



THE

# PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

March 2012

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## Meeting

March 19th,  
2012

7:00 PM

N.P.

Murray

Center

Veterans

Way

Mission Viejo

## SPEAKER: SHARON E SPRING - K6IRD

SOARA is pleased to welcome Sharon Spring as our guest speaker this month. Sharon will talk about her experiences as a ham and DX'er.

Sharon holds an EXTRA license, and is proud of her 204 confirmed DX contacts including her certificates for DXCC and WAS.

Sharon is a native Californian born and raised in Norwalk. She met and married Wayne, W6IRD, in 1963. Wayne has been a ham since 1949. But, Sharon didn't get the calling until 2004. Prior to then, she was an avid attendee of ham club meeting, conventions, antenna/satellite visitations. *...continued on page 2*



## QST de AE6SH



**Maintenance:** involves fixing any sort of mechanical or electrical device should it become out of order or broken. It also includes performing routine actions which keep the device in working

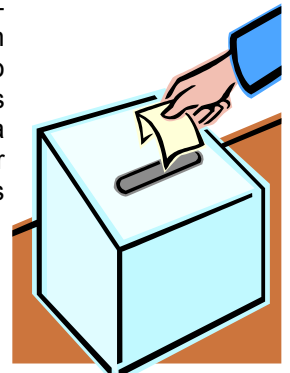
order or prevent trouble from arising. When you think about it absolutely everything requires some sort of maintenance. i.e.: your car, your house, your health.... It also applies to your Ham Radio Club.

Yep it is time to do some Maintenance on not only the repeaters, but also on the club itself. Every year we try and do "preventive" Maintenance on our Laguna Beach repeater site this time of year and it just so happens that it is also time for **elections**. When you think about it, elections are a kind of maintenance for the governing bodies of our society. This year SOARA

members will be electing our executive board (2 year term). Just as we elect leaders for our government by a democratic process we do the same for our club leaders. At our next meeting we will present a slate of candidates as well as accept nominations from the floor for: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Don't miss this opportunity to help "maintain your club".

Also we will be having a Maintenance Party at the Laguna repeater site on Sat. April 14 and will need some help with annual maintenance duties. More will follow on the website and the net regarding what we will be doing and how you can help. So along with maintaining the best club in Ham radio don't forget to maintain yourself this time of year and get a check up. Remember "everything needs maintenance"!

73'  
Tom AE6SH





**Temple Hill  
Maintenance**  
April 14 (9am)

**SOARA  
Elections**  
April

**Dayton  
Hamvention**  
May 18-20

**Memorial Day  
1/2 Marathon**  
May 28

**ARRL Field Day**  
June 23-24

## VEC License Exams

Next session:  
3/19  
before the  
meeting.  
Contact Mike  
[NM6X](#) for info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra || General  
|| Technician &  
CW Exam, too!

## Payroll Tax Bill Includes Provision for Amateur Radio Study.

A bill that passed both the House and the Senate includes a provision for a study of the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 mandates the completion of the study, with a report of the findings to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This study would "use the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations" to recommend how to best use radio amateurs in emergency communications and disaster relief efforts, and how to best utilize the Amateur Radio Service in coordination with the federal government in these efforts. **In addition, the study would also discuss the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations and recommend ways to remove such impediments.**

The bill passed the House with a 293-132 victory. In the Senate, it passed by a 60-36 vote. President Obama signed the bill on February 22, 2012.

## On the Air: Understanding the New 60 Meter Privileges

On March 5, radio amateurs were granted new privileges on the 60 meter band. The effective radiated power level was increased from 50 to 100 W, along with the ability to use CW and the digital modes PACTOR III and PSK31.



ARRL News Editor Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA (right), shows ARRL Member Services Representative Kim McNeill, KB1WUX, how to operate using the new privileges on 60 meters. McNeill received her Technician license earlier this month and is already studying for her General. [Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, Photo]

"CW operators seem to have little problem figuring how where they need to transmit, but some PSK31 operators are reading the text of the FCC's *Report & Order* and coming away a bit confused," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The *R&O* states: 'We adopt a modified instruction for PSK31 channel use to correct an error introduced in the *NPRM*. To have a PSK31 signal transmitted on the center frequency, the

control operator should not set the carrier frequency to the center frequency but should instead set the carrier frequency 1.5 kHz below the center frequency (i.e., the same as for phone and data emissions).'

