



THE

February 2015

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

February
23rd, 2015

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

Old Time Radios



All are welcome to the next SOARA General Meeting on February 23 at 7pm at the Norman P Murray center in Mission Viejo. Volunteer testing is at 6pm. This month's speaker is Glenn, WB6RLC. His bio:

I am a native Californian by several generations. I earned an AS degree in electronics technology from Chaffee College in Alta Loma and I received my Novice ticket in 1966 as WN6RLC. After a stint in the USMC, I moved to OC in 1973. I also earned a second class radiotelephone ticket with radar and broadcast endorsements. I worked in marine electronics in Newport Beach repairing marine SSB and VHF radios and at Collins Rockwell in Newport Beach as well. I finished off my career in the electronics R&D lab at Parker Hannifin in Irvine. That's where I met Heiko. I now hold an Amateur Extra license and kept my old call. Every now and then someone gets the "RLC" part. Too cool to part with. I am now serving as president of the Desert RATS Amateur Radio Club of Palm Springs.

I will be talking about vintage Ham radio gear. Stuff from the early 60s to about 1980. Boat Anchors as we call them. And I've had boat anchors that have weighed less. I have a fair collection and will be bringing some samples with me. I will also discuss a bit

about the care, feeding and restoration of these old radios. There are still lots of them on the air. I belong to a group, the Vintage Side Band Roundtable. It meets every Tuesday evening, check-ins start at 6:30pm on about 3.895 MCs (Mega Hertz, for you youngsters). There is lots of support and parts for these old rigs and many are cheaper than you would think. We will discuss much of this at the meeting on Monday evening. See you there!

Thank you, K1N... It was a Blast

By W6Si

Navassa Island DXPedition. We all heard about it, we all wanted to score. But when the island is turned on after three decades of absence, the competition would be fierce.

That's how I felt on the evening of February 4, the first day K1N was expected on the air. Checked out on 20 meter CW band. Wow! I am scanning the band using CW skimmer, and the whole band is literally lighted up. See the picture [on page 4]. This is the actual view of 30 meter band one evening while K1N is on. The tiny thin line at the bottom is K1N's transmission. Every line above is a station calling him. To give you a reference, I'm also showing you how the band looks like when K1N is NOT on [see page 5].

Navassa Island is in the Bahamas, right off the coast of Haiti (which is in territorial dispute of the island with the U.S.). It is not that far a distance, and should be easy to get, was my pre-QRV impression. But their signal was not as strong as I anticipated. That is not

(Continued on page 4)

Update from “Sparky” NG6K

Hello SOARA!

I wanted to give everyone an update on how I am doing up here in Provo, and things are going great! For those that don't know, I left for Brigham Young University in the fall to start off my college experience.

I am an **Electrical Engineering** major right now (big surprise), and I have already started taking some classes that will apply to my major. A big part of the Electrical Engineering degree here is the ability to program. The difference in classes over four years between us (the EE's) and the Computer Engineers differ by about four or five classes, so it is no surprise that I am already in programming classes. I took beginning C++ (CS142) last semester, and I am now on to advanced data structures and algorithms in C++ (CS235). Between programming, calculus, chemistry, religion classes, and piano lessons, I am taking 16 credits of classes this semester, and spend most of my time studying and doing homework for these classes. **I do, however, always manage to find time to make it to the radio room.**



Snow on BYU campus



Tower on top of the Wilkinson Student Center

The radio room here is something still under construction. After receiving a grant from the University, the BYU Amateur Radio Club decided to renovate the shack, which includes all new rigs, HF amplifier, and a new tower and antennas on the roof of the building. On the roof we have a **30 foot tower**, with an 8 element log periodic for 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, and 20m. For 40m and 80m we have inverted v's off of the top of the tower. Height at the top of the tower is about 70 feet. In the shack we have a Yaesu FTdx 1200, Ameritron ALS 1300 amplifier, and various other accessories. The shack is still a work in progress, but I am glad to finally have HF capability again. The BYU ARC also maintains two repeaters, one on VHF, the other on UHF. The VHF repeater has Echolink capability (node #96806), so feel free to connect up any time.

