



# PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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## Meeting

Nov. 16th,  
2015

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

## Fall Auction

Time to clean out the HAM shack and pick up some new projects for the holidays! All are welcome to attend the next SOARA Fall Auction on Monday, November 16 at the Norman P Murray Center in Mission Viejo at 7pm. For more information on the SOARA live auctions, including the rules, click [here](#) or see the attachment to the *Propagator*. A regularly scheduled FCC licensing examination will occur prior to the meeting at 6pm.



There is NO raffle this month as it is giving way to the Auction. The regular raffle will resume in January, but don't forget the door prize for the holiday party! (see page 2 for details)

## President's Message

November 2015

Greetings,

As we enter the holiday season, for most, this is when there are many things vying for our attention. I'm going to make much of this message reminders of upcoming things and events that can so easily be moved to a back channel, and then forgotten.

First is the SOARA Holiday party coming right up, on December 6. I'm sure others will be

mentioning more details in this newsletter, but I wanted to encourage you to get your reservations in soon, if you haven't already done so.

Second is a gentle reminder that the 2015-2016 SOARA dues were due and payable on October 1 of this year, which was over a month ago. This is another easy thing to slip through the cracks this busy time of year, but they are critical to the operation of your club. Please take a minute to write a check, bring cash to Monday's meeting, or simply visit PayPal [see link on [soara.org](#) to pay by PayPal]. We cheerfully accept most forms of payment.

Finally, I'm amazed by how quiet our repeaters have become recently. We have lots of members, experienced and new, most of whom possess VHF/UHF gear, but, it seems, rarely use it. This is a great and fun resource, that is part of what your membership in SOARA provides, yet we seem to be letting it go largely unused. I know that many of you monitor the repeaters silently, so throw out your call occasionally to see who responds. While you're listening, if you hear someone, especially a new ham, take a few seconds to respond to their call. It's easy, and who knows maybe you'll find a new radio friend, or reconnect with an old one.

Revisiting an earlier message topic, Just yesterday I was reading a new report from the National Weather Services Climate Prediction Center. They're constantly monitoring the ocean current temperatures and their latest report says that the El Nino is growing greatly in strength. They've long said that this year's would be a strong one, but now they say it's stacking up to be one of if not the strongest El Niño's since 1950. They also say we should be prepared for the type of flooding, mudslides, and destruction we experienced in 1997-98. A November 13, LA Times Article quotes the Climate Center as saying that the ocean temperatures off Peru are even warmer than those of

*(Continued on page 5)*



**SOARA  
Auction**  
Nov 16

**SOARA  
Saturday**  
Nov 21

**CQWW  
CW**  
Nov 28-29

**Run for a Claus**  
Dec 5

**SOARA  
Holiday Party**  
Dec 6

## VEC License Exams

6pm—before  
the General  
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |  
Technician  
Exams

## SOARA Holiday Party

Come join us! Our annual Holiday Party will be on Sunday December 6 at Antonucci's Ristorante. The Door Prize will be an [Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver!](#) (pictured)

WHEN: First Sunday in December  
(December 6, 2015)  
TIME: 6:00pm - 9:30pm (Dinner at 7pm)  
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](#)  
FLYER: [Here](#)



## Volunteer Opportunity—Run for a Claus

[runforaclaus.com](http://runforaclaus.com)



Orange County's Newest Holiday Tradition . Race Day is Saturday December 5, 2015. Come out and get your Holiday photos also! "When you RUN FOR A CLAUS, you can run for a cause."

We are looking for VHF/UHF (HT) operators for this event. Please contact Heiko, [ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org), or Sean, [aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org) if you are interested in helping. At UCI.

Thank you!

## From the Desk of your Communications Director

In other parts of the Propagator you will find, more information about the auction meeting this coming Monday, it is always an exciting time for all and a good chance to sell some stuff or buy something to play with. More information can also be found on our web site at: [soara.org](http://soara.org).

