



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

June 2011

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Meeting
June 20,
2011
7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

FIELD DAY 2011 IS HERE!

Next week, the week of June 20th, is FIELD DAY week! Starting with the monthly SOARA meeting on Monday though the weekend Field Day event.

Monday, June 20th. This month's SOARA meeting will focus on training and planning for Field Day. Besides providing the necessary information to help you to enjoy the event, there will be sign-ups for your preferred radio operating time slots and volunteer positions. (...continued on page 2)



Vice President's Message



Well summer is upon us (as well as fire and hurricane season) and Tom and I get busy like everyone else. This month I will fill in for Tom as he works on other projects. Instead of Memorial

Day, SOARA's traditional start of summer is Field Day.

This June 25-26 is Field Day and although handled in a contest format, it is a dress rehearsal for emergency communications. Setting up portable antennas and running on emergency power is great practice for an actual event. Please attend this year. Keep in mind that you can operate in the Extra class bands or just get your feet wet. No HF privileges? No problem. New? Get on the air at the GOTA station.

On the heels of Field Day is our participation in the Orange County Fair. On July 16 and 24 SOARA is taking it's turn in manning

the OCCARO (Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations) booth. Have fun explaining how much fun Ham Radio is and operate the K6F special event station. Volunteer a few hours and you get free admittance and parking for the entire day.

Next for the summer will be the SOARA annual picnic. This is a BBQ for the entire family. Come to Dana Point Harbor on August 7th and share in a great social event that includes a couple of fun T-hunts, and time to visit with your fellow hams.

Rounding out the summer will be SOARA's participation in the ARRL Southwestern Convention held in Torrance on September 9-12. Come see the vendors, learn in some forums and participate in the ARRL's Wouff-Hong ceremony.

Don't forget to check QST magazine for a few special events, throw in some SOARA Saturdays and the occasional contest and your summer should be full. Mark your calendars and see you soon at the next club event!

de Timothy McGowen, AF6GL



June 25 - 26

Field Day
Gilleran Park

July 16 & 24

O C Fair Booth

August 7

SOARA Picnic

September 9 – 11

**South West
Hamcon**
Torrance

Note:

There will be no VEC testing before the regular June meeting, but at Field Day instead (Saturday, 6/25, 1-3pm at Gilleran Park)

Field Day 2011

Please attend the Monday meeting to help make Field Day 2011 a success. Besides, you may win the FT 7900 R/E. raffle prize!

With Solar Cycle 24 upon us, Field Day 2011 promises to be an exciting event. Barring any unforeseen disruptions, the improved propagation should allow us to make many more contacts especially on the 20 Meter and the 40 Meter bands during the nighttime.

For those *experienced hams*, all of the bands should be open for contacts using all modes; RTTY, CW, phone, ATV, etc. Please be prepared to log lots of contacts and generate lots of points. As usual, contesting will continue for 24 hours (11am Saturday to 11am Sunday).

Have fun! W6VDV - Vern

Friday, June 24th

Due to the rules for this years Field Day, we will be allowed to start set-up on Friday, 12:00 noon, at Gilleran Park. Antennas, coax, radio stations, etc. should be up by 5:00 with fine tuning and testing between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. We need all the help we can get to build our Field Day "City". The 80 Meter J Pole held in place by a 7 foot helium balloon will be a real challenge.

Saturday, June 25th:

Show up for a coffee and Danish at 8:00 to make final adjustment prior to commencement of the contesting at 11:00am. Then get on the air! We begin making contacts at 11:00am. Field Day continues throughout the night. Those that care to may bring a tent and/or sleeping bag to catch some sleep at the park during the night.

Sunday, June 26th

Field Day contacts continue until 11:00am on Sunday morning at which time we stop operating and begin taking down the antennas, radios, tables, etc. and moving them back to the container. Again, we will appreciate all the help we can get with the cables, antennas, radios, etc.

Equipment:

We will have all Yaesu FT-950s with the exception of the GOTA station which will be a Kenwood TS-2000. As for antennas, we will have:

Mono band beams on 20m thru 6m.
A tri-bander on a tower for GOTA.
A 43' vertical on the batting cage and
A sloper for 40m.
A dipole and hopefully a J pole for 80M.

