



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

June 2012

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Get Ready for ARRL Field Day 2012!

Next week is FIELD DAY week! Starting with the monthly SOARA meeting on Monday, the 18th, though the weekend Field Day event. Here is a schedule of events:

Monday, June 18th.

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.

Friday, June 22nd

We will be allowed to start set-up on Friday, 3pm, at Gilleran Park. Antennas, coax, radio stations, etc. should be up by 7:00, after which we can enjoy some chips and hot...



(continued on page 2...)

Meeting

June 18,
2012

7:00 PM
N.P.
Murray
Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

QST de AD6OI

Our May auction went well with Tom, KI6DDB, doing the accounting and new member Pierrette K6PTR assisting. We had a lot of fun and even made some money for SOARA.

Our big project for June is Field Day, on June 22, 23 and 24.

The monthly meeting on Monday June 18 at 7pm will be to discuss what we are going to do on the coming weekend. Many of the major assignments have been taken by volunteers but we still have lots of room for more.

We need people to help with radio assignments, cooking, setting up and tearing down.

We are running a 3A operation and are planning to have a good contest and a lot of fun. Also please remember that Field Day is not only for us radio amateurs but



SOARA discusses FD preparations.

also as an educational tool for the public as a whole. So feel free to invite family and friends to come to Gilleran Park on Saturday and Sunday.

Thanks,

Heiko AD6OI



**SOARA FD
Prep Meeting**
June 18

FD Setup
June 22

ARRL Field Day
June 23-24

**Oceanside
Prepper Fair**
June 30

**Extra Class
Pool Changes**
July 1

SOARA Picnic
August 4

VEC License Exams

Next session:
6/23
at Field Day
(1pm)
Contact Sean
AJ6B for info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

Field Day Activities...continued from page 1

dogs. We need all the help we can get to build our Field Day "City"!

Saturday, June 23rd:

Please show up for coffee and donuts at 8:00am to help make final adjustments prior to commencement of contesting. Then get on the air! We begin making contacts at 11:00am. Field Day continues throughout the day and 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 24th

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. Thank you!

More About Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the fourth full weekend of June (6/23-6/24 this year), beginning at 11:00AM (local time) Saturday and running for 24 hours straight (yes even during the wee hours of the night!) and ending at 11:00AM on Sunday.

Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

With Solar Cycle 24 (finally?) heating up, Field Day 2012 promises to be an exciting event. Barring any unforeseen disruptions, the improved propagation (remember that last year's Field Day only had about ~90 on the solar flux scale vs. ~140 now). This should allow us to make many more contacts, especially on the spacious **15 meter** band, and possibly the huge **10 meter** band, during the day and even into early dusk hours.

If you are new to amateur radio (or Technicians & 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! For those experienced hams, all contest bands should be open for contacts using all modes; Phone, CW, RTTY, PSK31, ATV, etc. Please be prepared to log lots of contacts and generate lots of points!

If you are interested in helping, please contact Jason Masterman (W6NRD) at w6nrd@soara.org or come to the meeting!

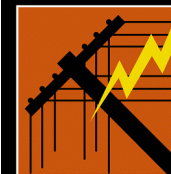
Field Day Location:

Where is SOARA's Field Day?

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)

(Note that there is NO SOARA Saturday this month, due to Field Day.)

**WHEN
ALL
ELSE
FAILS...**



**AMATEUR
RADIO**





Raffle Report

With the auction completed in May, another raffle will be held at the June meeting.

There seems to be an interest in constructing wire antennas. To that end, I have selected an LDG automatic antenna tuner. This was at the recommendation of Janet at HRO. We were able to get a 10% discount for the tuner.

The membership needs to purchase 75 \$5 tickets for SOARA to break even. The specs for the tuner are outlined in the HRO catalog. It will handle 600 watts on SSB and CW from 1.8MHz to 30MHz and 250Watts up to 54MHz.

The \$1 raffle will consist of a repeater directory, a copy of ARRL's book "Hints and Kinks", a cordless screwdriver and a set of LED flashlights.

WB6W XO@SOARA.org

Field Day Equipment

For many of us it's not every day that we get to play with the big beams. Field Day is your best chance to check out what a "real" antenna can do!

Antennas planned:

- Beams for: 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, 2m & 440
- Wire antennas for 40m and 80m
- Tri-band beam for GOTA (10,15,20 + 40m dipole)
- The "batting cage" vertical

Radios planned:

- FT-920, IC-756, FT-890, TS-850, IC-706, IC718 (GOTA)



Field Day Summary Schedule and Other Info

| | | |
|----------|--------|--|
| Fri 6/22 | 3pm | Begin Setup (end around 7pm – Hotdogs & Chips) |
| Sat 6/23 | 8am | Resume Setup (Donuts & Coffee) |
| Sat 6/23 | 11am | Begin Operations |
| Sat 6/23 | 12pm | Lunch (Hamburgers & Hotdogs) |
| Sat 6/23 | 1pm | Testing |
| Sat 6/23 | 4pm | APRS Education (Brian) |
| Sat 6/23 | 5:30pm | Dinner (Beef & Chicken) |
| Sun 6/24 | 8:30am | Breakfast (Egg Burritos) |
| Sun 6/24 | 11am | Cease Operations / Begin Teardown |
| Sun 6/24 | 2pm | Go Home |



[June ARRL Propagation Chart](#)

Here is a video about ham radio and as you can see, it's important to get young people interested. Running and/or shouting in an emergency, when your cell phone doesn't work, doesn't get you very far!

