



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

July 2011

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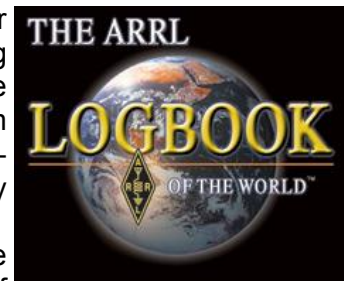
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Meeting
July 18,
2011
7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
 Veterans
 Way
 Mission Viejo

QSL'ing—Electronic or Paper?

You have just completed an exchange with a new found friend on the other side of the country or even on the other side of the world. What now? For seasoned hams, what to do next might be second nature, but new hams, like myself, can be overwhelmed by the various options to QSL or confirm the QSO (contact). Or perhaps you just want to check on some of the electronic QSL options you haven't tried yet, or check out what the Bureaus are about if you want to try out QSL'ing the traditional way.

Please join us for the July meeting for an informative presentation from our Vice President, Timothy McGowen, AF6GL as he makes sense of the available QSL options. Don't miss this meeting and the many other events coming up soon!



QST de AE6SH



I am sure by now you have heard that Field Day was an overwhelming success and that Vern and his team did a wonderful job coordinating setup, operations, FOOD and teardown... Well done Vern! I would tell you to take some time off and rest up but I know that your work load has increased recently and that you are busier than ever these days. Please take your deserved rest when you can. Thanks for a great Field Day!

Our next social function will be the SOARA picnic and I hope to see many of you there. Please watch for more information here and on the Tuesday night nets and on the web site for all of the details.

Now for some really fun stuff. I have mentioned this before but time is marching on and we need to rehearse. Yes I said rehearse, rehearse what you say? Why it is the Ceremony of the Wouff-Hong at the upcoming South Western Division Convention www.hamconinc.org I will be looking for a few volunteers for both on stage and back stage positions with our performance. This is a time honored tradition and SOARA members have always shined in the midnight spotlight. No previous theatrical experience required!! While you are checking out the convention web site don't forget to register and sign up for some of the activities.

See you at the meeting and at the picnic!

73'

Tom Hobbs
AE6SH





July 16 & 24

O C Fair Booth

August 7

SOARA Picnic

September 9 – 11

**South West
Hamcon
Torrance**

Does anyone have a Yaesu ATAS120A antenna?

If you aren't familiar with it, it is a mobile whip that auto tunes the HF bands, when used with an FT-857/897D rig. I have one and would like to do a side-by-side signal strength comparison. I believe mine has excessive insertion loss and would like to compare it with someone's. Thanks,

Scott,
N6DO@soara.org

OC FAIR

From Mack, KD6KSP & Gordo, WB6NOA: After two 10 hour days preparing the booth, we are good to go! All antennas are performing well, so bring your favorite "cans" and listen to HF on the full length Off Center Fed Windom, up Palm Tree high!

The TENT is fabulous, with a high ceiling and lots of antenna supports! We have plenty of AC if you plan to bring a laptop for digital hamming. We have plenty of DC, all terminating to Anderson Connectors.

We have several VHF/UHF antennas, for your rig or ours - and one radio locked on to 144.330 with a local-range antenna, in case you need talk in when in close to the fairgrounds. Simplex, no tone needed.

If you have a QSL collection on a board, bring it. If you have world prefix maps, bring 'em. A cool breeze wafts through the building each afternoon.

If it gets too warm, take a plunge in the next door spa display. The tent is fun! Lots of air circulating through, so bring a warm jacket for the night shift. Be a star on

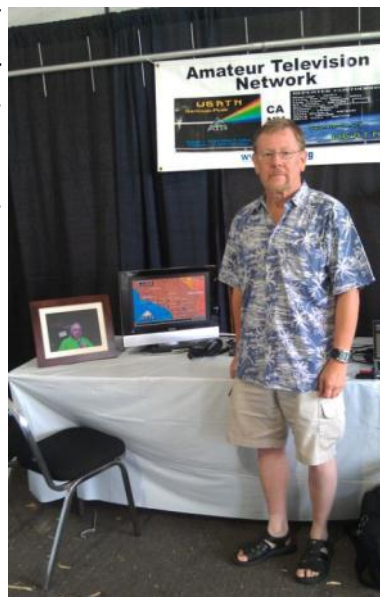
Don's elaborate ATV system, too - everyone is watching!

Most important, have fun in your expansive ham radio 20 foot booth, courtesy OCCARO, and your organization's support of OCCARO.



ATV at the Fair

ATV will be at the fair from opening day until the last day of the fair. The ATV at the fair should be available whether I am there or not. I'll write up some instructions on how to use it and provide training for booth workers, Gordo, and Mack so they can assist others in using the equipment when I am not there.



Don, KE6BXT

Don't miss the Picnic Now at a New Location!

Please join us on 8/7 for the SOARA Picnic at the NEW location. It is also in Dana Point (in the midst of the harbor) at a more reasonable distance from the pesky cliff, which should make any HF operating more fun. Also, being closer to the sea breezes and away from the beach will hopefully make for a nice break from the expected August crowds & temperatures!

