



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

August 2011

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Meeting
August
15, 2011
7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

SOARA "Career" Fair

The date of our next meeting sneaks up on us this month. Although it is still the third Monday, the date is August 15.

Please arrive on time as we will be starting right at 7pm with the share and tell first and the business portion second. Demos will include APRS, kit building, award collecting, T-hunting. The intended subject is to be in a career fair type set-up. We are hoping to get the patio area adjacent to our regular meeting room so we can

take advantage of some summer sunshine. You may enjoy collecting or restoring vintage gear, collecting awards or QSL cards, ATV, Satellites, VHF Contesting, Kit building, EMCOMM, or anything ham related. Bring us your "stuff" and let us know what you enjoy about the hobby. The format will be casual and folks can just wander about and see all of the exhibits. We may remind you every ten minutes or so if you wish to rotate. We don't want you to miss anything. Come and join the fun!

QST de AE6SH



Hello SOARA members. We have several announcements to pass along so please mark your calendars!

August 14 will be the last day of the OC fair and there is

awards and recognition at the booth. Contact Mack KD6KSP@SOARA.org for more info on the last day's events and times.

Next is the General membership meeting on Aug. 15 Normal time and location Check the web site for more info.

Then we have something really big and only comes around every four years. (At least to the LA area)... The ARRL South West Division Convention www.HamConInc.org This is a real opportunity for new and seasoned hams alike to experience all that amateur radio has to offer. 3 big days of interesting speakers, vendors, food

and fun. Please go to the web site above and register it is easier than ever now with PayPal this time.

QST, QST, QST, SOARA needs volunteers for our commitment to the convention.

SOARA has committed to our usual Midnight Wouff Hong ceremony and club table at the Sept. 9, 10, 11 convention.

We need: 6 cast members (NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! performance is Lip synced) 3 to 4 support staff for the ceremony (but the more the better) Cast and support staff will need to be in place between 10:00 and 10:30pm Sat night and be done around 1:30 am Sunday morning. I know it's late but it is a time honored tradition and allot of fun! 2 people at the club table at all times on Friday afternoon and all day sat. in shifts kind of like we did at the fair!

Please Email me directly if you can help out AE6SH@SOARA.org It is coming up fast and will be here before we know it.

Thanks and 73' Tom Hobbs -President

OC FAIR Report



OC FAIR HAM RADIO BOOTH TEAM.....

A million (1,000,000) THANKS, from a million (1,000,000) visitors, (as of last Sunday) to the OC FAIR 2011!

The HAM RADIO BOOTH was standing tall with YOU, our organization and club volunteers!

Last week was fun, with COAR members in full uniform, and FV RACES members having fun with DX on the Icom IC-9100.



OCARC supplied VE examiners for several ham tests on Saturday, and the exam process went smooth as silk! Lots of CW DX on Saturday, too, on the Icom rig!

Sunday K6VEC and SOARA members had the booth humming with the sounds of DX, and also brought exam teams for testing, too!

Don at the ATV section worked Australia on TV! WOW.

Jim with the old time radios, tuned in to KNX, with Leo Laporte talking about his new ham ticket, W6TWT, and hi to us at the Fair for representing ham radio!

**South West
Hamcon
Torrance**

September 9 – 11

SONGS Siren Test

October 19

**Pacificon
Santa Clara**

October 14-16

**SOARA
Holiday Party**

December 3

FINAL WEEKEND!

Sunday is the last day of the OC FAIR 2011. This is OC Red Cross day, and between 2pm to 4pm, fun awards in the booth, plus cake and ice cream, some carnival rides to lucky winner, winner, winners, name that tune on Jim's antique radios, GPS hunt, APRS hunt, ATV over the 200 foot tower drop, and other last day celebrations!

As Sunday closes at 11 pm, we will do the radio relay, unleashing the stainless steel wire through each radio's heat sink, and running them out to Suzy, in the blue gate nearby parking lot. Just the expensive stuff - the rest of the booth gizmos, I take down the next day.

We will try and save the OCF antenna palm tree mount, for next year's HF radiator!

