



PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

August 17th,
2015

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

Working Amateur Satellites With Your HT

Clint Bradford, K6LCS, will be presenting his 'Working Amateur Satellites With Your HT' session at the August 17, 2015 meeting of SOARA - the South Orange County (CA) Radio Association. Visitors are WELCOME to attend!



Clint has been on the Bob Heil and Gordon West "Ham Nation" mediacast a couple times - once covering the project he orchestrated in Jurupa Valley enabling students to interview astronaut Don Pettit who was aboard the International Space Station at the time.

Professionally, he was sales manager for ADI / Premier Communications / Pryme, worked for a Motorola commercial two-way dealer a couple of years, and for Ham Radio Outlet a couple more. He resides in Jurupa Valley with his wife, Karen, a couple of cats, and their rescued lab, Freja.

Keep Your Powder Dry

This is what Oliver Cromwell, at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, is supposed to have told his Roundhead troops in that opening fight of the English civil war.

What on earth does this have to do with we hams and SOARA members in 2015, you may ask? Well, it is of course, an admonition to be ready for anything and to be able to return fire, blazing away at the enemy. Something that would be impossible to have done had Cromwell's troops, with their muzzle loading guns, allowed their gunpowder to become damp, and therefore useless.

According to Climatologists, and the National Weather Service, NOAA, our Pacific ocean temperatures are rising as a very strong El Niño current is spreading northward along our coast. NOAA predicts that our ocean Temperatures are possible going to be nearly 2 degrees C., or nearly 4 degrees F. above normal, making this season potentially one of the strongest El Niños since records of the phenomenon were kept starting in 1950.

As you probably know, a strong El Niño brings along with it, a very great potential increase in

(Continued on page 4)

Between the material presented, the free downloads available on the support Work-Sat.com Web site, and the always-lively Q&A afterward, attendees will be provided with all the information they will need to work FM amateur satellites - and more.

7:30PM Pacific Monday, August 17, 2015 Norman P Murray Community Center 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo CA 92692 Talk-in available on the SOARA Temple Hill 2-meter repeater: 147.645- 110.9

Clint welcomes pre-presentation questions - send email to: k6lcs@ham-sat.info

Clint's Bio

Clint Bradford K6LCS has performed his "How to Work the Amateur Satellites With Your HT" presentation almost 80 times the past few years to clubs and hamfests not only in Southern California, but also to clubs across North America via EchoLink and Skype conferences.



- SOARA Saturday**
 Aug 22
- Hamcon**
 Sept 11-13
 (see page 3)
- SOARA Fair**
 Sept. 21
- SC Prep Expo**
 Oct. 17
 (see page 6)

- VEC License Exams**
- 6pm—before the General Meeting
- Please see our [website](#) for more info.
- Walk-ins ok.
- Extra | General | Technician Exams

From Membership

What adds value to your SOARA membership?

Let me know what you value from your SOARA membership. I find the SOARA Saturdays valuable. I typically learn something at each meeting. The coffee and donuts are nice too. I like the interesting presentations at the meetings. The repeaters are a valuable resource. And, the Propagator is a good read too! (plug for Mike's efforts)

Membership

We now have 248 active members. This is up 35 members from our July report! We gained five members from our 7/20 meeting and twenty four from field day. Please let me know when you receive your call sign and I will update the roster.

(Continued on page 5)

8th Annual South County Disaster Preparedness Expo

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett will be hosting the 8th Annual South County Disaster Preparedness Expo, being held again this year in conjunction with the City of Mission Viejo's "Walk Against Drugs". The Expo will take place on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 am until noon at the Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo.

You are being included in this email because your department or organization has participated in the past in this important, impactful and fun community event. We hope you will save the date and participate again. The preliminary flyer is attached.

More information will follow, including a participation form, but please let us know by return email if you plan to have a booth again this year.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like more information. [also see page 6]



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SOARA Raffle

Hal Silverman

The \$5 raffle is a Kenwood TH-F6A Tri-band hand held radio. We will need to see 64 to 66 tickets to raffle it off in August. The \$1 dollar raffle will consist of an MFJ speaker, and MFJ set of headphones, a pocket repeater directory, one of Heiko's baseball hats and one prize from Harbor Freight.

