



PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association,
Celebrating its 40th Anniversary

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Meeting

October
20th, 2014

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

Land Ops



All are welcome to the next SOARA General Meeting on Monday, October 20 at 7pm at the Norman P Murray Center in Mission Viejo.

This month's presenters are from Land Ops, a group that combines radio communications, off road driving skills, navigation and teamwork.



Presenters will be SOARA member Jim Biram K6JKB and the founder of Land Ops Chris Doering K16QBM.

Hope you can be there!

From the VP

Hello to all of you out there:

Let me tell you what is in store at SOARA for the rest of this calendar year. Starting with Monday the 20th we have a "Land ops" presentation that should be very interesting. SOARA Saturday on the 25th will be at the Norman P. Murray center from 9 till about noon and the subject will be revealed at Monday's meeting. Next month is our semi-annual auction so please save Monday Nov. 17 for that. SOARA Saturday will follow that. The last major to-do is the annual Holiday party on Sunday Dec. 7 at Antonnuci's Ristorante in Mission Viejo. Details to be found elsewhere in this issue. Finally as some of you already know Yae-su has come out with a new digital system to work with their wires set up and they are offering repeaters at reasonable rates to encourage clubs to take advantage of this. The SOARA board has started to study the feasibility of this new format. Any input from our members would be appreciated.



Thanks,

Heiko
AD6OI





From Membership

SOARA gives a big welcome to our new members:

**Richard
Emmons
N6UFC**

Extra
Laguna Niguel

**David
Southworth
KS6RFI**
General
Laguna Woods

We look forward to seeing you all at meetings, club events and hearing you on the radio and the nets.

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR

Membership
Director

Online Application



Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS Silent Key

SOARA is very sad to announce the passing of Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS, after a short battle with cancer. Marie was instrumental to SOARA over the past several years and worked tirelessly for the club. She was very active on the Board of Directors, on which she served as co-membership director from 2009 to 2014. This included the preparing of the SOARA handbook, badges, processing of countless membership applications for SOARA. During her tenure, SOARA experienced tremendous growth in membership to over 240 members. Marie was also a fixture at the Field Day Information table, welcoming both new and existing hams and visitors alike. She truly embraced the spirit of amateur radio by being both welcoming, skilled and volunteering significant amounts of her time to the club. She is survived by her husband, Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR, who has assumed the role of sole membership director.

She will be greatly missed by all of us.





**SOARA
Saturday**
October 25

Fall Auction
November 17

**SOARA Holiday
Party**
December 7

VEC License Exams

6pm—before
the General
Meeting

Please see our
[website](#) for
more info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA
Website](#)

Volunteer Operators Requested

Mission Viejo High School could use some hams for their November 1st Home Field Marching band competition. Diane and I will be working it this year once again. We need to park 22 high school bands, each with their buses and equipment trucks. It's a well-choreographed ballet to get them all into the lots on time. They used to use school radios, but they no longer have a license for them. This is my 3rd year at this event and it is a hoot! w6vgr@soara.org

Thanks,
Vic Ray, W6VGR

Upcoming SOARA Amateur Radio Classes

Technician weekend class: Saturday Nov. 15 from 9am to 7pm and Sunday Nov. 16 from Noon to 7pm.

Extra Class: Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:30pm starting Oct1 to Nov. 19.

Prospective students should contact Sean at aj6b@soara.org, well before the class for further information. All classes are held at the Norman P. Murray community and senior center in Mission Viejo. 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo.



SOARA Raffle Update:

Hal Silverman

For October, the \$5 raffle will be an MFJ 867 (Giant) SWR/Power meter for 144MHz, 220MHz, and 440MHz. We will need to sell about 32 tickets to break even.

The \$1 prizes will consist of a set of Anderson Power Poles, a ARRL handbook 2014 that donated to the raffle, an MFJ dual clock, a HF electric screwdriver and some other to be announced at the meeting.

Again, I would like to thank Pierrette, K6PTR, for all her help during the raffle. It is much appreciated.