We have our annual Holiday Dinner on Sunday Dec. 6 at Antonucci's Restaurant and we are celebrating with an Icom IC-718 HF radio for our door prize. You do not have to be a member to join us there, all it takes is a dinner reservation which can be obtained by giving our treasurer \$30 and showing up at the restaurant. Alternate methods of payment are PayPal and mailing a check to our mailbox at:

SOARA  
PO Box 2545  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

These forms of payment have a cutoff date of November 30. If you notify me: AD6OI@soara.org before the dinner I will try to reserve a place for you. As of this week we have 32 paid dinners and our limit is fifty persons.

All right now on to the fun stuff. I have noticed, especially on our nets on VHF and UHF, that occasionally our operators are not concluding their QSO (conversation) with their call sign. The FCC and SOARA frown on this as it is a requirement and can cause a note from an OO (Official Observer) so please mind your P's and Q's and sign off correctly. I have also

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Sparky, NG6K, in England Update

Spencer (Sparky) has permission to receive the Propagator and review it on his P-Day or Personal day each Monday and I forward my copy of the Propagator to Spencer every month.

And yes, Spencer is doing very well on his mission. He recently was already advanced from Junior or Green missionary status to that of Senior Companion and also made District Leader. District Leader means his now responsible for I believe about five or six missionary companion sets in his area. Plus, although he has not transferred out of Braintree yet, he has a new missionary companion who is out in the mission less time than Spencer's five months which is why he is the Senior companion. Just more responsibility. We expect he will be transferred to a new area in about four more weeks but we will see. They do keep things interesting for the missionaries. And, Spencer is still in the process of obtaining his British driver's license, another thing that is not common for new missionaries to be requested and he has been driving in England since he first arrived there. I guess we could say he is busy and the time is flying by from his perspective.

If you want to see any pictures and read his blog which I maintain, please visit <http://spencerammermon.wix.com/> missionary at the link and you can read his weekly blog I post for him. He sure is growing to say the least and England suits him well. [There is also a link to Spencer's mission blog on the SOARA Info page—ed.]

Sincerely,

Mike  
Michael Ammermon, KJ6KYK



A tri-band beam antenna spotted by Spencer in England. He's always on the lookout for ham antennas!



Spencer at King's College Chapel in Cambridge



Spencer at an iconic phone booth. They still have these? A common TV antenna is also visible behind the phone booth.



### The K7RA Solar Update

It has been an active period for space weather. At 2240 UTC on November 11, the Australian Space Forecast Center issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning: "Combined CME and coronal hole effects are expected to become geo-effective on 12-Nov, resulting in active to minor storm conditions." They predicted quiet to minor storm conditions on November 12, and unsettled to active conditions on November 13.

A few days ago the Washington Post ran this story about a possible geomagnetic storm: <http://wapo.st/1MSKLZG>  
The Washington Post also shared this video from NASA of the recent solar flare eruption: <http://bit.ly/1NMyi3P>  
David Moore sent this link last week about a geomagnetic disturbance on November 4 which made planes disappear from air traffic control screens in Sweden: <http://phys.org/news/2015-11-sweden-solar-flare-flight.html>

[WM7D's Solar resource Page](#)

## SOARA Field Day Results

The Southwest Division of the ARRL has published the results of Field Day 2015 and once again, SOARA is among the leaders, placing 2nd in the 3A ORG category and 12th overall in the division.

Thanks again to all who participated!