THANKING YOU for your ham radio service at the OC FAIR ham radio booth!

Gordo, Suzy, and Mack

SONGS Siren Testing



Here is a heads-up regarding a change for the annual SONGS siren test. This year's test will be on Wednesday, October 19 and will follow the same schedule. However, because of some recent upgrades, all of the sirens in the system will have public address capabilities.

As a result, the cities (and county) may decide to test the public address function on more sirens than have been tested in the past. The impact of this is that there may be more bodies needed for a longer period to verify all of the siren locations. I know we're still a few months away, but it is not too early to start thinking about coverage for all of the siren locations.



The new 2011 SOARA handbooks are available and we'll have them at the August 15th 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, digital modes, auto patch etc. as well as our membership roster.

Next month, September, is the last month of our fiscal year and membership renewals will become due October 1st.

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

Picnic/T-hunt

Thanks to all who attended the picnic last Sunday. The spot worked out well and we had plenty of passerby's asking questions about our going's on, between HF, T-Hunting and antenna experiments. It was a bit cool for a mid-summer day, so, next year, a jacket might be a good thing to have in the car at least!



The picnic hidden-transmitter hunt was quite fun... One of the transmitters was inside an old sprinkler.

Karl, KF6MDF did an extraordinary job carefully "installing" it in the ground such that it did not look out of place, and it proved very difficult to find!



As you can see, Spencer, NG6K, was successful at finding the T on one of his first t-hunting experiences...

Raffle Report

I am pleased to report that the raffle on July 18, 2011 yielded \$323.

The raffle for the ICom radio took in \$260. That is about half of what is needed to raffle off the radio. The idea of a D-Star radio was well received.

There needs to have another 52 tickets sold to raffle off the radio in August.

The balance of the money received was for the \$1 raffle was \$63.

The plan is to offer a variety of prizes for the \$1 raffle. The membership may want to refer to the July 2011 edition of QST. Mark Lacy W5TXR has written an article on kit building. He details a list of suppliers that offer kits for the home brewer. It is a good read.

Toward that end, I will continue to offer small kits to the membership for the \$1 raffle.

If you have any suggestions for either the \$1



or \$5 raffle , please let me know.

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





From the
Membership
directors:

Welcome to our
new members!

Dale McNulty,
N6HUU,
a technician from
Laguna Niguel

Don Beck,
KJ6OZA,
a technician from
RSM

Bill Binckes,
KJ6QIH,
a general from
Mission Viejo.

Membership now
stands at 221
members.

August T-Hunt Report

The August T-Hunt was moved to July 31st so it would not conflict with the annual SOARA picnic. Unlike many of my recent hides that involved beams, amplifiers and hill-tops, this one was different and proved to be quite a challenge for our regular hunters.

The 1 watt T was hidden in Pinecrest Park, on Santa Margarita Parkway in Mission Viejo between Marguerite Parkway and Melinda Road. The park is surrounded by high ground on all sides and power lines run above it. There are several cul-de-sacs that end on the western rim and one of them, Shore, ends with a low wall that overlooks the park. The T was hidden in a concrete gully that was several feet beyond the wall down a steep shrub covered embankment.

After hiding the T, Mike, NM6X parked his vehicle on Pinecrest, next to the park entrance and the two of us spent the afternoon, relaxing under some shade trees, watching a couple of soccer games while tormenting the frustrated hunters on the 440 repeater.

Gray, WA6BJY was the only hunter to hear the T at the start and most of the others spent at least an hour searching Orange County for a spot where they could hear it. Joe, W6BGR, drove nearly 60 miles up and down the 5, 55 & 91 freeways and reported hearing it faintly in Irvine. We later found that another group was testing a T on the same frequency so there is a good chance that was the one he heard. After an hour, we announced that the T was hidden in Mission Viejo and after 2 hours we started giving out the names of nearby cross streets where it might be heard.