"The word '*carrier*' in this context means the suppressed carrier frequency of a transceiver when operated in the USB mode, but some have taken it to mean the PSK31 signal itself," Henderson noted. "They read this text and come to the conclusion that the PSK31 signal should be 1.5 kHz below the channel center. They are mistaken. The PSK31 signal *must be in the center of the channel.*" Read more [here](#).

...**K6IRD** continued from page 1

Sharon is a retired Corporate Director of Human Resources. She is a proud recipient of resolutions from the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the California State and Assembly, and the city of Orange for her accomplishments in human resource management and government coordination on the local, state, and national levels. She served on the Board of Directors for the Business Council Credit Union of Orange County, the Private Industry Council, the California Unemployment Insurance Council, and received a federal appointment to the Small Business Administration board of Orange County.

In 2006, with a few months weekly participation on the West Coast AMI net, she was asked if she would like to take over the net control position for the third Wednesday night net. The rest is history, as they say, and she is now referred to as the "first lady of AMI."



From  
Membership



Welcome to our  
new members:

**Suzy West,**  
N6GLF a General  
from Costa Mesa

**Gordo West,**  
WB6NOA an Am-  
ateur Extra from  
Costa Mesa

**Stu Gallant,**  
K3RZB an Ama-  
teur Extra from  
Mission Viejo.

We extend a  
warm welcome to  
you all.  
Our membership  
total was 234 but  
two members  
have moved and  
are not going to  
renew their mem-  
berships so the  
total is 232. This  
number may drop  
as the window for  
renewals is clos-  
ing this month.

Horst Zitzmann,  
KD7JHR  
Marie Zitzmann,  
KD7JHS

## LPDA Article from February - a Post-Script

This is a post script to last month's Log Periodic Antenna article.

This past March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, CBS TV Sunday Morning news program ([Hedy Lamarr: Movie star, inventor of WiFi](#)) had a serendipitous segment on Hedy Lamarr. It described her torpedo radio guidance system patent on mechanical frequency hopping based on a player piano scroll. Read "Hedy's Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World" by Richard Rhodes (Random House). Hedy's beauty clouded a marvelous intellect driven by an insatiable curiosity. I can't imagine how we men have so underestimated these other people we've shared this planet with since the "Eve" of time.

Mike Anklam's, WB6QBF, e-mail said the hero Log Periodic was donated / moved from the old Collins Radio plant where he used to work on Jamboree in Newport Beach to the current Calif. Air National Guard Unit. The Collins Club Station used a Collins "S" line with a 10 KW Commercial Amplifier at reduced power when on Ham frequencies. Mike Anklam related "One afternoon around 5 PM there was a May-day call from a Maritime Mobile down south near the tip of Baja California,... we heard him and responded,...with the conditions that afternoon the Antenna and the amplifier saved lives as no doubt it made the difference in scrambling fixed wing and ship board assets to the location where this freighter was sinking,...it was winter and we had about 1 1/2 hour of daylight left on that day. Anyway,...that antenna

*continued on page 6...*

## Special Events

The anchor Chili winter trail run race in O'Neill Park will be on Saturday April 14. To participate you will need a two meter or 2m/440 hand held radio with a spare battery and some warm clothing and something to drink. In these events we provide emergency communications and not much else. Also in April on Saturday the 14th we have a **50K (31mile) foot run in the Cleveland National Forest.** this is pretty much a all day affair and 4 wheel drive vehicles are preferred but not necessary. Here we also record the runners numbers and relay them to net control to track their progress. Last but not much the biggest event is the Laguna Hills Memorial

**1/2 Marathon on Memorial Day May 28.** Here again we are emergency communications support at a much larger event. Hand held radios with extra batteries are the primary requirements. After all of these events we usually go out for a bite to eat and to recap the events of the day.

This type of communication is good practice for radio operators who wish to improve their skills and have fun at the same time. If you would like to join us please e-mail me at [ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org) or call me at (949) 859-3868.

Thanks  
Heiko

AD6OI - Education Director

## SOARA Saturday

March 24 9AM to Noon  
Norman P. Murray Center  
Bill Prats K6ACJ

The topics for Saturday will be "How to hook up simple random length wire antennas for high frequency portable operation". The subject matter should be helpful for boon dockers, hill toppers, campers, condominium owners and homes under the watchful eye of the home owner associations. We will use a portable HF Transceiver(s) and setup antennas in the club room and in the patio for the discussion. A white board will be available for notes so bring a fully charged digital camera.

