



THE

April 2015

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

IN THIS ISSUE

ILL Weekend	1
S. Saturday	1
Silent Key KO6SY	2
T-Hunt News	2
SOARA Election Results	3
Raffle News	3
Akihabara (Japan) W6Si	4
High Desert Trails	6
Membership	6
S. Saturday	6
Field Day	7
Calendar	8
SOARA Info	9

Meeting

April 20th,
2015

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

Lighthouses & Lightships

Please join us on Monday, April 20th at 7pm at the Norman P Murray Center in Mission Viejo for our next general meeting.

You might be surprised to find the world's nearly 15,500 lighthouses and 2.6 million+ amateur radio operators have many things in common. Amateur radio fittingly celebrates International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend every August to promote awareness of these structures' unique architectures, local histories, and preservation needs while furthering amateur radio's public service and international goodwill.

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, will speak on "Amateur Radio's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend"—a presentation based on her 50+ year interest in lighthouses and the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club's annual ILLW participation at Point Vicente Lighthouse in Rancho Palos Verdes. Her presentation also covers ILLW from a global perspective and the future for lighthouses in the United States, in addition to worldwide commonalities between ham radio operators and lighthouses.

Currently serving her fourth term as president of the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club, Diana is also Chair of HAMCON 2015, the 2015 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention that returns to the Torrance Marriott Hotel on Sept. 11-13, 2015.

Diana's HF amateur radio interests include DXing and contesting using simple indoor wire dipole antennas (95 countries worked in past 12 months), participating in the PVARC's annual "Islands On The Air" DXpeditions to Santa Catalina Island, and ARRL Field Day. She is also very active with amateur radio emergency communication through the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service, several local agencies, and

numerous public service events including the Los Angeles Marathon and Palos Verdes Half Marathon. She found time for all these activities after retiring early following 24 years in various managerial and executive positions spanning planning and finance functions at three large consumer products firms.

SOARA Saturday

Join us for SOARA Saturday 04/25 at the Murray center!

Besides the usual general Ham radio topics / free-flow conversation, the topic of SDRs (Software Defined Radios) has proven to have some interest. Ed, KK6PUB and others will be on-hand with some goodies for practical demonstration of how simple it is to listen to the world using an inexpensive 'dongle' and simple supporting hardware on a standard PC. If you've never tried using one as a panadapter / rig control station for HF 'hunt and pounce', you'll fall in love almost immediately! Many software packages exist on all popular platforms, including Raspberry Pi, Linux/Windows/Mac PC's, and some even have standalone front ends. The technology is past its infancy, and choices abound for solutions from thrifty to opulent! We'll see you there: same bat-time (~9A-Noon), same bat-channel (Hibiscus room A)!

Photo caption: Steve, WA6DUN's screen as he uses his Fun-Cube Pro+ dongle and HSDR with Omnirig to control his TS-590.



Silent Key—Malcolm Levy, KO6SY

SOARA is very sad to report that Malcolm Levy, KO6SY, a long-time SOARA member, past Vice President, Auctioneer & presenter, has passed away.

Dear Friends & Family,

It is with great sadness that I am to inform everyone that we lost a great man, friend, colleague, and father today. Malcolm Levy passed away peacefully this morning [4/17] in his home with his wife and children by his side. A "Celebration of Life" will be held sometime within the next few weeks in lieu of a service. *[see below for details]*

Malcolm was a great man and I know he has touched many people's lives. The amount of love and support we have received from all of you over the past couple of days is truly immense. When I was last able to speak with him I asked him what he would like me to post on his blog and he said "Tell everyone it was great getting to know them".

We ask that in lieu of sending flowers, you might consider making a tribute donation to the American Brain Tumor Association, you can find more information about how to do that here: <http://www.abta.org/donate/>

Thanks again for everyone's support during these difficult times.

With Love,

Jordan, Sara, Cindy, Robert, & Jenee

Who: Celebration of life for Malcolm Levy

Where: 1615 Fairway Drive, Beaumont CA 92223. Please GPS this address as it is a gated community. Please tell the gate keepers you are with Malcolm's celebration of life.