Anyone can operate, you don't have to have HF privileges.

[Yaesu FT-950](#)
[Kenwood TS-2000](#)

Field Day Location:

We will be at Gilleran Park which is located at 24960 Felipe Road between La Paz and Oso Parkway. (Note Felipe Road becomes Olympiad North of La Paz)

The GOTA Station

If you are relatively new to amateur radio (Technicians or Generals with less than one year), you will want to spend time at the GOTA station collecting QSOs from around the Country on HF. You will also have an opportunity to talk on amateur television, try D-Star, and to experience satellite communication. Don't miss this once a year event!



Thank you to all the SOARA members, especially our mobile radio operators, who helped out at the Laguna Hills Half Marathon & 5k. We had a great time, and enjoyed pizza afterwards.

Heiko AD6OI



Good news!

The new **SOARA handbooks** are printed, bound and will be available for distribution to all members in good standing at the June 20th club meeting. Be sure to come and pick up yours. It includes everything you need to have maximum use of the repeaters as well as the membership roster as of April 1, 2011.

The T-hunt News

After scouting out numerous locations around Irvine, Alan (no call, yet) and I decided that Turtle Rock Park would work. It was not higher than the surrounding area and had sufficient growth to hide the transmitter and antenna. The transmitter was placed just inside the fence surrounding the nature area of the park.

First in was Karl, KF6MDF, at about an hour and twenty five minutes followed by Richard about a half hour later. Apparently Richard decided that a quick tour of Laguna Canyon was needed before continuing with the hunt, or perhaps he got temporarily disoriented? In any event, he managed to locate us.

The next scheduled hunt is July 3rd. Karl will, I'm sure, find a good hiding spot to challenge us all. 73's, Gray WA6BJY

Raffle Report

As noted before, I would like to change the prizes a little bit. For example, I could add some prizes that can be put into our emergency preparedness kits. If you have any suggestions for either the \$1 or \$5 raffle, please let me know.

I will also continue to provide accessories for the ham radio station. These prizes include speakers, headphones, and other things for the station that are of mutual interest. I will include such things as small kits to be built, handbooks, assembly tools, and other items that the membership has asked for.

As a reminder, we need to sell another 32 \$5 tickets to raffle off the FT 7900 R/E. I will also look into a handheld radio that has D-Star capability.

I would like to hear from the membership if there is an interest in other things besides a VHF/UHF radio. Is there an interest in a 160 through 10m folded dipole as an example?

If there are any comments, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org -Hal

OC FAIR



Mack (KD6KSP) has our tickets, please see him at the June 20th meeting to solidify shifts.

The 20' EXPANDED Ham Radio booth location is corner spots # 15 and #16, 200' away from the Blue Gate front entrance, to the new white Mylar tent entrance! This is a CHOICE location for maximum visibility!

We are line-of-sight to Santiago Peak for ATV, full tilt for FM V/U repeaters, and low (at least lower) noise is expected on HF.

We are not "next" to anything on the immediate outside of the tent. No bumper cars, only the fun Jacuzzi Pool exhibits. Hopefully, pool pump QRN won't bother our antenna setup for HF.

Membership



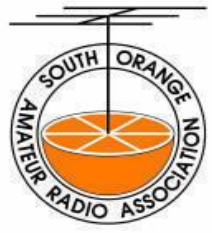
From the Membership directors:

Welcome to our new members:

Carlton Stacks, KJ6OIO Technician from Mission Viejo.
Doug Northern, N6GNS General from Mission Viejo.
Hans Strupat, KJ6PIJ Technician from Laguna Niguel.

Membership total now stands at 199 members.

Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR
 Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS
 Membership Directors, SOARA



WANTED:

Activities Director

SOARA is currently looking for an Activities Director.

This is a non-elected position and only takes a few hours of work per year.

The primary duties include coordination of the annual picnic, holiday party, and field day.