We will have interactive demonstrations for the following antenna systems.

- Transceiver to coax to a tuned antenna
- Transceiver to coax to a antenna tuner to coax to a balun to a random end fed wire antenna and ground radials
- Transceiver to coax to antenna tuner to coax to balun to balanced line to doublet

*continued on page 6...*



Check out Ham Nation on TWiT.tv:

<http://twit.tv/hn>

### K7RA Solar Update

The average daily sunspot numbers over the past reporting week (March 8-14) were 88.3, a rise of nearly 19 points; the average daily solar flux rose more than 12 points to 134.2. Three new sunspots emerged. The first was sunspot group 1421 on March 9, which began with a relative area of 90.

In the days following, it went to 80, 50, 80, 70 and 60. Two more sunspot groups -- numbered 1433 and 1434 -- appeared on March 11, with a combined relative area (in millionths of a solar hemisphere) of 240, then 130, 140 and 150.

## T-Hunt Report

Sean's (AJ6B) T was located in the Talega area of San Clemente, with the beam pointed out to Ortega. The location was accessed (for me) from the trail head on Via Alcamo which made for a good (bad) hike for me. I am still sore. This was touted as a "get even with Richard" t-hunt who was listening to the club's 440 machine via the internet from Columbia. Somehow, I don't think he got the full effect.

One comment I made at the end was that we needed a new rule stating that the T couldn't be hidden more than 100 feet from

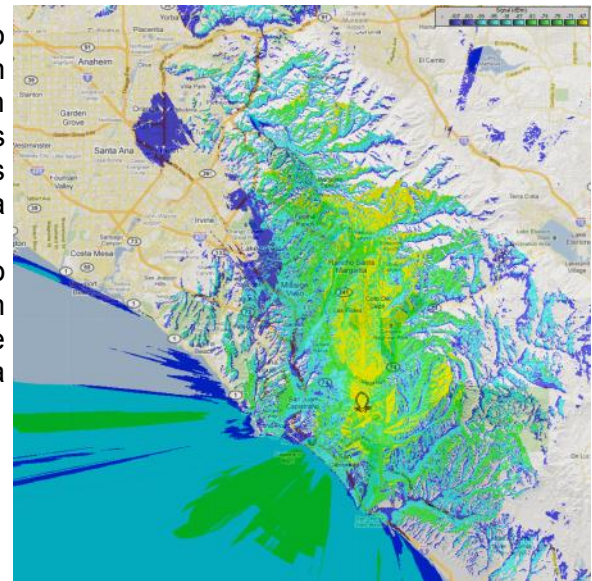
the curb. After thinking about this, I realize that this would be too restrictive, eliminating too many good hiding places. Suffice to say that in my opinion, when hiding the transmitter, keep in mind the people that are hunting. Some of us are getting to that age where we no longer are as physically fit as we used to be. I guess this is a shameless plea for mercy.

By the way, this was a good hunt. There were so many reflections off the backside of the beam that I think everybody got an intimate knowledge of all the cul-de-sacs off of Camino Tierra Grande. I hope everybody had fun.

73's,  
Gray WA6BJY

As for the results, Daniel, KI6LWN was the first to the T at 1 hour 55 minutes, followed by Mike Mahan at 2 hours. Everyone else who was in the area found the T within about 15 minutes of that. We did have a problem retrieving the T due to a large (they all look large to me) rattlesnake sunbathing in the trail path. (It was very warm.) Here is a list of the hunters that day (3/4/12):

**Daniel/Clark KI6LWN/KI6IZE**  
Mike K6MSM  
Joe W6BGR  
Gray/Alan WA6BJY  
Dale W8RRV  
Norm KJ6SON - DNF (sick)





## Upcoming Contests

- March 17 -- 10-10 International Mobile Contest; Feld Hell Sprint; AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- March 17-18 -- North Dakota QSO Party; Oklahoma QSO Party; Virginia QSO Party; Russian DX Contest
- March 17-19 -- BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- March 19 -- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- March 22 -- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- March 24-25 -- CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB)
- March 26 -- QRP Homebrewer Sprint
- March 28 -- SKCC Sprint
- March 28-29 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test

## FRC Presentation - NASA/Mars

Fullerton Radio Club invites all interested local ham club members to attend its Wednesday, March 21, 2012 regular meeting for an exceptional program presentation. If you have an interest in things science and electronic, you won't want to miss this special program where you can see and examine up-close **an actual NASA interplanetary science instrument**.