73.....Hal WB6WXO

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





W1AW Centennial Operations are West Virginia and Nevada Bound

The ARRL Centennial W1AW portable operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are now in Alabama and Michigan. They will transition at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, October 22 (the evening of October 21 in US time zones), to West Virginia (W1AW/8) and Nevada (W1AW/7). W1AW/KH0 also will be active until October 21 from Tinian Island in the Northern Marianas. So far during 2014, W1AW has visited each of the 50 states for at least 1 week, and by year's end W1AW will have been on the air from every state at least twice. The ARRL Centennial QSO Party kicked off January 1 for a year-long operating event in which participants can accumulate points and win awards. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff and W1AW are worth ARRL Centennial QSO Party points. Working W1AW/x from each state is worth 5 points per mode/contact, even when working the same state during its second week of activity.

T-Hunt Report

Alan, KK6EMC, and I started out at Signal Hill and surprising enough, got a bearing right off, pointing in the direction of MacArthur and the 405. This usually doesn't happen and we usually have to make an educated(?) guess and drive around until we hear the fox. This time, we lucked out. After driving in our predetermined direction, we noted that the signal was coming from somewhere in the direction of UCI so we headed in that direction. We lost the signal a couple of times but finally ended up near Summit Park and Shady Canyon Drive with a strong signal to the north of us. We went east on Shady Canyon, left on Sunnyhill and then left again on Turtle Rock Drive. We took a right up Sundance, left into the school parking lot but the signal was still north of us and not very strong. We then checked out the two streets above the school but the signal was not strong enough so back down to Turtle Rock and a right. Passing the park on our right, we got a real strong signal so we decided to stop to check it out on foot. By the way, there is no stopping/parking on Turtle Rock near the park so down one long block and back up into the residential section across from the park.

Alan gets out of the car and heads for the park while I disconnect my blue box and get out my tape measure beam. By the time I get back across Turtle Rock, Alan is half way across the park when he spots Richard. As luck would have it, Alan gets to the transmitter first, thus beating Richard, by about 10 seconds. Now that may seem like not very much but hey, the collective we "beat" Richard. It may be said that we started a lot closer than Richard but we are not listening to any excuses. The picture shows the transmitters beam sticking out from behind a transformer up the hill from the playground in the park.

The next hunt is changed again from the second Sunday to the third (October 19th) so not to conflict with Pacificon 2014 convention. Alan and I are planning to attend so we would not be able to hide on the 12th. I think I have found an excellent place to hide and I hope it proves to be a challenge.

Gray WA6BJY



SOARA Holiday Party

WHEN: First Sunday in December (December 7, 2014)

TIME: 6:30pm - 9:30pm

WHERE: [Antonucci's \(Italian\), 24190 Alicia Pkwy, Mission Viejo CA 92691](#)

COST: \$30.00 per person pre-purchase / \$35.00 at the door

MENU: [Here](#)

In lieu of a regular club meeting in December, SOARA presents a holiday social gathering for its membership, friends and family.

There are always great door prizes! A new radio anyone??

Also, we will announce a few special awards for our membership. The WW7D award is especially close to our hearts and is detailed (here—someday—waiting for text).

Non-members are welcome to purchase tickets and participate with us.





Propagation de K7RA

Solar activity declined this week, with average daily sunspot numbers going from 98 last week to 55.1 in the week ending Wednesday, October 15. Average daily solar flux went from 131.9 to 117.4.

Average planetary A index rose from 6.4 to 10.4. The most unsettled geomagnetic day was Tuesday, October 14, when the planetary A index was 18, and the planetary K index reached 5 for 9 hours overnight. In Alaska, the college A index reached 21, but this was because the same 9 hour period of activity all occurred by the end of the day (in UTC), while the planetary K index reached 5 for six hours at the end of the day on Tuesday and 3 hours at the beginning of the day on Wednesday.

The latest prediction for solar flux is 150 and 160 on October 17 and 18, 170 on October 19 to 23, 140 on October 24 and 25, 135 and 130 on October 26 and 27, 125 on October 28 and 29, 120 on October 30 and 31, 125 on November 1 and 2, 120 on November 3 and 4, 115 on November 5 and 6, and 110 on November 7 to 9. The November 7 to 9 value is a low for the near term, which then rises to a high of 140 on November 18 to 21 before declining again.