73 de K6SOA



### SW Division Results

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	N6HC	12,670	2A	3,879	2	W6GNS	LAX	18	ABCD Group
2	N6GA	11,775	5AB	1,117	5		LAX	7	Zuni Loop Mtn Ex Force
3	K6LL	10,454	2E	2,650	2		AZ	2	
4	W6ZE	10,150	6A	3,391	2	KI6ZPW	ORG	50	Orange Cty ARC - CA
5	N6R	8,718	10A	2,861	2	K6VCS	SB	81	VCARS / SSARC / Hollywood Hills QRP Club
6	W6NWG	8,512	4A	2,431	2	KG6JEI	SDG	150	Palomar ARC
7	KI6BJN	8,322	5A	2,594	2	K6DMA	SDG	67	San Diego Six Shooters ARC
8	N6OV	8,182	3A	2,510	2	W6TD	ORG	19	Bishop ARC
9	AA6CV	7,410	16A	1,713	2	K6KY	SB	76	Conejo Valley ARC
10	W6KA	7,248	6A	1,821	2		LAX	46	Pasadena RC
11	K6AA	7,068	2A	1,564	2		LAX	20	United RAC
12	K6SOA	6,882	3A	1,924	2	K6WO	ORG	89	South Orange ARA
13	W6TRW	6,850	7A	2,485	2	KE6YEX	LAX	34	W6TRW ARC
14	K6TI	6,422	3A	1,495	2	W6DRT	LAX	40	Topanga Disaster Radio Team
15	K7T	6,142	3F	1,407	2	W0HF	AZ	50	Oro Valley ARC
16	WA6FV	6,054	4A	1,823	2		ORG	15	Fountain Valley Am Com / West Coast ARC
17	WA2DFI	6,052	2A	1,855	2	W7BSA	AZ	22	Explorer Post 599
18	WK7B	6,016	4E	1,544	2		AZ	20	
19	K7RDG	5,906	3F	1,427	2	KG7DJY	AZ	20	Cochise ARA
20	K6PV	5,780	2A	1,436	2	KA6WNK	LAX	45	Palos Verdes ARC
21	W7FSL	5,700	5AB	544	5		AZ	5	Freescale ARS
22	N6SD	5,512	2A	1,382	2	N6WB	SDG	26	Escondido ARS
23	W6HA	5,484	3A	1,977	2	AD6RW	LAX	18	Hughes ARC
24	W7TB	5,142	2A	1,141	2	KC7KCN	AZ	34	NADXA & CARC
25	WB9COY	4,882	1B1	1,199	2		SDG	1	

### 3A ORG Results

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	N6OV	8,182	3A	2,510	2	W6TD	ORG	19	Bishop ARC
2	K6SOA	6,882	3A	1,924	2	K6WO	ORG	89	South Orange ARA
3	AB6MV	2,558	3A	622	2	KK6OXW	ORG	10	Moreno Valley ARS
4	K6LDF	1,798	3A	252	2	KK6GSI	ORG	35	Lee DeForest ARC
5	K6QWR	1,408	3A	188	2		ORG	23	Victor Valley ARC

(Continued from page 1) - *President's Report*

'97-98, the record El Nino to date. NASA's JPL climatologists are also predicting very heavy rainfall. They note that El Nino in Southern California doesn't typically really peak until January, February, and March, with 1998's El Nino peaking in February. They're predicting our area will receive rainfall amounts 60%-69% above average, and that the storms will come "One after another like a conveyor belt".

Why all of this in an item about repeater use? Well, it behooves us all to be ready to provide communications for ourselves, our family, and out communities in times of disaster, such as major storms, and the best way to prepare for this, is to hone our communicating skills and to be sure our radios are ready to get on the air and be used. Checking in on our Tuesday night 8pm net is a great start. This will help us familiarize or re-familiarize ourselves with our own equipment, and the capabilities of SOARA's repeater system. Hope to hear you on soon.

Thanks, and best 73 to all.

Ray Hutchinson, AE6H. President

## SOARA Expo Pictures

Here are some pictures of the SOARA booth at the Emergency Preparedness Expo last month at the Norman P. Murray Center. Thank you to all who attended to "man" the booth.





ARRL

[Fall 2015 Issue of Radio Waves is Now Available](#)

The fall 2015 edition of Radio Waves now is available via the ARRL website. This issue includes such articles as "Using Sensors to Explore Terraforming," "STEM School and Academy ARC Builds Repeater," and "Community College's DIY Spirit Shines for ARISS Contact."

Published quarterly by ARRL Education Services, the fall 2015 edition also looks at how ham radio can help Boy Scouts to earn the Radio merit badge, news, ideas and support for instructors, ham radio instruction for people with disabilities, and the evolution of a licensing class.