When: 11-1:30PM on Saturday, May 9th

Please RSVP to saralevy64@gmail.com before May 1st and indicate if you will be bringing a +1

T-Hunt Report

Last month's hunt (March 8) was a little harder than I had planned. I figured that it would only take the first hunter about forty-five minutes to an hour to find us. I was sadly (not really) mistaken. Alan (KK6EMC) and I hid in San Clemente on a cul-de-sac at the end of Avenida Columbo (see below), just off Salvador. This location overlooks Vista Montana and a deep canyon. With the beam pointing just to the right of Saddleback and running about a watt, I figured the hunters, most of which start at Gilleran Park, would be able to get a good bearing. One of the things I have noticed about hiding the transmitter on the backside of San Clemente is that you get a good bearing at some places that makes you think the transmitter is out the Ortega. It has happened to me, and today, it appears that Richard (K6RBS) verified that. He even went so far as to drive out the Ortega to the county line to ensure I was not hiding out there somewhere.

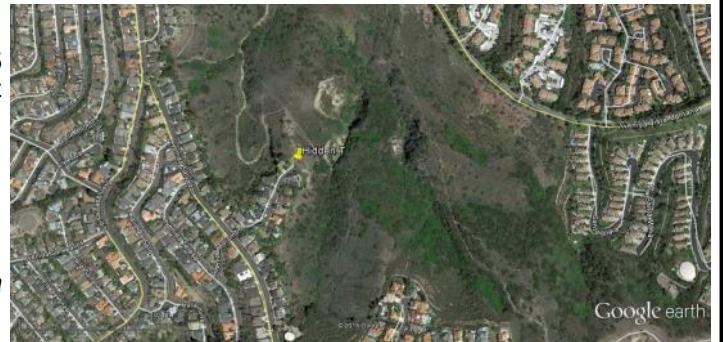
Anyway, the first hunter to find us was Dale (W8RRV) after an hour and a half. Karl (KF6MDF) needed assistance from Dale to find us. Richard (K6RBS) and Mike (NM6X) were hunting us in separate vehicles, hoping to triangulate and get a good location on us. You can ask them how that worked out, if you dare. Mike had to drop out, leaving Richard to hunt on his own. It was getting rather late in the afternoon so I called Richard and asked if he needed help. Turns out that he was in the area but had not located us. He decided to take the offer and after giving him our location, he showed up soon after, accepting the intense questioning of why he had trouble locating us. Turns out that my choice of hiding places wasn't so bad after all.

The next hunt will be May 10th. Hunt frequency is 146.565 MHz and coordination will be on the SOARA 447.180 MHz repeater. Hunt starts at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you out there.

73's,

Gray WA6BJY

[There was also a hunt on April 12, but we did not receive a report for publishing as of yet]





SOARA
Saturday
Apr 25

High Desert
Trails
May 2

OC Marathon
May 3
Volunteers
Needed

ARRL Field Day
June 26-28

VEC License Exams

6pm—before
the General
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |
Technician
Exams

[SOARA](#)
[Website](#)

SOARA Election Results (Directors)

SOARA Elections - 92 / 198 (46 %) votes cast		
Candidate Name	Call Sign	Votes
Repeater		
Brian Roode	NJ6N	89
---- Abstain ----		3
Publications		
Mike Mahan	K6MSM	89
---- Abstain ----		3
Membership		
Ed Barnes	KK6PUB	89
---- Abstain ----		3
Education		
Steve Kuver	K6UVR	89
---- Abstain ----		3
Technical		
Tom Hobbs	AE6SH	86
---- Abstain ----		6
Communications		
Heiko Peschel	AD6OI	87
---- Abstain ----		5

The SOARA elections are closed. Thank you for all who voted. The following have been elected to their respective positions. They will assume their new posts in May. Please give them their support in their new positions. Also, Lambert Matias, KK6WOW, was appointed as interim replacement Secretary at the last board meeting, replacing Rick, NU6D who had to resign last fall.