Field day is the largest activity, but is generally delegated to a Field Day Coordinator who handles the event. This year's holiday party is booked and paid for so you only need to finalize the menu. The picnic needs coordinated but the location and cooks and BBQ's are already set so we just need to coordinate picking up some food and drinks. If interested please contact Timothy-AF6GL or Tom-AE6SH.

DaytonTrek 2011



Although we did not hold a club contest this year the annual migration of club members to the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio still occurred. For those unfamiliar, Hamvention is the world's largest ham radio convention hosting nearly 25,000 participants for three days. It includes forums, product announcements, flea market and vendors floor. Hams from around the globe come to Dayton to attend.

Brian Roode, NJ6N and myself left Laguna Niguel on Sunday, May 15 and arrived on Wed., May 19. We attended the Contest University at the Crowne Plaza hotel on May 20th. This was eight hours of forums with some of the worlds leading contesters. It was fun meeting the holders of such well-known calls as K3LR, W3LPL, N0AX, K5ZD. Several of the forums were webcast by the Potomac Valley Amateur Radio Club and are available at <http://www.pvrc.org/webinar/webinars.htm>

We also saw fellow club members & friends: Howard KG6GI, Tom AE6SH, Don KE6BXT, Janet Margelli KL7MF & Gordon West WB6NOA. Brian and I spent a lot of our time networking with DStar folks...To those with DStar radios, don't be afraid. Break them out and start to play!

After a great time in Dayton, on May 22nd, after Brian and I had put in a long day of driving, the weather had started deteriorating so we found a motel in Lebanon, Missouri. Upon entering the motel the lobby was filled with people surrounding the TV. We were told they were watching coverage of a tornado that just wiped out the city of Joplin, about an hour away. We were also told it was heading in our direction. Fortunately it passed us by.

The next day we continued down Interstate 40 and drove through Joplin. Although we only saw a small portion of the devastation, it was terrible. Continuing down the Interstate we got a call from Richard-K6RBS, who was following us on APRS, warning us of a squall line we were headed toward. We were fairly deep into deteriorating weather when we decided not to stop as we were afraid we would be caught in the storm. This native southern Californian saw lightning like never seen before. (What does it mean when there is no time delay between the flash and the thunder?)

We rounded out our trip with a short stop in Kingman, Arizona and had an "eyeball" with Paul Fortune-KF7GYE, one of last years DaytonTrek contest winner. Paul is a regular member of the 40-meter California rescue communications net hosted by Gordon West. Paul was very excited to finally meet us and we had a great, although brief, visit. We had tried for the past three years to meet up with him and this year we finally got it done. 4600 miles later we returned home on May 25th.

de Timothy McGowen, AF6GL

SOARA Saturdays

What do balloons & trees have in common? They can both support antennas, of course!

We did our best to avoid the wedding planners who were busy getting set-up outside of our usual room, which we haven't seen the inside of much lately. Richard (K6RBS) and Spencer (NG6K) built the only antennas which we had time to test and while the 10m band wasn't exactly cooperating that day, they were still able to make contacts out of state with their make-shift antennas. Richard's used a balloon for the element part of the antenna, and what I thought was the antenna was just the impedance matching section! Spencer built a large 2 element dipole array that was almost too big for the trees! The ladder line was just inches off the ground and the antenna is designed to go down to 40m, I believe. Spencer's antenna ended up winning the day and had the stronger report for K6LLL, but Richard's balloons were the crowd pleaser of the day.



SOARA Saturdays is Field Day this month, see you there! 73's de Mike K6MSM

Year 2011	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	24	28	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	—
Program	It's Your Club AF6GL	Rally KI6IUC	Contest Fun AF6GL	D-STAR NJ6N & KG6GI	Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	24	28	21	18	16	25 Field Day	18	15	19	17	21	—
SOARA Saturday		Mar. 5	26	23	21	Field Day	23	20	24	22	26	
SOARA T-Hunt	2	6	6	3	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	4
Board Meeting	31	Mar 7	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	
Special Events					20-22 Dayton		16 & 24 OC Fair booth		9-11 SW Div Hamcon			
ARRL Field Day						25-26						
SOARA picnic								7				
Holiday Party												3

☛ **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.

SOARA OFFICERS

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