[Current and back issues of Radio Waves are available on the ARRL website.](#) Radio Waves is available free as a PDF.

## Membership Report

### Dues

It's time to pay your dues. We have 119 paid members and 130 unpaid. If you haven't renewed please do so soon.

### Membership Status

There are 252 active members. The numbers above don't add up since we have a few life members. I have one new member application this month. I will publish the name and call sign once the board approves at the next board meeting.

### Badges

If you need a new badge just email [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org). Make sure to tell me your name and callsign as you want it on the badge. I will make you a new badge with all the handy information on the back. I will have it for you to pickup at the next meeting assuming you give me enough notice to make it. If your call sign or ticket changed let me know and I will update the roster.

### Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual

I still have plenty of these manuals. This manual has a wealth of information for easy reference.

### Wouff Hong Pins

If you need an ARRL Wouff Hong pin, I have a few extras at \$6 each. Proceeds go to SOARA. See me at the next meeting if you need a Wouff Hong pin.

### Bob (my Father-in-Law)

I hope everyone had fun with their radios in October. I was able to participate in the Sunday morning HF net with my 83 year old father-in-law Bob in Spanish Fork, Utah. We had a great time. I am impressed with his 100W Kenwood ts-430s.

No, Bob didn't get a UHF/VHF base rig yet. He fell a few weeks ago and "broke" his HT. Better the HT than him. So, I figured I better help him with that first. Well, the HT wasn't broke. It turned out to be a loose antenna. Tighten it up! So, now he has a spare HT. We did some re-programming to setup NOAA and a few other frequencies on both HT's. I was using CHIRP on the two UV-5RV2+ HT's and the chirp file was not compatible because the firmware was different. I couldn't believe it. I had to make two separate CHIRP files and scratch #1 and #2 on each HT so he would know the difference. So, going forward, I'm sticking with Kenwood, Icom, or Yaesu.

I hope to hear you on the radio and see you at the SOARA events!

73,  
Ed Barnes, KK6PUB  
Membership Director  
[membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)

*(Continued from page 2) - From the Communications Director*

been reminded that those of us who own Yaesu radios that there is a "wires" button that seems to engage itself and cause an annoying beep at the beginning of each transmission, if you hear this please turn it off or ask the other party if it it their radio. For those of you who have questions about our repeaters and if they are technical please e-mail Brian, [NJ6N@soara.org](mailto:NJ6N@soara.org) or Tom, [AE6SH@soara.org](mailto:AE6SH@soara.org) our repeater and technical directors. If you have general procedure questions please e-mail me at [ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org). Please feel free to use our repeaters whenever possible, they are not running at full capacity and the FCC gets money when they sell off unused spectrum.

Thanks, Heiko AD6OI

# 7 2015 SOARA Calendar THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	26	23	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	—
Program	N6HC DXped.	Old Time Radios	Gordon West	Light House/ Ship	<a href="#">Spring Auction</a>	<a href="#">Field Day Prep</a>	Arecibo	Satellite HT	<a href="#">SOARA Fair</a>	AREDN	<a href="#">Fall Auction</a>	—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	At Field Day	20	17	21	19	16	—
Educational Classes								8 Tech	19 General	10 Tech	14 TBD	—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	31	28	21	25	23	20	25	22	26	24	21	—
SOARA T-Hunt	11	8	8	12	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	6
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	—
Special Events	<a href="#">Quartzfest 18-24</a>	<a href="#">Yuma Hamfest 20-21</a>	<a href="#">Palm Springs Hamfest 14</a>	<a href="#">Visalia Intl DX 17-19</a>	<a href="#">Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 27-28</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Picnic 2</a>	<a href="#">ARRL SW Division 11-13</a>	<a href="#">JOTA 16-18</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Holiday Party 6</a>
Major HF Contests		<a href="#">ARRL DX-CW 21-22</a>  <a href="#">CQWPX RTTY 14-15</a>	<a href="#">ARRL DX-SSB 7-8</a>  <a href="#">CQWPX SSB 28-29</a>		<a href="#">CQWPX CW 30-31</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 27-28</a>			<a href="#">CQWW RTTY 26-27</a>	<a href="#">CQWW SSB 24-25</a>	<a href="#">CQWW CW 28-29</a>	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 24	Paws Fur Pink 14 OC Chili Run 21	OC Chili Run 14 <a href="#">Baker to Vegas 28-29</a>	Ride for Rwanda 25	<a href="#">HD Trails 2</a> <a href="#">OC Mara- -thon 3</a> <a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- -thon 25</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 26-28</a>	4th of July Fire -works			<a href="#">Vision Quest 24</a>		<a href="#">Run for a Claus 5</a>