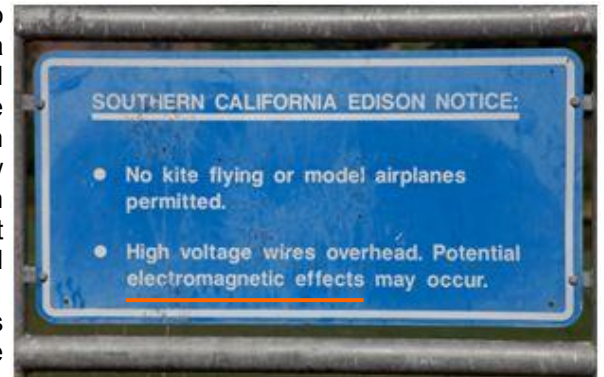
We had not anticipated how difficult it would be to hear the T. We had hoped that we would fool our hunters into walking down into the park and chasing the reflections off the canyon walls. This part of our plan worked perfectly. In fact, Dale, looked over the wall where it was hidden, decided that the park had plenty of good hiding places, then spent the next 45 minutes searching for them until he realized that the T was back up the hill (a short drive away) where he had started.

Karl finally found the T after 2h, 23m, followed shortly by Joe, who did it the hard way by climbing through the bushes, and Gray, who did it the harder way by not using an antenna (how does a T hunter forget that?).

Thanks to Tom and Mikkel for visiting us and keeping us company. This one was fun, at least for the hiders.

Next T hunt is on September 4th and the T will be hidden by Karl, KF6MDF.

Richard, K6RBS



Some T Hunting Tips for Beginners:

- Start from a high location
- Wear long pants and close-toed shoes (you may have to search in bushes)
- Start with a full tank of gas (there won't be time to stop)
- Bring water – T hunting can be hot, tiring work
- Don't trust anything that you hear on the coordination frequency
- Do not transmit through your attenuator
- Start by listening for the T on 146.565 without any attenuation and with squelch turned off
- Check for both vertical and horizontal polarization
- Remember your compass bearing is 12 degrees east of the true bearing
- GPSs are useful but drawing bearings on a full page map of south Orange County will give you "The Big Picture"
- Offset attenuators give some attenuation on the T frequency, much more on the T+offset frequency and even more at T+offset x N frequencies
- Drive carefully
- When you get close, the attenuator may not be enough, listen for the T's 3rd harmonic



Activities Director

SOARA is currently looking for an Activities Director.

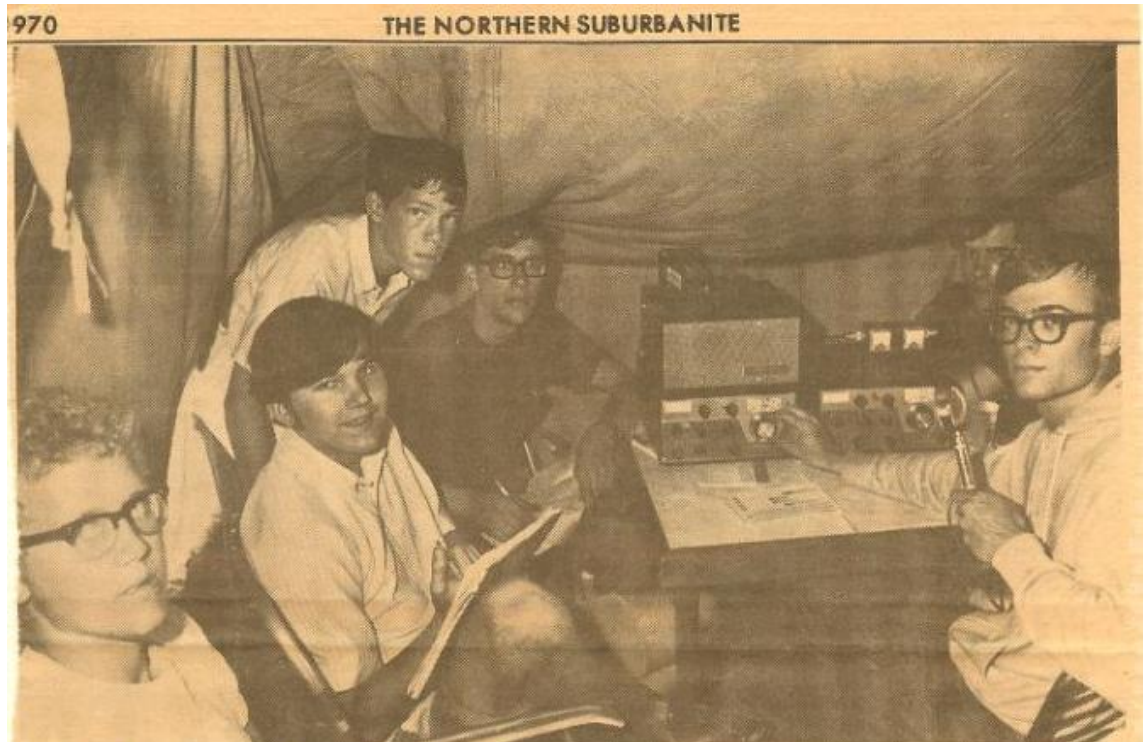
This is a non-elected position and only takes a few hours of work per year.