Brian Roode, NJ6N, Repeater Director
Mike Mahan, K6MSM, Publications Director
Ed Barnes, KK6PUB, Membership Director
Steve Kuver, K6UVR, Education Director
Tom Hobbs, AE6SH, Technical Director
Heiko Peschel, AD6OI, Communications Director

SOARA Raffle Update:

The \$5 prizes last month were TWO [YAESU FT-1DR's](#). We want to thank Chris, N0CSW and Yaesu for their very generous donation of the second radio to go along with the one we were already raffling.

Pictured to the right are the proud winners of the radios: Gayle, W9GCG and Jaime, KJ6YOG

Please join us this month for the exciting next edition of the \$5 and \$1 raffle.





The K7RA Solar Update

Solar activity increased this week. Average daily sunspot numbers increased from 50.1 last week (April 2-8) to 65.6 in the recent (April 9-15) period. Average daily solar flux rose from 118.4 to 132.5. Geomagnetic indexes also increased.

The latest prediction shows solar flux at 150 on April 17, 155 on April 18-20, 160 on April 21-24, 115 on April 25-26, then 120, 125 and 130 on April 27-29, 125 on April 30 through May 5, 130 on May 6, 135 on May 7-11, and 130 on May 12-14.

Predicted planetary A index is 15 on April 16, 8 on April 17-20, 5 on April 21-22, 8 on April 23-24, 10 on April 25, 8 on April 26-28, then 12, 18 and 12 on April 29 through May 1, 8 on May 2-9, 5 on May 10-12, then 15, 20 and 12 on May 13-15, and 8 on May 16-21.

Akihabara 2015: The Root of My Electronic Hobby

By W6Si, April 13, 2015

I just came back from a trip to Japan. I stayed there for a couple of weeks, and had an opportunity to pay pilgrimage to my old root of electronic hobby, the famous town of Akihabara. I was staying in Fujisawa City, a southern neighbor of Tokyo, at about 1 hour of train ride away. Back in my high school days, I lived in Yokohama, which was about 40 minutes away from Akihabara, I kept going back there at least once a month for parts and junk, sometimes just to feel the air there. I knew every front and back street, every little shop and what they sell. Alas, that was more than 40 years ago, and many of those little shops are gone, and the town is taken over by the weird people of Lolita fans and video game junkies. But some are still alive today, and it's good to know that.



The town is spread primarily to western side of Akihabara train station, which is uniquely cross shaped. Once getting off on western exit, there is Radio Store, alongside Sobu line train track, a two story barrack housing all sorts of parts and equipment from resistors / capacitors to professional spectrum analyzers, power tools, etc. Inside there is Yamamoto Musen, a ham radio retailer (they specialized in V/UHF equipment). Walking across Chuo Street, you'll find Rocket Musen, my favorite ham radio shop that's been there as long as I know. They have all lines of radio equipment and antennas, HF to UHF, but also known for their house brand antenna hardware (specialized U-bolts, boom bracket plate, roof towers, mast support for balcony fence, etc.) and loop antennas (click here). Sorry, they don't ship overseas. I asked.

Across the street is Radio Center, a four story building with a bunch of component / kit wholesale and retailers. They have everything from RC's, semiconductors, batteries, transformers, cabinets and hardware materials, test equipment, tools, etc., etc. You can spend whole day there. A little out of the way to the north side of the train track, there is Fuji Musen, another old ham radio retailer. As far as I know these are the only three shops that sell ham radio gear. Of course, US hams do not want to buy a radio there, as Japanese ham bands are somewhat narrower than US bands.



Aside from ham radio, you can still find all sorts of things electronics here. There are several back street junk stores and little parts shops to explore, among big retailers. The town is not an exclusive electronic retailer town as

(Continued on page 5)

Akihabara 2015: The Root of My Electronic Hobby

(Continued from page 4)

it once was, but you can still find bargains here. I got me a Hi Res audio Walkman (~\$240 at Amazon) for about \$180 (duty free, thanks to cheaper yen), and bought extra 32GB SD card to add for another \$20.

I am from Yokohama, about 40km south of Tokyo. And this side of Akihabara, I knew a few ham places in town. So I decided to visit there, too. Alas, many of those places did not survive all these time. The shocker was that one of the largest shops, Hamer's, shut down recently. They still have a web site up, so I never expected them to be gone. They still seem to manufacture linear amplifier and beam antennas, but no more retail shop. Bummer.