Repeater Update

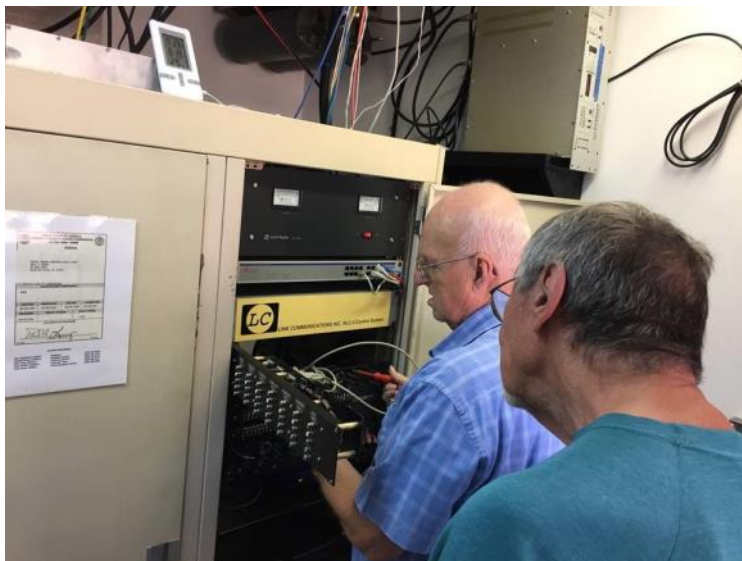
Howard, KG6GI, Horst, KD7JHR, and Brian, NJ6N, went up to Temple Hill on October 12 and were able to install the new RLC-3 controller. The 224.100 repeater is connected to it now.

Ultimately we intend on having all of the Temple Hill repeaters as well as links to the other three sites, and IRLP/EchoLink connected to the new controller. This will give us the ability to link anything to anything and have much more flexible configurations. It will also solve a long standing issue we've had with the RC-850's link 2 PTT not working correctly.

However, the vocabulary and speech (speak and spell?!) sounds identical to the RC-850. We believe Link Communications bought the rights to ACCs DVR technology including their wonderful vocabulary after ACC went out of business...

When they were up there on Sunday, they also added a 10:1 attenuator to the mic input of the EchoIRLP node. We should be able to, if desired, link in San Clemente -or- allow members who are out of town (e.g. Spencer, NG6K hint hint) link into the net on Tuesday evening.

Many thanks to Howard, Brian & Horst their efforts on behalf of the club!





FCC Denies Petition for 4 Meter (70.0-70.5MHz) Band

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-14-1347A1.pdf

From the [FCC Order](#):

In May 2014, Glen E. Zook (K9STH) filed a [petition](#) for rulemaking that proposes changes to the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules (Part 97).

1. Specifically, Zook proposes that the Commission add a "4-meter" radio band (70.0-70.5 MHz) to the list of bands currently available to amateur radio operators in the United States and other areas in which the Commission has jurisdiction. For the reasons discussed below, we determine that the petition plainly does not warrant consideration and deny it pursuant to Section 1.401(e) of our rules.

2. The 70.0-70.5 MHz band is not currently allocated for Amateur Radio use and is instead exclusively allocated for broadcasting within the United States. Specifically, VHF TV Channel 4 operates in the 66-72 MHz frequency band – which completely encompasses the 70.0-70.5 MHz band at issue here. The Zook Petition contends that "the recent migration of broadcast television stations to primarily UHF frequencies basically eliminates any probable interference to television channels 4 or 5 which otherwise might have occurred." Because the Zook Petition is based on a faulty premise – that broadcasting use within the 70.0-70.5 MHz band will diminish or cease – its argument that amateur band users could operate without causing harmful interference to any existing service lacks sufficient support to warrant our further consideration.

3. Based on data compiled by the Commission's Media Bureau, Channel 4 is currently populated by three full power TV stations, 110 low power television (LPTV) and TV translator stations, and six Class A TV stations. The Commission also has an ongoing incentive auction proceeding that, among other things, will repurpose a portion of the TV band for broadband operations and repack the remaining TV stations into a smaller frequency range.

4. The incentive auction proceeding does not eliminate the use of TV Channel 4, and envisions a number of voluntary options for full power and Class A TV stations – including relocation from a UHF channel to a VHF channel and relocation from a high VHF channel (Channels 7-13) to a low VHF channel (Channels 2-6). Under such circumstances, Channel 4 could become even more robustly used for broadcast purposes than it is now.