FRC is meeting in a temporary location as the Fullerton Senior Center is re-built. We will meet in the Chapman Activity Center at 2515 San Carlos Drive in Fullerton. This location is just east and south of State College Boulevard and Commonwealth Avenue in Fullerton. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Here is a brief description of the special program:

The program this month will provide an opportunity for FRC members and guests to learn about and personally examine a high-technology science instrument NASA flew to Mars in search of life on other planets. You won't want to miss the exceptional experience and you should invite your friends to visit our club meeting.

Larry McDavid W6FUB was a design engineer and later technical director for the development of the Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) while working at Beckman Instruments. The GCMS was one of only two life-detection instruments NASA successfully rocketed to Mars on our country's bicentennial in 1976 aboard the two Viking Mars Lander spacecraft. These car-size craft soft-landed on Mars, dug in its soil and analyzed for organics as indicators of past and possible future life forms.

The GCMS fulfilled the performance goals of what was then a novel analysis technology that occupied the entire corner of a room at MIT but did so in a size of only one cubic foot and weighing only 30 pounds.

Larry will show detailed pictures and explain the challenges overcome in the development of these instruments. He also has many component parts uniquely developed for the GCMS and which you can examine yourself.

But, you will have an additional truly exceptional opportunity to see one of the complete GCMS instruments built for NASA but not flown to Mars. FRC Member Dan Slater AG6HF happened to be in the right place at the right time to bid on the Development Test Unit (DTU) of the GCMS when NASA, with no need any longer after the two units had performed on the surface of Mars, surplused the unit. Dan bought this entire instrument and he will bring it to the meeting for you to see and examine. Truly, this is a unique opportunity to see a piece of interplanetary science instrumentation up close and personal. We all read about and many see pictures of this kind of equipment but we seldom get to inspect up-close and handle the hardware as you will be able to do at our March meeting. Bring your friends and enjoy this exceptional experience.-- Best wishes,

Larry McDavid W6FUB

## ARRL Seeks Comments on Proposed 9 cm Band Plan

A few months ago, the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee asked the Amateur Radio community about current, planned and projected uses of the amateur bands between 902 MHz and 3.5 GHz. The response was beyond our expectations, with hundreds of comments and suggestions received. Thanks to all of you who took the time to share information with us. After reading the feedback, the committee began working on the band plans; the first draft plan ready for review is for the 9 cm band (3300-3500 MHz). Read more [here](#).





## FRIDAY LUNCH VENUE

Since Carl's Junior will be "under construction" the unofficial Friday lunch time meeting place will be Bravo Burger - located at 27200 La Paz Road in Mission Viejo.

## Another word from Member- ship:

*"A letter was sent recently to members from whom we have no record of dues payments for the 2011-2012 year. If you have paid already, please don't just swear at us, but do send us an email at [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org) and tell us when, how and the amount you did pay. This will help us to get the record straight."*

...**SOARA Saturdays** - continued from page 3.

If time permits: Transceiver to coax to antenna tuner to coax to balun to balanced line to a full wave horizontal loop expecting operation on multiple bands

Note: it would be ideal to have teams to setup each antenna for experience and fun. Please bring extra manual tuners or free standing auto tuners with all connections and DC power ready to go. Extra random lengths of balanced line will be helpful, trimmed and ready to connect.

Other topics:

- Impedance matching for maximum energy transfer
- Overview of RF Transformers, manual and automatic antenna tuners.
- Antenna radiation patterns, cloud burners, NVIS.
- Tips to suspend the antenna base and radiator wire using common materials such as cable clamps, Velcro, PCV, bamboo and trees.
- Overview about how amateur radio portable operators can benefit by using batteries, connectors and chargers used by Radio Control modelers.
- A simple method to improve signal reception

...**LPDA** continued from page 3

performs tremendously and you know how Collins built stuff,..." Those of you who never throw out old ARRL QST magazines can read the September 2002 issue that features Practical High Performance HF Log Periodic Antennas. In this article, K8CU describes the electrical and mechanical design process for two LPs that cover the HF bands from 10-30 MHz.

Our GPS and cell phones depend on frequency hopping to minimize interference that Nikola Tesla and Hedy wanted to protect torpedoes from. UHF/VHF TV antennas like the large active regions on log periodic antennas to cover the total TV band width on a far smaller scale than our OC Fair, C.A.N.G. Log Periodic antenna.