As some of you may know (or guess by the fact that I'm going to an LDS school), I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, more commonly known as the Mormon church. Most of us 19 year old guys choose to serve two year missions, and I have chosen to do so. Before I reveal where I have been called to serve, let me explain how these mission calls are assigned. First off, we do not get to pick where we go. In the application form we get to indicate our desire to learn a foreign language, and that is about it. Our mission call gets sent up to Salt Lake City, where a general leader of the church picks where we will serve. And with that, I have been called to serve in the London, England mission! I report to the missionary training center in England on May 28. Starting on May 28, I will be a full time missionary for the Mormon Church, and my days will be filled with lots of teaching and meeting new people. I am so excited to get to go to the London area! If anyone would like to email me over these two years, my email will be:

spencer.ammermon@myldsmail.net



BYU Amateur Radio Club Shack

I hope I will be able to come to one last meeting before I head off to England. Until then...

73!

-NG6K - Spencer Ammermon



[ARRL
DX-CW](#)
Feb 21-22

[SOARA
Saturday](#)
Feb 28

[Palm
Springs
Hamfest](#)
Mar 14

[Gordon West at
SOARA](#)
March 16

VEC License Exams

6pm—before
the General
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA
Website](#)

From the VP

To our membership:

In another article you will read about our speaker Glenn, from the Desert Rats, who I worked with and have known for many years. His guest appearance on Monday should be very interesting. In March we will have Gordon West as our guest speaker and he is always good.

My real emphasis here is on our up and coming **club elections for directors and replacement officers**. All of our directors, Repeater, Technical, Education, Communications, Publications and Membership will be up.

We will also be voting for replacement officers for the positions of Secretary and Vice-President. The reason for these is that Rick NU6D retired for health reasons, and I am retiring from the position of Vice-President to run for the position of Communications Director. Our current Communications director Spencer NG6K is off to England for two years to fulfill an obligation (see the below badge) and won't be available to the club.

So folks now is a good time to help your club by volunteering to help operate it. At the next board meeting we will propose the nominees from the board and at the March meeting we will ask for nominations from the floor to supplement that. Patti and I have been club members since 1993 and I have been on the board most of that time and I think that it is time for me to slow down a little.

Heiko



Elder Ammermon

Called to serve in the



**England
London
Mission**

Reports in May

NG6K goes to England

SOARA Raffle Update:

The \$5 prize this month is a [YAESU FT-1DR-HD](#). \$1 prizes will also be available. Here are some features of this versatile radio:

- Compact Size
- Rugged Case with Water Protection
- High Power and Long Life Operation
- Illuminated Keyboard
- Real Dual Band Operation (V+V/U+U/V+U)
- Four (4) Communication Modes
- Automatic Mode Selection
- Wideband Receive Coverage
- Built-in GPS
- Micro SD Card Slot
- Improved AM Broadcast Reception





From Membership

SOARA gives a big welcome to our new member:

Roger Hamilton
KK6LZB
Laguna Niguel

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

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR

Membership
Director

Online Application



Thank you, K1N... It was a Blast, By W6Si

(Continued from page 1)

good news, when I'm only 100 Watt and vertical (Yes, it is that mighty [MV Special](#) vertical, and performing flawlessly, but it's no big beam on a high tower).

Knowing K1N is on a beam or a vertical by the water, with 500 Watts, if they are S3 to 5 to me, I must be S1 to 3 to them. Not good in terms of competition. Most of those guys calling him are big guns. And many are in W4 and W5 wall, blocking the West Coast beach boys.

When trying to score a DX station, there are two schools of thought. You carefully observe the station he makes contact, and quickly QSY to his frequency and call the DX there, before he moves on. Well, with that many stations on the air, it is very hard to spot who he actually made contact with, most of the time.

Another line of thought is that you aim at the frequency range where no one is making a call, in the hope that DX station will give up managing the pile and escapes to more sparse area. This can work sometimes, but not very often. But if most everyone else's signal is estimated to be stronger than mine, then that might be the only hope. And so I went. Hour after hour hanging tough in there, hoping to hear back my call sign.

By the way, in case you are new to this, it is almost always true that DX communications are done in a split frequency. You never call the DX on his transmission frequency. The station typically sends "CQ CQ DE K1N UP UP". Unfortunately, several people did not understand "UP" and keep calling on the frequency. This can be pretty embarrassing because unlike DQRM (meaning Deliberate QRM – those folks who gets some kind of satisfaction by transmitting full power carrier wave or repeated dits on DX station's frequency), you are advertising your own call sign for everyone to hear. We don't do that shall we?