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.

A Historical Perspective

Field Day 2011 might be over, but that doesn't mean we can't reflect on past Field Day's. SOARA member Tom Matheson, WA7PTG, has provided us with a perspective from the 1970 edition of Field Day. Technology may change, but the excitement of getting as many contacts on Field Day as possible doesn't. See you at Field Day next year!



PHS RADIO STATION, WA9PBZ-This was the station that made the 260 contacts, some reaching as far as the West Indies, during the Field Day contest. Pictured,

left to right, Anthony Lux, WN9ZGP; Tom Matheson, WB9BUA; Joe Meadors; Mark Najmon, WN9AWZ; Mark Baker; and Keith Caylor, WA9ZWD.

Radio Club Takes Part In Nation-Wide Field Day

Members of the Pike High School Radio Club participated in the nation wide field day activities of the American Radio Relay League June 27 and 28 by setting up an emergency operation radio station at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Matheson, 9514 Cooper Road.

Using emergency power in the form of a gasoline-powered generator, members of the club set up an amateur radio station whose transmitter ran

200 watts of power. The operation of the station was done in a tent for a duration of 24 hours beginning Saturday, June 27 at 5 p.m.

The purpose of this activity was to demonstrate the club's ability to set up operations for emergency purposes under emergency power and conditions, such as floods, tornado, war, etc. After the station was set up the object was to contact as many stations as possible throughout the world.

This year the station made

approximately 260 contacts. The members used the club call letters, WA9PBZ.

Clubs and individuals eligible to participate in the contest are located in the United States, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon in Canada.

Three ham operators were on duty at the station for the 24-hour period. They were Keith Caylor, WA9ZWD; Tom Matheson, WB9BUA; and Gary Hughes, K9LNX. In addition, each operator had a person who loaned the stations con-

tacted and another person to keep track of the records so that there would not be duplication of contacts.

The people helping in this capacity were Mark Najmon, WN9AWZ; Anthony Lux, WN9ZGP; Gary Lucas, WA9QIF; Dennis Wade, Joe Meadors and Mark Baker.

Carl Brown is sponsor of the Pike High School Radio Club and officers are Keith Caylor, president; Wayne Haynes, vice president and Mark Najmon, secretary-treasurer.

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	Ham "Career" Fair	DXpedition Report N6HC	Emer Prep	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	-	20	24	22	26	
SOARA T-Hunt	2	6	6	3	1	5	3	7/31	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 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
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<i>V.P.</i> Timothy McGowen, AF6GL	760-310-7634
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<i>Secretary:</i> Rick Edgmon, NU6D	949-495-2979
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<i>Treasurer:</i> Tom Parkes, KI6DDB	714-224-2982
ki6ddb@soara.org	

SOARA DIRECTORS

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kg6gi@soara.org	
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k6msm@soara.org	
<i>Membership:</i> Horst, KD7JHR & Marie, KD7JHS Zitzmann	949-768-8552
kd7jhr@soara.org or kd7jhs@soara.org	
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ad6oi@soara.org	
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nr6e@soara.org	

SOARA COMMITTEES

<i>Activities:</i> (OPEN)	
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