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





HAMCON 2015

The ARRL 2015 Southwestern Division Convention returns to the Los Angeles area and explores Amateur Radio's second century.

September 11-13, 2015

Explore, learn, and meet amateur radio's future

See what's new under the Sun at the largest ham radio convention in the Southwestern United States:

Four program tracks looking at the future

- Emergency Communication
- DXing and Long-Distance Communication
- Technical Topics
- Topics for New Hams

Win ham radio prizes

Every paid registered attendee receives four free door prize tickets and has an equal chance to win—no tickets will be sold.

65-booth Vendor/Exhibitor Hall

See and purchase the latest in ham radio equipment, speak directly with many manufacturers and retailers.

MEET
FELLOW HAMS
FROM ACROSS THE
SOUTHWEST.

Early-bird registrations get free patch or pin with distinctive convention logo, shown above.

Other things you can do at HAMCON 2015:

Operate ARRL station W1AW/6, participate in a "Fox Hunt," get initiated in the ARRL Wouff Hong, inspect emergency communication vehicles of area government-affiliated amateurradio groups, ARRL QSL checking, get licensed or upgrade at VE session.

Visit <http://www.hamconinc.org/> to register online, download a registration form, make special-rate hotel reservations, or get updated convention program information. Early-bird registration ends August 1, 2015.

HOTEL INFORMATION



The Torrance Marriott South Bay Hotel

3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503

Our convention site is one of the area's top hotels. A special discounted \$119 per night rate (including free in-room high-speed internet and discounted \$5 per night parking) is available to HAMCON 2015 attendees. Online reservations at this special rate can only be made through Marriott's link on HAMCON's website, www.hamconinc.org then click on Hotel Reservations in the Main Menu. Or call Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 and say, "HAMCON Convention." Act now: This special rate is only available for reservations made by Aug. 15, 2015.



From the Communications Director

In my time as an Amateur radio operator I have picked up a few things here and there, some of which I would like to share with you. Don't be shy, there are very few people out in radioland who do not have your best interests at heart.

Always be courteous even if the other person is not. If you can help someone with less experience please do so. Elmering is an important part of Amateur radio.

When you run into an other operator who uses foul language, demeans you, or otherwise tries to aggravate you, change to another frequency. We (SOARA) have repeaters on several bands and modes so there is always someplace to go. If all else fails turn off your radio. Life is too short to listen to idiots. Be kind to other radio operators and leave a break in your conversation every few "overs". There are many "chatty Kathys" out there who can use a reminder every once in a while.

When using repeaters, use the local one first and save the high level ones for when needed. Remember - simplex works. Establish a simplex frequency where you can meet, such as National simplex 146.520, Gordo simplex 144.330, Captain Billy's secret frequency 144.350, SOARA lower simplex 144.375, or any other simplex frequency that you can agree on.

Check the [TASMA band plan](#) for more information. In a pinch you can use the output of a repeater, but unless you are really close to one another the repeater will win. It is important to remember that any government issued license is a privilege and not a right, and that we are a service and not just a hobby.

There are many more things to say but until next time....

From your Communications Director, Heiko, AD6OI



(Continued from page 1) - Keep Your Powder Dry (President's Message)

rainfall. This year's El Niño has been called by some climatologists "The Godzilla of El Niño's". It's that strong, and has the potential of greatly increased amounts of rainfall. This, if it does occur, will likely help alleviate out severe drought conditions. This is a good thing, but it carries with it greatly increased risks of damaging flash flooding, mudslides, beach and stream erosion, sewer and storm drain overload, and serious other associated damage. Does anyone remember the last great catastrophic El Niños of 1982-83 or more recently, 1997-98? We experienced lots of problems here in Orange County, especially the foothills, during the latter one. Emcom groups were activated, and Hams were called upon to augment communications, perform damage assessment, and were posted to watch critical streams, bridges and other infrastructure in several areas.

So with the potential of this being a challenging El Nino winter, we should all review our equipment, and if members of Emcom. groups, keep your Go Bags packed, vehicles fueled, handheld radio batteries fully charged, and all the other recommended preparedness procedures. If you don't currently belong to an Emcom group, you may want to consider joining one, but do so early so you can become trained and familiar with their procedures prior to the rains starting. In other words: be prepared, or figuratively, "Keep your powder dry".