[Ham Radio's Role in Emergencies](#)

Extra Class Question Pool Changes: July 1

If you have been holding onto any Extra class materials and still want to take the test, be sure to test before 7/1 as the question pool changes on 7/1. So, Field Day is probably your last good chance to upgrade with current materials!

SOARA Positions Available

SOARA is still looking for a new activities coordinator to assist with the Picnic and the Holiday Party and a website coordinator. If anyone is interested in the above positions, please contact any member of the Board. Thank you for your support!



From Membership

Welcome!
to our three new members:

Steve Guest,
N6NBV
a technician,
from Mission Viejo.

Pierrette Rizco,
K6PTR
a general,
from Foothill Ranch.

Bruce Takenaka,
KJ6DXJ, an extra
class, from
Mission Viejo.

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR
Marie Zitzmann,
KD7JHS

Membership
Directors

Check out Ham
Nation on
TWiT.tv:

<http://twit.tv/hn>

T-Hunt Report

The June T-hunt was held on a nice sunny day -- a good day for a drive. But, why make the hunters drive far when there are interesting locations right in Mission Viejo. The Mission Viejo Youth Athletic Park, located at the corner of Olympiad Road and Melinda Road (just across Olympiad from the entrance to Lake Mission Viejo) is a low area that serves as a basin to catch water in case of very heavy rain. A small stream flows along the edge beside Melinda. There are large drain ducts at the corner with a large metal cage to keep large animals (like humans) out. There are large vertical spaces between the steel bars that should allow a 2m signal escape - with some diffraction and scattering effects to add to the confusion. There is also plenty of dense shrubbery near the cage in which the transmitter could be hidden. Just run the coax over to the cage, with the antenna inside. It should be interesting.



May T-Hunt group

Finding the general location (the park) should not be too difficult, but the fun will be in locating the actual transmitter and antenna. The challenge in hiding the "T" is getting the coax out of sight. A PVC pipe running out of the side of the hill, over to the cage and down toward the drain should look fairly normal! A 300 ohm twin lead J-pole matched to the coax would make a fine antenna and would easily fit inside the pipe. It worked better than we expected. No one even suspected the pipe, even if they were convinced the antenna was inside the (inaccessible) cage.

The first on the scene was the team of Richard and Mike (K6RBS & N6MX). They found the "T" 41 minutes after the transmitter went on the air. The next hunter to locate the transmitter was Mike (K6MSM) and Pierrette (K6PTR) who located the transmitter at 2:21, brothers Daniel and Brian (KI6LWN & KI6MKG) were just minutes behind Mike and Pierrette. Hunters Gray (WA6BJY) and Norm (KJ6SON) followed shortly thereafter.

73,
Dale W8RRV & Karl KF6MDF

In Memory (AC6XL, SK)

SOARA is very sad to report that Mike Rogers, AC6XL, of Banning, CA passed away on June 6th, after a long battle with cancer.

Mike was an Extra, and a SOARA member for many years, and was a retired Costa Mesa PD Officer, Former OC Sheriff Deputy, and former Emergency Services Coordinator for Laguna Niguel. He had also served in the USAF as a Meteorologist.

As Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC) for Laguna Niguel (LGN), Mike was instrumental in forming the Laguna Niguel Auxiliary Communications Service (LNACS) the city's ARES / RACES unit, and was the city's liaison to LNACS. Also, prior to being appointed as LGN's ESC, he worked as the LGN Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

Chronologically, he was USAF, OC Sheriff's Deputy, Costa Mesa PD, LGN CEO, LGN ESC. After retiring from LGN and moving to Banning, he worked security for a large mall in the Riverside County area.

We will miss seeing Mike at SOARA and send our condolences.

Amateur Radio Prepper Fair

Saturday, June 30th
WHERE: Parking Lot at Be
Ready, Inc.
602 Garrison Street,
Oceanside, CA
TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

| 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 | — | 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 | | Picnic | | Pacificon 12-14 | | 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 not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For further information, email Sean Reigle, AJ6B, at aj6b@soara.org.

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: 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.

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nu6d@soara.org
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ki6ddb@soara.org

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SOARA COMMITTEES

- Activities:* Open - Please let us know if you are interested!
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