The park is near the statue of Richard Henry Dana and is located on Dana Drive at the end of [Island Way](#). See you there!





Field Day 2011

To borrow from the film industry, “That’s a wrap”. Field Day 2011 has wrapped with several descriptive words: camaraderie, experimentation, laughter, and gluttony.



SOARA members showed up en masse to work together, to play together and to have fun. We started on Friday, our new set-up day, with 32 volunteers deliberately but casually building our “ham city.” Then Saturday’s contesting, satellite contacts, amateur television, visitor information, ARES/RACES, and GOTA station. Field Day ended with Sunday’s “wrap” where the turn-out was wonderful. We had over 150 members and guests sign in. We served 273 meals! We introduced many visitors to amateur radio and even got some new SOARA members. The GOTA station was the busiest that I have ever seen. More than anything was the camaraderie between members with many conversations about radios, antenna, sports, and even politics.

In the early days of amateur radio, experimentation was key and it is still an integral part of what we do, however, not all experiments work as planned. Richard’s (K6RBS) 80Meter J’pole falls in that category. Did it work? Absolutely. Was it as glorious as we had hoped? No. Possibly due to less than wonderful propagation over the weekend and possible due to a trajectory that shot over most of the US. The reality is that it needs

some additional fine tuning. In previous years a curtain wall was tried, an 80 Meter vertical was tried, and we will try other new innovations next year.

Experimentation is what makes amateur radio exciting.

One thing for sure, most of the

participants had fun. I watched the masses gather together at the tables in the shade talking, laughing, discussing and planning. The noise level from people’s voices, not from QRM, was amazing.



The last descriptive word, gluttony, has to do with the amount of food consumed. Jeff’s wonderful Tri-Tip roast from last year set a very high standard for food at Field Day. None of the food at this year’s Field Day can compare, but no one can complain about the quantity of food. Anyone that didn’t gain a couple of pound over the weekend, was spending too much time on the radios and not enough time stuffing their faces.

So, once again I thank all those that participated to make Field Day 2011 a success especially the committee chairs that make it all happen.

-Vern, W6VDV





(Still) 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.

Field Day Report 2011

Here are some results of our entry this year.

Total number of CW contacts: 774 (1548 points)

Total number of Digital contacts: 5 (10 points)

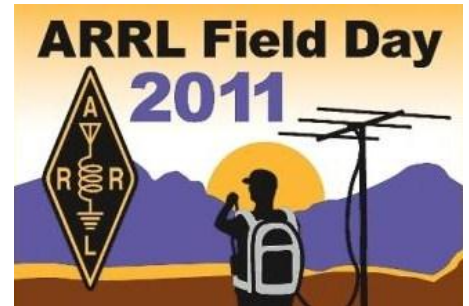
Total number of Phone contacts: 1157 (1157 points)

Total Points = 2715

Score = 2715 X 2 = 5430 (2x for < 150 watts)

Bonus points = 1750

Total: **7180**



This is not as high as last year when our total entry was 8198. It is not clear how this will affect our relative standing among other clubs in our category. (We generally do quite well.) Propagation has a significant affect on the scores for all of the clubs, and conditions seemed much poorer this year. The average solar flux and sunspot numbers were:

25th: 94, 47; 26th: 90, 26

It will not be until about the end of the year when we will find out our relative standing.

Raffle Report

I am pleased to announce that Dave Bass AF6XP won the \$5 raffle. Congratulations on winning the Yaesu FT 7900.

At the June general meeting, the club sold \$313 in tickets. We needed to sell 32 tickets to raffle off the Yaesu FT-7900. We actually sold about 40 \$5 tickets.

Knute, K6HIV won the FM radio kit. He immediately gave to a new ham Kellie. It couldn't have gone to a more deserving new ham.

For the July general meeting, I have concentrated on accessories for ham radio. I have an MFJ speaker and a handbook that details how to use Echolink. Since SOARA has an Echolink repeater, I thought it might be useful to increase the use of the Echolink repeater.

Since we have some new hams and some hams upgrading to General, I am offering a new ARRL publication "Basic Radio". It covers the basic building blocks of ham radio.

For the \$5 prize, I have an ICOM ID880H mobile radio. It is a UHF/VHF/D-Star radio. SOARA has made a sizeable investment in D-Star repeaters. It is my intention to promote the use of these repeaters by offering radios that have D-Star incorporated. This will be a bit of a stretch as we need to sell about 100 \$5 tickets.

It was suggested at the June meeting, that I offer an another FT7900. I will keep that in mind and sometime in the future, I will offer it again.

If you have any suggestions for either the \$1 or \$5 raffle , please let me know. WB6WXO@soara.org



USS Spikefish - de-commissioning flag



T-Hunt Tips:

There are three considerations in selecting a location to hide the transmitter for one of SOARA's monthly hunts.

- 1) It has to be a location accessible to the hunters;
- 2) It must be provide a signal that the hunters can hear (not necessarily everywhere); and
- 3) It should be difficult to locate quickly.

