The purpose of the GOTA station is to allow new and inactive operators a chance to participate in the contest.

For each successful contact (information exchanged) one regular point is earned. When one operator completes 20 contacts then 20 bonus points are earned. The same operator may earn a second 20 bonus points by making a second 20 contacts. This is to give each operator an incentive to commit to making multiple contacts. Well, 20, there is no bonus for 19 contacts and you can't group the contacts by two operators.

There will be a coach on duty to advise the operators (we get bonus points for having a coach), and generally there will be an operator and logger. It is easier if those two jobs are separated. The coach is not allowed to operate or log. It is not necessary that the operator have HF

privileges. The coach will have the required license and will be the control operator. That doesn't mean that the coach operates the radio controls, just that he or she is there and legally responsible for the transmitter's operation. Don't operate without the coach present.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain some experience on the HF bands and to try your hand at contesting. You may find that you really enjoy it and want to advance and become proficient at it. Some of our members are quite experienced and find it exhilarating. You may find that it is an OK thing for a few hours a year (at Field Day) but not that thrilling. This is the way to find out.

In the past SOARA has used the GOTA station as a means of allowing visitors to get on the air. The contest pressure makes that not work well, so this year we will have a 17 meter radio for casual contacts for visitors. If, at home, you have HF equipment and hear the visitor station jump in and chat with the visitors. Just remember that this is not part of the contest and 17 meters is not one of the bands for the contest. It's where non-contesters go during Field Day.

O.C. Fair Sign-up

SOARA's scheduled dates at this year's fair are:

Saturday 17 July & Sunday 18 July.

To see if there are any shifts open email or see Mack KD6KSP at the meeting.

Mack, KD6KSP
OC Fair Steering Committee
SOARA OCCARO Liaison
Cell 949 584 2249

Next Month:

Janet Margelli, KL7MF, the manager of Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) will present a program she calls: "Ham Radio Outlet, The Candy Store Story."

Janet has a long and interesting history in amateur radio and has spent many years of watching the latest developments in commercial amateur gear. Her insights into the market and the latest development will be especially interesting to new hams or those who are considering buying new equipment. (Well, now, that covers just about everyone doesn't it!)

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	Hospital Group AC7GK	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	Candy Store KL7MF				Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	25	22	15	19	17	26 Field Day	19	16	20	18	15	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	7	7	11	9 ?	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 Pre-F.D. Exercise	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 Mike Slygh, NM6X, at 949-305-1374.

☛ **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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