



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

July 2013

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Meeting

July 15th,
2013

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

Two DXpeditions to the South Pacific

Please join us on Monday, 7/15, at the Norman P. Murray Center as SOARA welcomes Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, and Carrie Tai, W6TAI.

The topic will be two trips to Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands by Wayne and Carrie.

Wayne operated the 2012 ARRL phone DX contest as **E51YNB**.

Carrie operated the 2012 IARU Radio-sport Championships as **E51TAI**. She not only turned in an excellent score in her first contest as a DX station but also was featured in QST to promote this year's IARU contest (see pages 5 and 87 of the June, 2013, QST).

We hauled ham gear (including a tri-band beam antenna and an amplifier) in our luggage, but both trips were really vacations more than DXpeditions. The slide show explains why.

Carrie was first licensed in January, 2009 and got her extra class license four months later--at an exam session sponsored by SOARA. She



quickly became active in VHF contesting and was the #1 rover in the country in the June, 2010, VHF contest.

I've been licensed for 56 years now and have been involved in many aspects of amateur radio. I was named Radio Amateur of the Year at the 1980 Dayton Hamvention and later served four terms as the ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director.

73, Wayne, N6NB

From the VP (AD6OI)

Well we have another Field Day under our belts and it was a good one at that. Conditions were not as good as last year and we were missing some CW skills due to unforeseen circumstances. Still, the food was good and the entertainment was better. 6M actually opened up for a little while and anyone who wanted to could operate HF somewhere. Kudos to our digital guys Malcolm (KO6SY) and Steve (KD6MHL), to Mike (K6MSM) and Spencer aka Sparky (NG6K) for their technical support. Our wireless internet ran well the whole time. Television and GOTA were supported by Don (KE6BXT) and his brother Norm. Craig (KI6WLP) provided

canopies, lights, power cords, and other logistic stuff. Thanks to Pierrette (K6PTR) and Sean (AJ6B) for the cooking, food and drinks and all the other related stuff.

Our tower/antenna crews did a great job setting up the beam antennas.

Did you see how high the 15M beam was off the ground? I was amazed by it.

Now for upcoming events there is a meeting on the 15th and Wayne and Carrie will tell us about vacationing in the South Cook Islands. SOARA Saturday is on the 20th and Sean (AJ6B) will have something fun for us. **August 4, Sunday, will be the picnic in Dana Harbor.**

Until Monday the 15th,

Heiko, AD6OI



**SOARA
T-Hunt**
Jul 14

**SOARA General
Class Begins**
Jul 17

**SOARA
Saturday**
Jul 20

SOARA Picnic
Aug 4

VEC License Exams

Next session:
(6:00pm),
before the
meeting at the
Norman P.
Murray Center
Contact Sean
AJ6B for info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA
Website](http://www.soara.org)

Field Day—Thank You!

Many thanks to all of you for your support for yet another successful Field Day. Here are a few pictures of the event and more can be seen on a [gallery](#), courtesy of Tak, W6SI. Preliminary FD results are on page 3. See you out there “in the field” again in 2014!



The Most Important Radio Station You've Never Heard of Marks 50 Years on the Air

Every night, while millions of Americans are fast asleep, clocks and wristwatches across the country wake up and lock on to a radio signal beamed from the base of the Rocky Mountains. The signal contains a message that keeps the devices on time, helping to make sure their owners keep to their schedules and aren't late for work the next day. The broadcast comes from **WWVB**... [\[more on the following link\]](#)
<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/07/wwvb-time-radio/>

SOARA Raffle: Comet CHV-5X

The July Raffle will feature a multi-band HF antenna. If you are a new General, looking to upgrade soon (or even a Tech for 10m), or you want a new compact antenna to try, check it out!

Comet CHV-5X:

- Covers 40/20/15/10 & 6 meters (150-220W maximum)
- Only 13' wide!
- Assemble in a “V”, horizontal or ground plane antenna
- Each band can be tuned independently
- Easily portable

If there are any comments or suggestions for either the \$1 prizes or a future \$5 prize, please contact me at WB6WXO@SOARA.org





Top Field Day Contacts by Section & State:

Section Total

Section	Total
ORG	90
WWA	80
LAX	70
OH	63
OR	51
AZ	46
SCV	41
IL	40
STX	37
SV	35
TN	31
CO	28
MO	26
NC	26
NTX	26
MI	25
MN	25
MT	25
SDG	25
IN	23
SJV	23
MDC	22
SB	22
UT	22
WI	22
IA	21
NFL	21
NM	21
NNJ	21
VA	21
AL	20
AR	20
EPA	20
EWA	20
EB	18
BC	17

State	Total
CA	334
WA	100
TX	73
OH	63
OR	52
FL	48
AZ	46
IL	40
NY	37
PA	35
TN	31
NJ	29
CO	28
ON	27

New Members from Field Day

We welcome these 16 new members who applied for membership during Field Day! Our total membership is now 211.