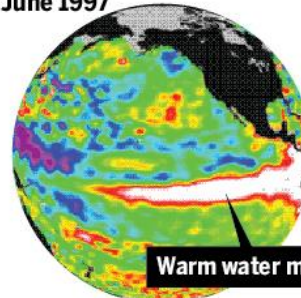
For more scientific information on the predictions for this year's El Niño you might want to visit NOAA's website: www.climate.gov

73 de Ray, AE6H

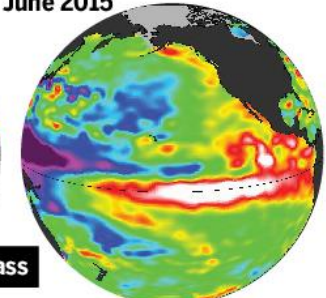
El Niño growing

Although the trend could change in coming months, warming waters in the Pacific Ocean could bring soaking winter storms – as they did in the 1997-98 rainy season.

June 1997



June 2015



Warm water mass

Source: NASA; Jet Propulsion Laboratory

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP



From the VP:

Don't forget about fire season is upon us - be prepared.

Next month is the SOARA member fair, if you would like to be subject expert and "man a booth", contact me.: aj6b@soara.org

Make sure to add Sunday, December 6 to your calendar for the SOARA holiday party

and Hamcon is on Sept 11-13.

73

de

Sean, AJ6B

Upcoming Educational Classes:

We have the Lantana room at Norman Murray Center from 8AM-5PM on the following dates:

09/19, 10/10, 11/14

Please contact me with suggestions.

-Steve, K6UVR,

Education Director
(k6uivr@soara.org)

(Continued from page 2) From Membership

SOARA gives a big welcome to our new members:

Location	Last	First	Callsign
7/20 meeting	Tiao	David	KK6VQG
7/20 meeting	Menke	Tom	KK6UMB
7/20 meeting	Handal	Fred	KK6VSZ
7/20 meeting	Parker	Darlene	
7/20 meeting	Vaughn	Jeff	KK6SIV
Field Day	Bovie	Adam	KK6VGW
Field Day	Barner	Mark	AI6CG
Field Day	Ryerson	Bernie	
Field Day	Linnes	Bobby	KD6IOW
Field Day	Bell	Michael	KE6DNO
Field Day	Capel	John	KF6QPC
Field Day	Hahn	Robert	KI6COO
Field Day	Canepa	Patricia	KJ6RTO
Field Day	Bradford	Milton	KK6BCU
Field Day	Fraterrigo	Roland	KK6CML
Field Day	Korff	Kevin	KK6CUR
Field Day	Castleton	Stephen	KK6NMW
Field Day	Meredith	Rick	KK6QVR
Field Day	Huang	Jimmy	KK6TTL
Field Day	Carr	David	KK6TTM
Field Day	Clark	LouAnn	KK6UZE
Field Day	Wresch	Erik	KK6UZS
Field Day	Altneu	Neil	N2URI
Field Day	Ferguson	Corey	N6UAL
Field Day	Ferguson	Barbara	KB6WPX
Field Day	Sylvestri	Rich	N6WPX
Field Day	Quiroz	Rudy	KK6VNG
Field Day	Greenberg	Phillip	W6SOI
Field Day	Greenberg	Jan	KC6KRB

Badges

If you need a new badge just email membership@soara.org. 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 runway.

Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual

If you haven't already, come to our next meeting and get your membership guide and manual. This is revision 7.0.

I look forward to seeing you at meetings, club events, SOARA Saturday's, and hearing you on the radio and the nets. Have fun with amateur radio. I find it a continuous learning experience. I have been ill for a few weeks. So, I have had no time to work on the links reference document for new members. I will work on it once I'm better.

73,
Ed Barnes, KK6PUB
Membership Director

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 8TH ANNUAL
**SOUTH COUNTY
 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
 EXPO**

Save the
Date

HOSTED BY
OC SUPERVISOR LISA BARTLETT

*Earthquakes, Wildfires, Floods, Tsunami:
 Prepare your family and home for when disaster strikes!*

The Expo Will Feature:

Informative Presentations ■ Emergency Response Vehicle/Equipment Displays
 Interactive Vendor Booths ■ Disaster Preparedness Kits ■ Earthquake Simulator (Quake Cottage)
 Fun Activities for All Ages ■ Food ■ Giveaways!

