



THE

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

March 2014

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Digital HF Modes

All are welcome to the March SOARA meeting, on Monday 3/17. The program will consist of a short course about the different digital modes for H.F. to be presented by Steve Kuver, KD6MHL, Sean Reigle, AJ6B and Spencer Ammermon, NG6K. They will show us how to program our computers, set up our radios and operate and make contacts.

Also, please note that officer elections are just around the corner. You will be receiving ballots by e-mail, in early April. In the interim, please be sure to make any additional nominations from the floor for the following positions. Please help support your club!

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer (open position)

Amateur Radio: As I see It

As my wife was on her way to work this morning and I was listening to two fellows chat on one of our repeaters several thoughts came to mind.

Other than commute times and the various nets that the club supports all of our repeaters are very quiet. We are becoming a people with too many ways of communicating with one another. Good old fashioned letters in the mail are disappearing, phone calls are being relegated to the cell phone or being used by marketers to hawk their wares, and texting has passed talking as a way to communicate. When I finally entered amateur radio after procrastinating for way too many years, using the auto-patch was a marvelous feature that you rarely hear any more. There are still many requests for new repeaters on the VHF and UHF bands every year but if you scan the frequencies like many of us do, you will find very little traffic on any of them. Even the old form of simplex communication is slowly dying out, and yet every one wants their "own" frequency, think "Gordo" or "Heiko", or every emergency communications organization in the neighborhood.

So where are we going from here? Are we becoming a nation of iPhone users with ear buds and total ignorance of what is happening in the world around us or can we maintain a balance between technology and nature? I tend to use Facebook more than I should because it has become an easy way to track people with whom I might not otherwise stay in touch. I have learned to use Skype because it works well as a method of conferencing. These are both methods that were not available to us a few years ago.



Continued on page 3...

Meeting

March 17th,
2014

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



**Palm Springs
Hamfest**
March 15

HD Trails Rally
May 3

OC Marathon
May 4

ARRL Field Day
Jun 28-29

VEC License Exams

6pm before the
General Meet-
ing

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA
Website](#)

SOARA upcoming events calendar (volunteers needed):

Have you ever wondered what else you can do with amateur radio? There are so many aspects to the hobby, but perhaps the great of these, and the most rewarding is public service. Here is a list of upcoming events that we need help on. Please mark your calendars and contact Heiko, [AD6OI](#) for more information.

- **OC Chili Winter Trail Run:** March 22, 2014 (morning), O'Neil Park, Foot Race
- **Baker to Vegas:** March 22, 2014 (all day), near Las Vegas, Foot Race (See page 3 for more info)
- **Vision Quest:** April 5, 2014 (all day), Orange County, Bike Race
- **High Desert Trails:** May 3, 2014 (all day), Ridgecrest, Car Rally Race (See page 4 for more info)
- **OC Marathon:** May 4, 2014 (all day), Orange County, Foot Race



International DX Convention, Visalia CA April 4-6

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Don't forget the raffle prizes which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention! <http://www.dxconvention.org/>

SOARA Raffle:

Hal Silverman

On Monday, we are continuing the \$5 prize from last month. It is a mobile radio that covers 2M and 440 MHz. We didn't sell enough tickets last month, but we only need to sell about 10 more to raffle it this month! It is a Yaesu FT7900R with a separation kit. The \$1 raffle will be determined, but may once again be MFJ headphones, power pole connectors, a SMA to PL239 adapter, a repeater guide and a set of flash lights.

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





From Membership:

A big welcome to our new members:

Harv Chin, W6QN an Extra from Irvine

Dave Descoteaux, KK6JVN, a Technician from Mission Viejo

Daniel McRaney, KK6JVH, a Technician from Laguna Niguel

Terry Rosene, K6TMR, a Technician from Garden Grove

Todd Rosene, W6TMR, a Technician from Mission Viejo

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

We have 225 members on our roster.

Marie Zitzmann, KD7JHS
Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR

March 22-23: Baker to Vegas Update

[Re-print from last month—last chance to sign up!]

On behalf of all of the teams, I want to thank you for your interest in volunteering for Baker to Vegas Communications. I hope you can participate in this event. A list of the types of assignments at each stage can be found at this link: <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/volunteer-opportunities>. The application to work as a ham can also be found on the above page. Complete the application and email it to Margie Hoffman at margiehoffman@gmail.com. Be sure to let her know you want to work at Stage 8 or any other stage that may interest you.