\*Dates subject to change. Check the [SOARA website](#) to verify locations and times.



# 8      2016 SOARA Calendar      THE PROPAGATOR

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	25	22	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	—
Program					<a href="#">Spring Auction</a>	<a href="#">Field Day Prep</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Fair</a>			<a href="#">Fall Auction</a>	—
VEC Testing	25	22	21	18	16	At Field Day 25	18	15	19	17	21	—
Educational Classes												—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	30	27	26	23	21	18	23	20	24	22	26	—
SOARA T-Hunt	3	14	6	3	1	5	3	14	4	2	6	11
Board Meeting	Feb 1	29	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	—
Special Events	<a href="#">Quartzfest</a>	<a href="#">Yuma Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Palm Springs Hamfest</a>	<a href="#">Visalia Intl DX</a>	<a href="#">Dayton Hamvention</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 24-26</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Picnic 7</a>	<a href="#">ARRL SW Division</a>	<a href="#">JOTA</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Holiday Party 4</a>
Ham-Related Swap Meets	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.	TRW Last Sat.
Major HF Contests		<a href="#">ARRL DX-CW</a> <a href="#">CQWPX RTTY</a>	<a href="#">ARRL DX-SSB</a> <a href="#">CQWPX SSB</a>		<a href="#">CQWPX CW</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 24-26</a>			<a href="#">CQWW RTTY</a>	<a href="#">CQWW SSB</a>	<a href="#">CQWW CW</a>	
Volunteer Events	<a href="#">OC Chili Run 23</a>	<a href="#">Paws Fur Pink 21</a> <a href="#">OC Chili Run 27</a>	<a href="#">OC Chili Run 19</a> <a href="#">Baker to Vegas</a>		<a href="#">HD Trails</a> <a href="#">OC Marathon 1</a> <a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 24-26</a>	4th of July Fire -works 4			<a href="#">Vision Quest</a>		<a href="#">Run for a Claus</a>

\*Dates subject to change. Check the [SOARA website](#) to verify locations and times.





**SOARA** meets at the [Norman P. Murray Center](#), 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA on 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, except June. **Exams are at 6pm.** Prior registration is not required and walk-in applicants are welcome. For June, exams are held at Field Day. For further information, email Sean Reigle, AJ6B, at [aj6b@soara.org](mailto: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](mailto: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, or [repeater@soara.org](mailto:repeater@soara.org).

	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 — 445.705 — (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 7:30pm

40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays 8:00 AM.

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



#### **SOARA OFFICERS**

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[kk6wow@soara.org](mailto:kk6wow@soara.org)

**Treasurer:** Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794  
[ag6qv@soara.org](mailto:ag6qv@soara.org)

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[ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org)

#### **SOARA APPOINTMENTS**

**Past President:** Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Activities:** **VACANT**—Please contact us if you are interested.

**S. Saturdays:** Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794  
[ag6qv@soara.org](mailto:ag6qv@soara.org)

**Raffle:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002  
[wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org)

**Testing:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
[aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org)

**Website:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
[aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org)

**Ambassador:** Spencer Ammermon, NG6K *[In England]*  
[ng6k@soara.org](mailto:ng6k@soara.org)  
*Blog*