Please welcome them at the next meeting or whenever you see them. Thank you all for joining SOARA!

Name	Call Sign	Class	Location
Gary Baker	KD6NNO	Technician	Rancho Santa Margarita
Jim Biram	K6JKB	Technician	Laguna Niguel
Michael Bobeczko	TBD	-	Orange
Jerry DeLisle	KF7RCC	General	Lake Forest
Ann Detsch	TBD	-	Lake Forest
Jaime Devaud	KJ6YOG	General	Aliso Viejo
Jet Espiritu	TBD	-	Mission Viejo
Michael Franc	KJ6QIK	General	Laguna Hills
Bill Gay	KK6FGW	Technician	Mission Viejo
John Lee	AG6UR	Extra	Laguna Niguel
Rob Mac Hale	KE6BLR	Technician	Las Flores
Mike Marchi	KG6SHR	Technician	Lake Forest
Dom Melanson	KK6EWE	Technician	Mission Viejo
Dylan Taylor	KK6EVK	Technician	San Juan Capistrano
Sandi Villelli	TBD	-	Newport Beach
Dave Wolf	WO5H	Extra	Mission Viejo

Field Day Preliminary Results

We should have the formal results by fall, but here are the SOARA (K6SOA) contacts by band and mode.

Total Contacts = 1,636
Total [QSO] Points (before bonuses) = 2,193

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	23	18	0	41	3
40	223	140	4	367	22
20	115	640	59	814	50
15	73	146	60	279	17
10	0	9	0	9	1
6	0	87	0	87	5
2	0	25	0	25	2
1.25	0	14	0	14	1
Total	434	1,079	123	1,636	100

Field Day Raffle Results

Daniel, KI6LWN, was the winner of the Field Day raffle, a Nexus 7. Congratulations, Daniel!





[Online SOARA Membership Application](#)

Useful Links:

- MV antenna guidelines
- [Contests](#)
- [DXPeditions](#)
- [NOAA - Space Weather](#)
- [Propagation de K7RA](#)
- [ARRL Propagation Charts](#)

CW Class

CQ,CQ,CQ...

...if you are disappointed that your amateur radio license comes without any knowledge of Morse code, we have a deal for you.

We would like to start a Morse code class for beginning operators.

If you are interested please send me an e-mail and we'll see what we can do.
Heiko
ad6oi@soara.org

The HF Page CQ DX CQ DX

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I Can Hear Him — Why Can't He Hear Me?

Yes — radio propagation is usually reciprocal. Then why can't the other station hear me?

Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR

While there are occasional exceptions, most times the radio propagation between two points in both directions is the same. They say "you can't work them if you can't hear them," but why is it that sometimes when you can hear them, you still can't work them?

There are a number of straightforward answers to this apparent mystery and we will explore the most common. An important consideration is that while you know the capabilities and conditions at your station — you generally don't know the situation at the other end of the link — the usual answer to the puzzle.

How Much Power is Coming Toward You?

If you have the usual 100 W transmitter and a dipole, and the other station is running 1.5 kW (12 dB more than you) from a three element Yagi (perhaps another 6 dB), her signal should be 18 dB, or 3 S-units stronger than yours. Yes, her Yagi will also make your signal stronger, but depending on band and conditions, the chances are the Yagi will pick up additional noise, canceling the receive advantage. So if you are receiving an S-7 signal, she will be receiving the equivalent of an S-4 signal, perhaps at or below the noise. If you hear her talking to someone else, you may be able to hear her station description and verify the situation.

What's the Far End Noise Level?

As hinted above, the real key is the signal to noise, or signal to interference ratio. If you are operating in quiet winter conditions in the northern hemisphere, while the other station is in a warmer but noisier southern latitude location, you will be able to hear a weaker signal than the station at the far end. Your noise level might be at S-3, while theirs could easily be at S-7. The same could be the

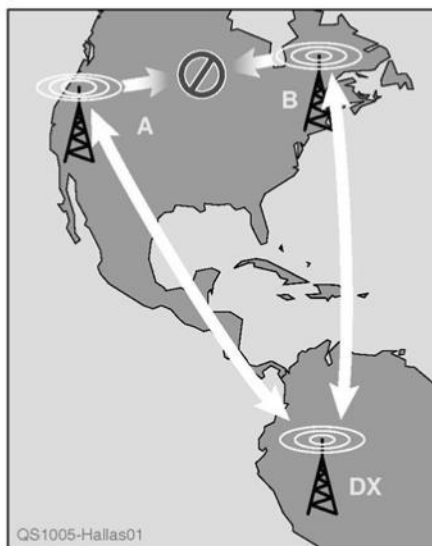


Figure 1 — A DX station in South America can hear many North American stations from across the equator, but they likely can't hear each other, so have no clue about the level of competition they face.

case if you are in a quiet country spot, while they are in a city.

That 4 S-unit difference means it will take a 24 dB stronger signal from you to be heard as well at the far end as you hear them. Look at what it took to get an 18 dB boost in the above example, and that should give you an idea of what you're up against.