There is only one RULE: It must be in the area bounded by the 55 and 91 freeways to the North and West and the county boundaries to the East and South.

This area provides the hider with a variety of landscapes to choose from in the attempt to confound the hunters. There are no limitations on the type of antenna or the power level used. Neither the transmitter nor antenna are required to be in sight, although they often are. A 16 foot long Yagi is difficult to hide.

The hunt frequency is always 146.565 MHz, a standard hunt frequency. SOARA hunts are coordinated on the 447.180 MHz. repeater and start at 1:00 PM on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise announced.

The T-hunt News

For this month's hunt (7/3/11) Karl, KF6MDF, choose a location in the Panorama Heights section of Santa Ana (Near Orange and North Tustin).

The transmitter location was bounded by Chapman on the north, Hewes St on the west, Foothill on the south and Crawford Canyon to the east. The actual location was on the uphill side of Circular Panorama, overlooking Crawford Canyon Road with a horizontal beam stuck in a tree pointing east or southeast.

If you are not familiar with the area, it is basically a residential area situated on a hill with somewhat narrow streets. Other hills to the East scattered and attenuated the signal. A prior test of the location indicated that the signal was readable from the Mission Viejo area.

Seven hunters/teams participated in the hunt on Sunday. This number included a first time hunter who had limited equipment. The first hunter to locate the transmitter was Richard, K6RBS, who found it about one and a half hours after it went on the air. Just a few minutes later Gray, WA6BJY, found it. After finding the transmitter the hunters were directed to a nearby park for snacks, a cold drink and to swap stories about the hunt.

Richard, K6RBS, will hide the transmitter for the August hunt. That hunt will take place on the day of the SOARA picnic (8/7). Plan on attending the picnic and after a tasty lunch, try a taste of transmitter hunting. It can be challenging, but it can be a lot of fun. Along the way you will get a good feel for how radio waves are propagated and how surroundings affect the propagation.

Come join the fun!

Membership



Welcome to our new members!

Ken Cowles, W6KDC

General, Lake Forest

Christopher Croisette, KJ6PYJ

Technician, San Juan Capistrano

Dale Cummins, KC0AQV

General, San Juan Capistrano

Scott Harper, KE6MEO

General, Laguna Hills

Michael Kindig, KA6YYZ

General, Long Beach

Tom Jacobs, W6TSJ

Extra, Laguna Niguel

Chris Michaelson, KJ6NNJ

General, Lake Forest

Kelley Saunders, KJ6NNK

Technician, Mission Viejo

John Shedd, KA6BRM

Extra, Newport Beach

Kyra Shedd, KI6QJK

Technician, Newport Beach

Debby Sowers, KJ6FBY

Technician, San Juan Capistrano

Don Sowers, KJ6FBZ

Technician, San Juan Capistrano

John Stanford, KF6I

Extra, Placentia

Jason Stewart, WT6GR

Extra, San Clemente

Membership total now stands at 218 members.

The new SOARA handbooks are still available to members and we'll have them available at the July 18th club meeting. Be sure to come and pick up yours or ask someone to pick it up for you. It includes everything you need to have maximum use of the repeaters as well as our membership roster.

Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS

Membership Directors, SOARA

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	Field Day Prep	QSL'ing AF6GL				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/tbd	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

See page 2 for information about the new location!

☛ **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 Peak. (C)
D-Star	440	—	445.660	—	(K6SOA B)	Laguna Beach
	440	—	447.180	—	(131.8)	Santiago Peak. (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

<i>President:</i> Tom Hobbs, AE6SH	949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org	
<i>V.P.</i> Timothy McGowen, AF6GL	760-310-7634
af6gl@soara.org	
<i>Secretary:</i> John Anderson, NJ6A	949-581-9847
nj6a@soara.org	
<i>Treasurer:</i> Tom Parkes, KI6DDB	714-224-2982
ki6ddb@soara.org	

SOARA DIRECTORS

<i>Repeater:</i> Howard Brown, KG6GI	949-581-2634
kg6gi@soara.org	
<i>Publications:</i> Mike Mahan, K6MSM.	949-279-9936
k6msm@soara.org	
<i>Membership:</i> Horst, KD7JHR & Marie, KD7JHS Zitzmann	949-768-8552
kd7jhr@soara.org or kd7jhs@soara.org	
<i>Education:</i> Heiko Peschel, AD6OI	949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org	
<i>Technical:</i> Brian Roode, NJ6N	949-495-5336
nj6n@soara.org	
<i>Communications:</i> Mikkel Hansen, NR6E.	949-632-5573
nr6e@soara.org	

SOARA COMMITTEES

<i>Activities:</i> (OPEN)	
<i>Testing:</i> Mike Slygh, NM6X	949-305-1374
nm6x@soara.org	
<i>Website:</i> Richard Saunders, K6RBS	949-770-5099
k6rbs@soara.org	
<i>Ambassador:</i> Heiko Peschel, AD6OI	949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org	