Jim Stoker AG6EF is the Lead Ham at Stage 8 and will make the assignments. Send an email to Jim at jstoker@it.ucla.edu with your email address and telephone number. He will be sending out a group email soon. Jim is a terrific ham and a very nice guy. I guarantee that you will enjoy working with him and the other hams. Working together, Stage 8 is a great team of hams, Good Sam volunteers and sworn peace officer volunteers and this stage runs smooth as silk.

More information can be found at the Baker to Vegas Communications page: <http://www.radiobaker2vegas.org/home>

You can learn more about the Baker to Vegas Race by going to: <http://www.bakervegas.com/>

If you plan on camping at Stage 8, plan on arriving early in the morning on the 23rd. Do not set up camp until the Good Sam Crew arrives because you may end up being relocated. There is a Stage Setup Plan that must be adhered to, to facilitate the smooth and safe operation of the stage. There is plenty of room for RV's and tents. Plan for ALL kinds of weather no matter what the weather guessers predict. If you're not planning on camping, you should have no trouble getting a hotel in Pahrump on Saturday night. Email me at W6VGR@soara.org if you have any questions.

BAKER TO VEGAS
2014
MARCH 22ND
& 23RD

Continued from page 1 (Amateur Radio: As I See It.)

Our club has three D-star repeaters, three two meter repeaters, two 1 1/4 meter repeaters and two 70cm repeaters, they are all on the scanner that resides in our kitchen and as I sit and write I hear more from the Cleveland National Forest repeater and the OC access repeater than all of ours combined.

So what do all of you think about this silly turn of events? Can or should we do anything to change any of this or should we just let it go on the way it is going?

Feel free to send your comments to:

ad6oi@soara.org

Thank You

Heiko

Lake T-Hunting or a Tale of Two T's

Karl, KF6MDF and Dale, W8RRV had the honor of hiding the T (or should I say Ts) this month, on 3/9/14. It was a warm sunny day, great for T-Hunting. However, we (Sean AJ6B & Mike K6MSM) were only able to hear the T once from our starting position and just barely at that. Certainly, not well enough to get a reliable bearing. But we decided to head North, after a fashion. We ended up going up the 241 and eventually we were able to discern the relative direction of the T with our Doppler setup. We decided to get off at the 261 and head South, but the navigator (aka me), wasn't on top of the exit and we ended up going all the way to the 91. After spending a good 20 minutes or more to get there and back (no U-turns on the toll road!) we finally headed South on the 261. This was all after we had started late, since our usual hunt vehicle was out of commission and we had to figure out how to get the Doppler working properly and calibrate it.

The T was not easy to hear from practically any location on the road and I'm not sure the vertically polarized Doppler and whip antennas were helping matters. We took some bearing and decided that the T was probably hiding in Irvine somewhere. (wasn't it in Irvine last month too?)

However, we kept losing the signal and the time between transmissions seemed very long. At one point, it is believed that the hidiers had a technical problem.

We drove through Irvine Valley College and didn't get any useful readings there. It seemed like it had to be close, but it was just so weak. We then drove down University and circled the Turtle Rock area and manual bearings with our tape measure beams but the T back in the direction of IVC.



T #1 found at last

Eventually, the hidiers seemed to be growing impatient and asked the hunters if any clues were needed. After providing our general area and getting confirmation that we were in the right city (yay), they advised that perhaps we should head North on Jeffrey. I'm not sure that was the best clue, but the Doppler was finally giving more reliable readings at least. After circling around for a while, we deduced that the T was probably hidden around one of the Woodbridge lakes.

Once the signal finally seemed strong enough we headed out on foot to the North lake shore. Our problems from early soon became evident as we were getting very different bearings on every other transmission. After chasing one of the signals, we found a group of hams looking rather amused. We had found them, but not the Ts yet. I set out to find the South T and Sean went to find the North T. T #1 (or was it #2) wasn't too hard to find on foot as it that irrigation box looked like an inviting hiding spot. T #2 was on the other side of the lake and gave some interesting bearings up close, but we found it on top of a post.



The view from T #1 or was it #2?

For the record, Richard, K6RBS and Mike, NM6X, bested us by a considerable margin, but after the extra driving delays, we were just happy to have found the two T's.

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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	TBD	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	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		General		Tech		General	
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	Feb 1	Mar 1	22	26	24	21	26	23	20	25	22	—
SOARA T-Hunt	12	9	9	13	11	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	Warriors Society 5	HD Tr. 3 OC Mar. 4 Memorial Day 1/2 26						Stache Dash TBD	



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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