But then I located another shop in south end of Yokohama at Yokodai, not far from where I was staying, called Kanagawa Ham Center. It's a little individually owned shop, and I befriended the owner, Masa, JJ1BRB. He used to build and sell UHF Swiss-Quad antenna (it's a unique phased array of quad loop with a great gain and f/b ratio, but has a fairly complex shape). Unfortunately, he said the cost of custom material became too high and burdensome, he is no longer making it. I saw the store demo unit there, but I could not get one.

The JA ham population has dwindled a bit since its peak back around 2000, but it's still #2 in number of licensed operators. How many of them are on the air, is unknown, and Masa said many of them are on V/UHF and few come down to HF. That's too bad. I contacted several competent JA operators on HF on the air, but they are all 50's and 60's years old. I hope the younger generation will catch on. For that, I think what SOARA is doing, to recruit and Elmer younger hams, is great. Keep this wonderful hobby alive.



[For a map of Akihabara and for additional (larger) pictures, please visit Tak's website at: <http://w6si.com/blog-005.html>]



Inside "Rocket" Store



Tak, W6Si with Masa, JJ1BRB at Kanagawa Ham Center



From Membership

Our club is now reduced to 200 Members after the 'Reset' when the 'dues deadline' was passed. What's remarkable, is that the membership didn't go below 200 this time, at the drop, a first in the club history. Heiko did an excellent job to reach this result by reminding almost every member, who hadn't paid yet with personal e-mails and phone calls. Looks like HAM Radio is still interesting, hope it isn't only for Emergency Communications.

'Inactive Members' are reminded, that they can rejoin the club within 2 Years by paying the yearly membership dues, without paying the initiation fee again.

Horst Zitzmann,
KD7JHR

Membership
Director

High Desert Trails Rally

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015

It's Rally time again! We are looking for hams to handle communications on the stages for the High Desert Trails Rally on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015. If you are unfamiliar with rally, this event is a car race, with vehicles competing against the clock (and not head-to-head). At a rally, the communications team keeps track of the race vehicles as they pass each location, which in some cases also involves physically blocking a side road with your vehicle. Hams with experience at marathons or time trial events might be familiar with this type of assignment.

Although the rally is headquartered in Ridgecrest, the stages are located on public dirt roads between the Jawbone Station/OHV area and Lake Isabella. These roads are closed for our use via a special events permit from Kern County. We utilize over 50 miles of roads, and that means we need tons of volunteers. So far, we only have about 25 of the 60-70 hams we will need to safely run this year's event. A full day commitment would be appreciated (7AM - 7PM), but a partial day commitment (7AM - 4PM) would also be helpful. All communications locations are accessible by 2-wheel drive vehicles (the organizers have driven the entire course in their Honda Fit!).



If you live nearby, a trip to Ridgecrest is not necessary for registration, although we would be more than happy to see you in town! Instead, you can meet up with your team captain at a designated location on Saturday morning. There is a reserved block of rooms at the SpringHill Suites Marriott in Ridgecrest, although other accommodations including free camping is available (see the website for details). We provide

(Continued on page 7)



SOARA Saturday Pics

Here are a couple pictures from last month's SOARA Saturday event which included a show-and-tell, by Mikkel, NR6E, with a dream mobile setup (in/on his Hummer). Please join us for the next event! (see front page for details.)





Mark your calendar! Our biggest event of the year, Field Day, is coming up in just over 3 short months. **Field Day 2015 is June 26-28**, officially beginning at 11am Saturday. We will need volunteers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. Please come out and join the fun! ARRL Objective - To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.



High Desert Trails Rally

(Continued from page 6)

all volunteers with an event t-shirt, offer communications-only raffle prizes, and lunch and waters are delivered to you on the stages. Everyone is also invited to the Awards Dinner at Casey's Steaks and BBQ in Ridgecrest for the post-rally celebration.