**Please confirm your participation to have your organization
 included in the final event flyer**

The Expo is free and open to the public and will begin at the conclusion of
 the City of Mission Viejo's "Walk Against Drugs."

Saturday, October 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Village Green at the
 Norman P. Murray Community & Senior Center
 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

For more information, please email carolyn.mcinerney@ocgov.com



IARU/NCDXF DX Beacon Now online at W6SI.com

<http://w6si.com/beacontop.html>

This is an actual record of monitoring beacon signals all over the world to see what area / what time can be heard. One can use it to get an idea / analyze trends / set expectations on working DX's. There hasn't been one such data available for this locale. The monitor station (my shack) is of a modest setup, with an omni directional antenna, nothing too fancy, so it should serve as the reference level setup.

As of now, the past year's (Sept 2014 ~ Aug 2015) daily listening chart from Mission Viejo area is available. New daily data is added (well may be updated every few days) and more past data will be added.

Hope this is a useful information for all local amateur radio community.

de W6SI

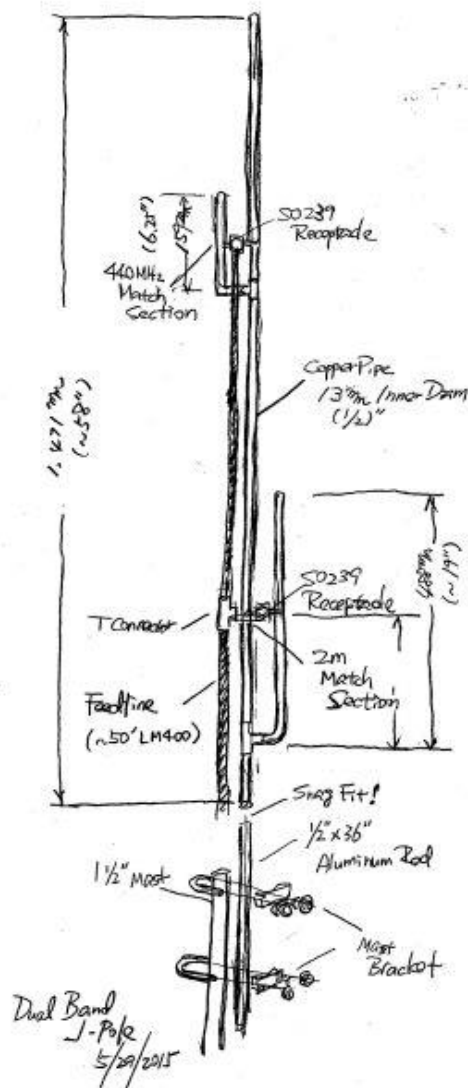
Raising a Copper Pipe J-Pole Antenna

There is nothing novel or unique about a J-Pole antenna. But after a minor emergency here at W6SI, I had to lift my lazy buns to raise a new V/UHF antenna. This is a practical talk about that experience, and it would be great if any of this helps someone doing something similar.

Recently, my faithful V/UHF booster amplifier of the past 10+ years died, and since I was using it with my HT to reach my local repeaters from home, I thought I was into an unscheduled major expense...

For V/UHF communication, I have been using a discone antenna that I picked up at a junk store long time ago. It was mounted on a chimney of the house. It had a very broad bandwidth, but I never knew how well it is radiating. I was thinking about replacing that antenna for some time, if just for trying out something different. Then I dug out from the deep corner of my garage, a copper tube J-pole antenna. Why not try that, see if it can work better to compensate for the loss of transmission power.

The antenna was picked up (again) a long time ago at a swap meet (I remember spending \$20 for it), and except for a few occasions on portable set ups, I have not been using it. I don't remember from whom I bought it, and whether anything similar is still available. By that, I mean the antenna is of relatively rare shape, having two match sections, presumably for 2m and 440. So it might be more appropriate to call it "J-J-Pole". Generally people build it for a 2m then use it for 440 as "almost" 3rd harmonic tune. So it is not every day to see a J-pole with two independent match sections. In fact, if you Google J-pole, you are not likely to find one like this. I first tested it on the ground level, mounted on a tripod, just to see if it works at all. It did resonate at about 146MHz, but impedance was not quite right, exhibiting SWR of 1.7 to 2. The match appear to be somewhat better at 440, but I did not have enough power on my HT to drive my SWR meter to a full range. It hit the repeater at 1 Watt, though it was not quite full-quieting. It'll work better at the top of the chimney, where it can see the Santiago Peak directly....