Editor's Notes:

Low VHF TV Channels (RF 2-6) have been sparsely used for Television broadcasting since the US Digital Television Transition of 2009. As noted above, there are only 3 Full Power DTV stations on RF TV Channel 4 in the entire country. TV stations, such as KNBC 4 LA, actually broadcast on other channels (UHF Channel 36 in the case of KNBC) and appear to be coming from "4" by way of virtual channel technology. However, with the "Incentive Auction" coming up in 2015, some TV stations may elect to "sell" their 6MHz spectrum and relocate to VHF bands, including Low VHF. So, these channels may yet see more activity again. Low-VHF RF channels have been avoided by TV broadcasters due to significant impulse noise in the band that disrupts DTV signals. What used to appear as "sparkles" in analog TV can prevent a picture from being displayed in digital broadcast TV. It will be interesting to see how this develops considering the under utilization of the 70MHz 4 meter band in this country. Parts of [Europe and Africa](#) make use of the 4 meter band for amateur operations and usage is growing. See [The Four Metres](#) Website for more information.

An article about this from a broadcasting perspective of this issue is also available at: [TV Technology](#) (<http://tinyurl.com/ne4oxk5>)



Former SOARA Member Lou Frank, KG6FCT, responds to HF Emergency

From the ARRL ARES E-Letter—[October 15th 2014](#)

Med Emergency in Washington's High Mountain Forest

On the last Sunday of summer--another beautiful, cloudless day at the site high in the central Cascade Mountains of Washington state--two hams had just fired up their station to prepare for a second day of contest operation in the Washington State QSO Party, better known as the Salmon Run.

About 0845, a motorcyclist rode into the remote camp. He told them that his friend had broken a leg in an accident just a short distance up the unpaved Forest Service road. He asked if the campers would please use their cell phones to call an ambulance. The hams explained that, unfortunately, they'd already checked and had no cellular service available at the site. They told him they did have ham radio communications, and would be able to get help through that service. The biker thanked them and rode back to his injured friend.

The contest team -- Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV and Tim Kane, K7ANE -- are both residents of the Seattle area, and members of the Mike & Key ARC. After three years of contesting together on the western side of the state, this was their first contest "expedition" on the eastern side of the mountains, where they'd situated their station on a score-doubling county line.

At the moment the rider approached them, Tim had selected a spot on 20 meters near the suggested contest frequency and was ensuring proper operation and tuning of the station. Robert was assembling a new tri-band yagi that they hoped to use later that day.

They quickly considered how best to obtain help. While the HF station was already in operation and chances were good that they would be able to contact someone somewhere, they knew that 9-1-1 systems are localized, and a distant party might have difficulty reaching the right agency. A local contact in one of the two counties could just dial 9-1-1 directly. They had VHF/UHF rigs in their trucks, but being from out of the area, did not have any local repeaters programmed. Robert had a few-years-old copy of the ARRL Repeater Directory along, but some listings would be archaic. That limitation, compounded with the time it would take to program each repeater, and the doubtful chances that someone would be using or monitoring a repeater at that time on a Sunday morning, did not bode well for quickly making a local contact.

They decided that Tim would stay on HF, and Robert would try for a local contact. After a quick check of the 75 and 40 meter bands, both of which were fairly quiet, Tim found the **SOARA (South Orange ARA, Mission Viejo, California)** net operating on 7200 kHz. He considered using "Mayday" or "Pan" emergency calls, but decided that "Break Break Break with a Medical Emergency" would be more readily understood.

After two calls, **Louis Frank, KG6FCT**, responded, and Tim had him move up 3 kHz, away from the net operation. **Louis was at his home, east of Sacramento, California.** Tim explained the situation, and Robert passed along detailed location information. They asked **Louis** to telephone the Washington State Patrol, or a sheriff for either of the two counties, and request that an ambulance be dispatched.

With contact made and the process underway via HF, Robert ceased efforts at a local contact, and they decided he should drive up to the accident scene, about a quarter mile distant. They quickly chose a 2 meter simplex frequency on which to maintain communications between them, with Robert on his mobile rig and





Continued from page 5. Former SOARA Member Lou Frank, KG6FCT, responds to HF Emergency

Tim with an HT at the campsite.