Along with at least a 2 meter mobile rig and some clothing for weather, be prepared with your camera to take lots of pictures of the beautiful high desert. This event is a great opportunity for hams, new and experienced alike, to utilize your amateur radio equipment and skills. You are a highly prized commodity at our rally!

If you can help or have any questions, please contact Kris, KI6IUC, or Christine, KI6IUE, Marciniak - email: rally@highdeserttrails.com

For more information and to sign up, please visit our website: <http://highdeserttrails.com/volunteers/>

73, Kris & Christine Marciniak
Organizers, High Desert Trails Rally

More About High Desert Trails

Kicking off its 8th consecutive run, the High Desert Trails Rally has been a part of rally in Southern California since 1973. On dirt roads Southwest of Ridgecrest and North of the Jawbone Canyon Station, the rally takes competitors through fast and flowing valleys and tight and twisty forest sections in the beautiful high desert on county roads. Competitors will tackle over 100 miles of racing flat out.

The High Desert Trails Rally is a performance time trial event. Rally Racing is a motorsport where a driver and navigator (co-driver) race down closed dirt roads, one car at a time, as fast as they can. The cars race against the clock, and not head-to-head. The racing sections are called Special Stages and closed to all non-rally traffic. The vehicles stay on the road and do not go "off-road" into the desert. When not racing on the closed stages, the cars transit with normal traffic.

The cars are specially equipped production based models (Example: Volkswagen Golf, Dodge Neon, Subaru Impreza) and not buggies or tube chassis vehicles. They are all licensed, registered, and insured to drive on public roads. They have roll cages and safety features added along with heavy duty suspension and tires. We invite you to check them out on Friday night between 6:30PM - 7:30PM May 1st in Ridgecrest: Spectator info - <http://highdeserttrails.com/spectators>

The rally utilizes hundreds of volunteers to help with communications, timing, and controls. Working a rally is a rewarding challenge that's a lot of fun! This is the best way to see the event up close and get to interact with the drivers and co-drivers. Plan to spend a day outside, and plan to drive your vehicle over smooth dirt roads. We like to provide our workers with goodies like T-Shirts, lunch, waters, and giveaways. Your help is always appreciated by the competitors. Sign up at - <http://highdeserttrails.com/volunteers>

Approximately thirty teams will take the challenge of the High Desert Trails this year. This event kicks off the 2015 California Rally Series Championship. Supporting rally events all over the Southwest, the CRS is celebrating its 41th season! More info - <http://www.californiarallyseries.com>

High Desert Trails is also proud to be sanctioned by NASA Rally Sport (NRS), an organization focused on competitor fun and providing support for rally organizers nationwide. Providing tools to the racers, organizers, and fans to increase their enjoyment of rally is one of the core missions of the organization. - <http://nasarallysport.com>

For more information, check out - <http://highdeserttrails.com>

8 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	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 Int'l DX 17-19	Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17	ARRL Field Day 26-28		SOARA Picnic 2	ARRL SW Division 11-13	JOTA 16-18		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	Ride for Rwanda 25	HD Trails 2 OC Mara- -thon 3 Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- -thon 25	ARRL Field Day 26-28	4th of July Fire -works			Vision Quest 24	Stache Dash TBD	

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



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 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

President: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org

V.P. Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org

Secretary: Lambert Matias, KK6WOW 312-545-2270
kk6wow@soara.org

Treasurer: Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794
ag6qv@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

Repeater: Howard Brown, KG6GI 949-581-2634
kg6gi@soara.org

Publications: Mike Mahan, K6MSM. 949-279-9936
k6msm@soara.org

Membership: Horst Zitzmann, KD7JHR 949-768-8552
kd7jhr@soara.org

Education: Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717
aj6b@soara.org

Technical: Brian Roode, NJ6N 949-495-5336
nj6n@soara.org

Communications: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
949-606-6249
ng6k@soara.org

SOARA COMMITTEES

Activities: Pierrette Rizco, K6PTR. 949-235-2546
k6ptr@soara.org

Testing: Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717
aj6b@soara.org

Website: Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717
aj6b@soara.org

Ambassador: Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868
ad6oi@soara.org

Saturdays: Frank Kromann, AG6QV 949-702-1794
ag6qv@soara.org