It's amazing how curiosity about a veteran OC Fair landmark lead to a wonderful diversity of Ham radio history. Oh yes, tell a women how really marvelous she is.

Tom Parkes, KI6DDB

## Raffle Report

The \$5 raffle (a VX-6R) was won by Lee **K6QAX** at the February meeting. The \$1 prizes included an ARRL Antenna handbook, a set of pliers and cutters, an MFJ speaker and a MFJ set of headphones. All together, the raffle took in \$280. Thank you for your support.

The \$5 prize this month will be a SWR Antenna Analyzer (**MFJ-259B**). We only need to sell 47 tickets to complete the raffle on this very useful item, please join us at the meeting for your chance. I also picked up 2 more speakers, two headphones and an antenna switch for the \$1 raffle, with other items expected to be available.

If there are any comments, please contact me at [WB6WXO@SOARA.org](mailto:WB6WXO@SOARA.org)  
73.....Hal





### W1AW 2012 Spring/ Summer Oper- ating Schedule

[http://  
www.arrl.org/  
w1aw-operating-  
schedule](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule)

### Yet another word from Membership:

Would the members who upgrade their license privileges and/or receive a new vanity call sign, please email:

[member-  
ship@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)

so we can put your new call and license class into the roster?

Thank you

## "High Desert Trails Rally Excitement for 2012!"

You shift into top gear and plant the throttle. Strange looking plants, native cacti, and chaparral blur past your windows. At the crest of the next hill you can see the valley floor of Mojave expand out hundreds of miles ahead of you. You have only seconds to enjoy the view as you negotiate the next set of fast sweeping corners through fields of Joshua Trees. You are racing flat out across the high desert in one of the most challenging motorsports in the world. The High Desert Trails Rally on Saturday, May 12th, 2012 is the excitement and challenge rally teams ask for.

Expanded last year onto the gorgeous roads of Kern County, the rally will be celebrating it's 39th anniversary on stages south and west of Ridgecrest, California. With the spirit of that first event run in 1973, the exact route and stages will not be disclosed to the competitors until the organizer provided stage notes hit co-drivers hands. We have added to the mileage from last year, and we're excited to keep things fresh for teams offering a Coefficient 3 event, with 70+ planned stage miles. To celebrate our history, High Desert Trails will be offering an "Alumni Reserved Early Entry" for those of you that have run High Desert Trails in the past (1973-2011), as well as a discounted early entry fee that closes on April 7th. All you will need is verifiable documentation that you were on the entry list and started the High Desert Trails Rally anytime in the past thirty eight years.



This event proudly kicks off the California Rally Series Championship for 2012. As the premiere rally series in the Southwest, and one of the biggest regional championships in the country, the California Rally Series provides an exciting, well run championship for competitors, plus support, equipment, and volunteers for the rally.

The event will be sanctioned by NASA Rally Sport, the grassroots rally sanctioning body for the US. NASA Rally Sport focuses on competitor fun and providing support for rally organizers. Providing tools to the racers, organizers, and fans to increase their enjoyment of rally is one of the core missions of the organization.

Please join us in the beautiful high desert!  
Kristopher, KI6IUC & Christine Marciniak  
High Desert Trails Rally Organizers

High Desert Trails Website: <http://highdeserttrails.com>

California Rally Series: <http://californiarallyseries.com>

NASA RallySport: <http://www.nasarallysport.com/>

Year 2012	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	23	27	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	—
Program	Ham Jeopardy	T32C DXPed Report	K6IRD		Spring Auction						Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	23	27	19	16	21	Field Day	16	20	17	15	19	—
SOARA Saturdays	28	Mar 3	24	21	26	—	—	—	22	20	24	—
SOARA T-Hunt	8	12	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Board Meeting	30	Mar 5	26	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	—
Special Events	Palm Springs 28	ARRL Yuma 17-18			Dayton 18-20	Field Day	OC Fair Booth	Picnic				Holiday Party
ARRL Field Day						23-24						
SOARA Picnic								4				
Holiday Party												1

**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](mailto: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:** UHF/VHF (447.180, 147.645 & 224.640): Tuesdays 8:00 PM  
D-Star (146.115 C module): Wednesdays 8:00pm  
40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays 8:00 AM.

**CW Nets:** Tuesday—7pm (2m—Trabuco) & Thursday—8pm (10m)

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