Louis first tried his area 9-1-1 dispatcher, who said he couldn't transfer the call to the out-of-state jurisdictions. He then tried the 4-1-1 information operator, but only got administrative numbers that didn't answer on a Sunday morning, and just referred the caller to 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Tim continued monitoring the HF frequency. Having not heard their earlier communications, a Washington state contest station began calling CQ just one kHz up from where they were standing by, and was bleeding over badly. Tim contacted him, explained the situation, and asked him to please move up band a bit. In the best ham tradition, the station immediately agreed and moved.

Upon reaching the accident scene, Robert was informed that one of the bikers had managed to get one bar of signal on his cell phone, and had advised the victim's wife back in the Seattle area of the accident. She, too, was now working on getting medical help.

Through his persistence, **Louis** finally obtained a number for the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), which was answered, and he relayed the situation and request. As fate would have it, the victim's wife was on another line with the dispatch center, having just gotten through as well.

The KCSO dispatcher asked **Louis** for additional information about the accident, the victim, and whether the ambulance would need to be four-wheel-drive to reach the accident scene. **Louis** relayed the queries to Tim, who in turn asked Robert at the accident scene. They then passed the responses back to the dispatcher, and told them that 4WD was not needed. The victim was in pain but his condition otherwise did not seem serious.

Once KCSO advised that the ambulance was en route, **Louis**, Tim and Robert maintained the frequencies, in case further action was required or information needed to be passed.

Robert suggested to the motorcyclists that one of them ride down the dirt road to the highway, wait for the ambulance, and lead it to the accident scene, which they did.

About thirty minutes later an aid car from the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Department drove by the camp to the accident scene. It was followed by a USFS brush fire truck and a Sheriff's cruiser. Ten minutes later a second Kittitas aid car also arrived.

At the accident scene the Emergency Medical Techs assessed the rider's injuries, stabilized his broken leg, and administered an IV. They transferred him to a gurney and into the ambulance. The emergency response vehicles then started their return to the hospital, some forty miles away. The motorcyclist who originally approached the hams came by the camp, and thanked them for their help.

By 0940, barely an hour since it started, all was back to normal. Tim passed the info and thanks back to Louis in central California. He returned to his SoCal net, while the Washington team returned to 20 meters and started chasing Qs for the contest. -- Tim Kane, K7ANE, and Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV

Great Emcomm work, Lou! There is no substitute for training to respond to situations such as this. All SOARA members should keep this in mind and look for ways to hone their skills so they can be prepared for emergencies. –Ed.

9 2014 SOARA Calendar THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	27	24	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	—
Program	Baker to Vegas	Rally	Digital HF	AR Video	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	AreaBFE	SOARA Fair	Mesh Network	LandOps	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	27	24	17	21	19	At Field Day	21	18	15	20	17	—
Educational Classes (Starts)	Tech 8		General 5			Tech 4				Ext 1 Gen 4,5	Tech 15,16	
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	Feb 1	Mar 1	22	26	24	-	26	23	20	25	22	—
SOARA T-Hunt	12	9	9	13	18*	8	13	10	14	12	9	—
Board Meeting	Feb 3	Mar 3	24	28	Jun 2	23	28	25	22	27	24	—
Special Events	Quartzfest 19-26	Yuma 14-15	Palm Springs 15	Visalia DX 3-6	Dayton 16-18	ARRL Field Day 28-29		SOARA Picnic 3	ARRL SW 12	JOTA 18-19		SOARA Holiday Party 7
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 15-16 CQWPX RTTY 8-9	ARRL DX-SSB 1-2 CQWPX SSB 29-30		CQWPX CW 24-25	ARRL Field Day 28-29			CQWW RTTY 27-28	CQWW SSB 26-27	CQWW CW 23-24	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 25	Paws Fur Pink 15 OC Chili Run 22	OC Chili Run 22 Baker to Vegas 22	Vision Quest 5	HD Tr. 3 OC Mar. 4 Memorial Day 1/2 26	ARRL Field Day 28-29					Stache Dash 23	



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)
	440	—	445.660	—	(110.9)	Laguna Beach
D-Star	440	—	445.700	—	(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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