You Can be Up Against Signals from Other Areas

If you're trying to work a distant station in a far off land without success, you may get a clue as to what's happening by listening to the call signs of the stations they are working. A classic example occurs with transequatorial propagation, north-south transmission across the equator. You are in New England

and are hearing an interesting station from South America loud and clear. You hear no other stations on frequency. The station replies to a W8, and then a W9, but not to you — what's happening here?

Take a look at Figure 1. You have a reciprocal transequatorial path to South America, but not an east-west path to the central and western parts of the US. In fact it may be that there are solid paths to the South American station from across the US. There may be hundreds of stations that can't hear each other calling the poor beleaguered DX station. It will take quite a signal to pop through all that interference, and it's no wonder that your 100 W and dipole don't make it on the first call. If the other folks weren't there, you could get through fine, so keep trying and after the DX station works the high power and big antenna folk. He will then begin to hear you in the next tier — if you aren't up against the other problems described above.

Keep Trying — If You Can't be Louder, be Smarter

I have worked DXCC, and then some, with 100 W and wire antennas, so it's not impossible. One big plus is to work CW — you can move frequency slightly off the big piles and still be heard. If the DX station announces that he is listening on a different frequency, up 2 kHz, for example, note that he likely will not be working people who are calling at exactly 2 kHz up, but around 2 kHz up. Try to figure the DX station's listening patterns and transmit where he may listen next — instead of where he listened last. There is a good chance he will hear you — if you persist.

Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, is Technical Editor of QST. You can reach him at w1zr@arrl.org



No OC Fair Representation This Year

Gordon West, WB6NOA

Volunteer organizations serving the OC FAIR continuously got shuffled to worse and worse venues within the fair-grounds. Our objections were met with disinterest, as the OC FAIR was there to make money in every corner of the facility.

My last booth job for ham radio was an all out full scale 20' booth in the White unmarked tent . We had HF , ATV , VHF , SSTV , digital , APRS - we brought the works. We had few who stopped in, and even fewer hams who were willing to stand booth duty where no one came by.

Last year they relegated volunteer organizations to separate shelters, out by the elephant walk. No wire antennas allowed . We elected, by OCCARO vote, not to show . Good that we didn't show, too.

This year, with the new Pacific Theater construction, the OC FAIR organizers didn't know WHERE, in advance, we might " end up ".

So, we are not at the Fair this year. Seems that volunteer organizations are un-important to the mix.

OCCARO is the group to join, to help with the OC FAIR decision next year, after we see this Friday where volunteers ended up THIS year.

Gordo

Wilse Morgan, WX7P, SK

WX7P is entry number 36 in my log book. That was during the 2006 WPX Contest. A few weeks later my wife and I met him at the 2006 DX Convention in Visalia. Over those two days Wilse and I spent a lot of time talking radio, antennas, and DX. At that time I had all of 9 DX contacts and none confirmed. The man was full of knowledge about all things Ham Radio and he was anxious to share. We QSO'd over the months between DX Conventions and I would look forward to meeting him in Visalia. He encouraged me to get my DXCC and to keep adding entities. I would say that he was my long distance Elmer.

Wilse had an association with amateur radio that went back to 1952. But he has impacted all of us by his efforts in establishing the Volunteer Examiner Program. He petitioned the FCC to become the first Volunteer Examiner in the United States and submitted a proposal outlining the VEC program. Wilse was the only Volunteer Examiner ever to be certified directly by the FCC. In 1984 Wilse along with two other Amateurs administered the country's very first amateur radio examination by a VEC.

Wilse was on the DXCC Honor Roll with 280 confirmed and was a volunteer card checker. He was a serious antenna designer, an ARRL Life Member, an Assistant Section Manager for Eastern Washington, an active contester and DXer.



My last QSO with him was the WPX SSB contest. Wilse succumbed to cancer June 16, 2013. He was one of the Good Guys and I shall miss him.

73 de Dave, K6DBW

Year 2013	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	—
Program	Digital Radio	Tropo Ducting	DX Pedition	K6ACJ	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	2 DXp's	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	28	25	18	15	20	Field Day	15	19	16	21	18	—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	20	25	—	20	24	21	26	23	—
SOARA T-Hunt	6	10	10	14	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	8
Board Meeting	Feb 4	Mar 4	25	22	Jun 3	24	22	26	23	28	25	—
Special Events		Yuma 15-16			Dayton 17-19	Field Day 22-23		Picnic 4				Holiday Party 1
ARRL Field Day						22-23						
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 at 6pm.** Prior registration is not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For further information, email Sean Reigle, AJ6B, at aj6b@soara.org.

SOARA Library:

SOARA has many amateur radio related books such as hand books, books about electrical theory, etc. available to lend out to club members. Contact Heiko Peschel ad6oi@soara.org for more info.

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.
Gordo Net (HF 7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Weekdays 8:30AM

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