Anyway, according to [navassadx.com](#) blog, the pileup started immediately when they got on the air, and continued to be fierce throughout, never let down, for the total of 120,000+ contacts. This is great for them, but it was not working for me. On the first day, I saw the band totally boiling over, and after several hours of trying, I never got a call back. So I said, "Oh, well, give it a rest for a day, and it'll slow down..." No it didn't. It kept going on and on. I did not QRV on a couple of nights since, due to some domestic business, and now there is only a single digit of days left. OK. Let's work this out in the weekend.

But on the weekend of February 8, there were darn contents going on. Not just one. Two. FOC (First Class Operators' Club) contest, which is supposed to be a closed club (invitation

(Continued on page 5)



Figure 1

30meter band when K1N was on the air

(software: [CW Skimmer](#))



Thank you, K1N... It was a Blast, By W6Si

(Continued from page 4)

only) competition that clobbered the bands in a big way. And followed by North American CW Sprint contest. Neither is a major contest, but enough to fill up the band with strong signals, making it very hard to locate K1N. I suppose they could not reschedule the contest to avoid this 12 days period K1N is on the air after 30 year absence?

But the break finally came on Saturday evening (almost Sunday morning), when after so many hundred times calling them, I suddenly hear "W6SI 5NN..." Wow. Is it for real? I didn't know how to deal with it for a second, but managed to send "R R UR 5NN 5NN TU". 5NN? No, he was more like 55N. But I must have been even weaker. But somehow managed to cut through the pileups. So that's it? After the long persistent calling, it's just that. The sense of relief was enormous.

Sunday morning, I could hear them on 12 meter band, but weak (S1~2). I tried to get them but no. I had to go somewhere, so that was that.

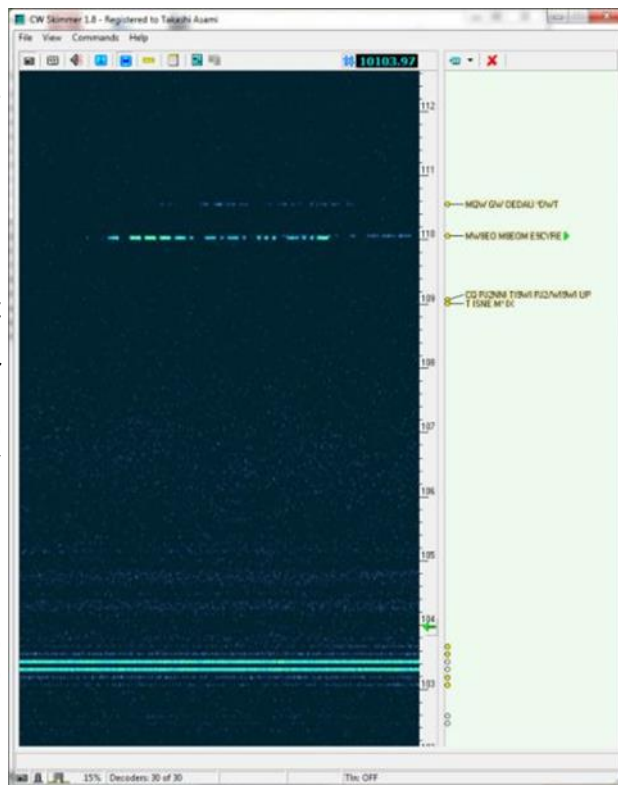
When I came back late afternoon, the 20meter band was happening. K1N was strong. But so were everyone else. I was aiming at the top end of the "swarm", and keep persistent there. That was about 5.5KHz above their calling frequency. Then I detected the change of operator (CW speed went up from 35WPM to 40+), and he sent "CQ de K1N UP 2". So I adjusted my XIT down to 2.1 quickly and called him. The first shot. I got him. That "W6SI 5NN". What a beautiful sound.

So I got on their log on two bands (40m and 20m, both CW). I was still trying to get them on 30meter, but that proved to be tough. I never could get it. Oh well.

BTW, I am using KX3 and KXPA100 combo and my home made vertical. With such a modest set up, trying to compete with SSB is tough. Also it would not be popular with family if I kept yelling at microphone at late night. So I focused on CW. If you would like to work some DX around here, it is highly recommended, at least it'll give you a good fighting chance. And don't need to know a whole lot about copying Morse code. Just need to get a call sign (in case of K1N, we already knew his call sign, so you only need to recognize your own call sign when called).

Well, that fortnight of excitement came and gone. What a blast. Since the W1AW portable station got off the air at the end of last year, I haven't had a good target to shoot at. This one will quench my thirst for a while.