See the full article at: <http://w6si.com/blog-006.html>

Recent SOARA Events



SOARA T-Hunt
August 9

It was a very enjoyable day for an easy hunt and we were very pleased at the participation at this hunt. It was probably my first hunt in 6+ months. We would like to see more of you on the hunts!

73, K6MSM



July's Raffle Winner

Hal, WB6WXO, won last month's raffle at the general meeting (7/20), an FT-7900. It is well deserved. Congratulations, Hal!



SOARA Saturday
July 25

Having fun on the radios in Gilleran Park



SOARA Picnic
August 2

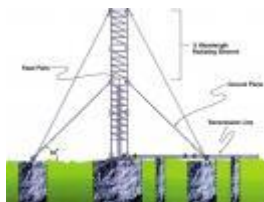
Fun, food & stories in Dana Point.

ARRL Shorts

[Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September](#)

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment...

[WWV's 25 MHz Signal is Back on Original Vertical Dipole:](#)



Time and frequency standard station WWV's resurrected 25 MHz signal — now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 — is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal came back on the air on an “experimental basis” in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.

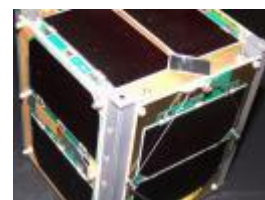
“The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977,” Matt Deutch, NORGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL this week. “When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed [and] tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna.”...

[Chinese Amateur Radio Satellites Set to Launch in Early September:](#)

China's Amateur Satellite Group CAMSAT said this week that nine satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads have been delivered to the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Central China. CAMSAT CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, said they're expected to launch between September 7 and 9. All are part of the CAS-3 series of satellites. Four of the microsatellites and two of the CubeSats included in the launch have been designated as the XW-2 (Hope-2) amateur satellite system (XW-2A through XW-2F), although Kung also refers to them using their initial CAS-3A through CAS-3F nomenclature. The other three satellites — a CubeSat, a nanosatellite, and a picosatellite, carry the designations CAS-3G through CAS-3I, respectively. CAMSAT announced earlier this year that the launch date would be postponed from mid-July until early September....

[Fox-1A Satellite Mated to Launcher for Liftoff This Fall:](#)

AMSAT has reported that its Fox-1A CubeSat has been “mated” to the Centaur rocket in preparation for launch late next month from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. NASA also just alerted AMSAT on August 3 that the Fox 1-B (RadFxSat — Radiation Effects Satellite) CubeSat has a ride on a Delta II launcher with a NOAA spacecraft, due to go into space in late 2016. The availability arose because other CubeSats had dropped off the flight manifest...



[FCC Proposes Fining Georgia Ham \\$1000 for Failing to Identify:](#)

The FCC has proposed fining a Georgia ham \$1000 for alleged failure to properly identify. David J. Tolassi, W4BHV, had been warned last August about not following the Commission's Part 97 ID rules. The FCC said his “deliberate disregard” of that warning warranted the proposed penalty...

[Party Balloon Carrying Ham Radio Payload Circles Southern Hemisphere a Second Time:](#)

After travelling for more than 110,800 km (68,696 mi) aloft, the record-setting pico balloon PS-46, carrying an Amateur Radio payload, completed its second circumnavigation of the Southern Hemisphere, before descending into the Indian Ocean on July 18 due to bad weather. The helium balloon and its solar-powered 25 mW payload were launched on May 23 by Andy Nguyen, VK3YT....



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	Arecibo	Satellite HT	SOARA Fair	TBD	Fall Auction	—
VEC Testing	26	23	16	20	18	At Field Day	20	17	21	19	16	—
Educational Classes								8 Tech	19 General	10 TBD	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	Quartzfest 18-24	Yuma Hamfest 20-21	Palm Springs Hamfest 14	Visalia Intl DX 17-19	Dayton Hamven- tion 15-17	ARRL Field Day 27-28		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 27-28			CQWW RTTY 26-27	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/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 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 [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.

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



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