73,
Tak, W6Si



The 30 meter band without K1N.



Steve, K6UVR's
(fka KD6MHL)
Port -a-Vert

"the Port-a-Vert was quite successful 'til the cops kicked me out of the park at 1:30AM..."

Got K1N on 15M using a CB whip of all things, but they disqualified me, thanks to "Pacific" not including someone near the Pacific Coast of CA..."



[ARRL International DX Contest 2015 CW Event is February 21-22](#)

CW, DXing, and contesting come together and go global February 21-22 for the 2015 ARRL International DX CW contest. This HF contest season has seen incredible high-band conditions and record entry numbers, and as it draws to a close, this is a terrific opportunity to get on the air and get in on the fun. It's the US and Canada working the world in this event.

If you have never operated in a CW contest, the event's short and simple exchange combined with abundant stations on the air makes it an ideal opportunity to try something new. Participating in the ARRL DX CW is a fantastic way to hone your CW operating skills and expand your knowledge of HF propagation. DX stations around the world will be looking to work US and Canadian stations, so don't miss this chance to put a "new one" in your log...

ARRL Shorts

[FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Now in Effect](#)

Starting today, February 17, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission maintains that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week...

[ARRL Field Day 2015 Field Day Packet Now Online](#)

The complete 2015 ARRL Field Day packet is now online. There are no rule changes for 2015. Field Day 2015 takes place June 27-28.

"Following a successful Centennial QSO Party with on-the-air activity at an all-time high, we are very excited for this year's event and hope that individuals and clubs will carry their enthusiasm over to Field Day," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations...

["Gray Radio Gang" Reactivates Vintage Battleship Iowa HF Transmitter](#)

It's a massive project on a number of levels, but the so-called "Gray Radio Gang" that's been working to restore some of the vintage US Navy radio gear onboard the Battleship Iowa (BB-61), docked in Los Angeles, recently fired up one of the vessel's transmitters for the first time in about 25 years. Restoration team member Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA, recounted on his "Every Blade of Grass" blog how the group was finally able to get 950 W into a dummy antenna from one transmitter on 20 meters.

"We still have quite a way to go before we attempt to put one [transmitter] on the air, but the results were quite encouraging for at transmitter that was last powered up sometime in 1990," Jerzycke said in his blog. "BB-61 should be on the air later this year with a big voice!"

He told ARRL that, once the transmitter — or transmitters — are deemed operational, they probably would not be used for routine Amateur Radio work. The Iowa already has a ham radio station, NI6BB, under the auspices of the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA), an ARRL-affiliated club. BIARA's president is Doug Dowds, W6HB. NI6BB has more modern gear but makes use of the ship's own antennas.

The BIARA is active from the Iowa most Wednesdays and for many national holidays, such as Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Memorial Day, and for operating events such as the Museum Ships Weekend and International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. The station also has hosted Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) groups each fall.

[RadioShack's Long, Slow Downward Slide Nears the End](#)

...The nearly century-old Fort Worth, Texas, based retailer — once a go-to shop for electronic components and, at one point, even Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers — has lost 90 percent of its value over the past year, despite efforts to refinance and modernize its stores...



A vending machine in the EE department (BYU) that sells all sorts of small components

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	TBD	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	At Field Day	20	17	21	19	16	—
Educational Classes (Starts)												
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	31	28	21	25	23	20	25	22	26	24	21	—
SOARA T-Hunt	11	8	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13
Board Meeting	Feb 2	Mar 2	23	27	Jun 1	22	27	24	28	26	23	—
Special Events	Quartzfest 18-24	Yuma Hamfest 20-21	Palm Springs Hamfest 14	Visalia Intl DX 17-19	Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17	ARRL Field Day 26-28		SOARA Picnic 2	ARRL SW Division 11-13	JOTA TBD		SOARA Holiday Party 6
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 21-22 CQWPX RTTY 14-15	ARRL DX-SSB 7-8 CQWPX SSB 28-29		CQWPX CW 30-31	ARRL Field Day 26-28			CQWW RTTY TBD	CQWW SSB 24-25	CQWW CW 28-29	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 24	Paws Fur Pink 14 OC Chili Run 21	OC Chili Run 14 Baker to Vegas 28-29	Vision Quest TBD	HD Trails TBD OC Mara- -thon 3 Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- -thon 25	ARRL Field Day 26-28	4th of July Fire -works				Stache Dash TBD	

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



Y mountain behind BYU campus
covered in snow

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, or 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
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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