



THE

January 2016

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

January 25th,
2016

7:00 PM

N.P.
Murray Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

T.A.S.M.A.

All are welcome to attend the first general SOARA meeting of 2016 on Monday, January 25 at 7pm at the Norman P Murray center in Mission Viejo. This month's speaker is Dave Elder KA6TBF, Chairman of Tasma. Tasma is a volunteer organization which manages the 2 meter Amateur Radio spectrum in Southern California. Testing will be at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

T.A.S.M.A.

(Two Meter Area Spectrum Management Association)

Antenna Tower and Beam For Sale by SOARA

President's Message January 2016

My message this month is a little different from the usual. I just want to make all our membership aware that SOARA has a surplus, approx. 60', 3 section telescoping or "crank up" antenna tower for sale to the highest bidder. This tower was donated to the club by Bob, W6LFO before he moved. This is a great opportunity for any of you who have a place to erect a tower!

As I said, the tower is approximately 60' tall, 3 sections fully extended, heavy duty galvanized steel free standing antenna tower. It's approximately 24' when collapsed. It has an electric motor for telescoping. The tower appears to be in very good condition structurally, but the motor system will need some minor work. Also there is no mounting base plate included, so the buyer will have to purchase one, but these are readily available. Also included is a multi band HF beam, which we believe to be com-

plete, but that should be cleaned and refurbished for good performance.

Priority for purchase will be given to SOARA members for their own use, or to SOARA members purchasing for use by one of the area ARES /RACES EMCOMM or public service radio groups.

The minimum bid is only \$100.00, because we wish to make this tower available for use by a club member or served agency. This antenna is easily worth at least 10 times that. The buyer is responsible for removing and transporting the tower from a storage area in Capistrano Beach within a reasonable time.

If interested, you can contact me, ae6h@soara.org or Heiko, ad6oi@soara.org, to discuss further details and to view the tower in the Capo Beach storage area. Please see the below photo of the tower in storage. Sorry, we don't have any of the tower standing.

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the upcoming Monday night meeting. We plan to have many interesting club Ham Radio events during the 2016 new year.

73 de Ray, AE6H
SOARA President





SOARA Meeting
Jan 25

SOARA Saturday
Jan 30

Yuma Hamfest
Feb 19-20

Palm Springs Hamfest
Mar 12

ARRL Field Day
Jun 24-26

VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician Exams

From the Desk of the Communications Director

As SOARA's Communications director I sometimes see things from more different sides than most of us. I have noticed that whereas Morse code is no longer required by the FCC, there are many people out there learning how to do it. I would like to applaud their efforts in doing this and would like to urge them to come out to Field Day and use these new found skills.

On a different note, we lost our Activities Director due to schedule conflicts last fall and are looking for someone to replace her.

Job duties include finding and working with a Field Day director, organizing the club picnic in August and coordinating the Holiday party in December. I have stepped in on a temporary basis to do this but I'm more than willing to give up the duty as soon as a replacement can be found.

In March we start to assemble the team of officers for the next two years. They are elected in even number years and the Directors in odd number years. We do not know who is going to run for re-election at this time but gee, it would be nice to have more than one person running for a position.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see that we are selling an antenna tower and a tri-band beam antenna. This came to us from our member Bob, W6LFO who donated it to the club when he moved to the Sacramento area. We thank him and wish him well in his retirement.

Thanks and hope to see you at the meeting on Monday.
Heiko
AD6OI

SOARA Repeater Fire Watch NET Users Guidelines (Revision 1)

The South Orange Amateur Radio Association, SOARA, welcomes OC Fire Watch as well as other public service activities to the SOARA repeater system, with prior approval of the SOARA Communications Director, or members of the SOARA Board of Directors. OC Fire Watch has standing pre-approval.

SOARA attempts to operate its repeaters in accordance with all applicable FCC rules and within the ARRL repeater use guidelines, as published in the ARRL Repeater Handbook.

In addition, SOARA has a few other guidelines and policies.

No nets, including the Fire Watch Nets, operate on an exclusive use basis, that is, SOARA members may also use the repeaters involved in nets. Members not participating in the nets are asked to be aware of net usage, cooperate, give net traffic priority, and to keep their own traffic brief. It is recommend non-net users establish contact then move their operations to another repeater or simplex channel whenever practical.

(Continued on page 3)



[Students in Nepal
Enjoy that Coun-
try's First Ham
Contact with the
ISS](#)

Students at an elite school in the Himalayan nation of Nepal enjoyed that country's first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact, when the spoke via ham radio with ISS crew member and UK Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, on January 20. Youngsters attending Brihaspati Vidhyasadan School (BVS) in Kathmandu interviewed Peake about life onboard the space station.

Through his Principia Mission, Peake is dedicating part of his scheduled time in space to educational activities for youngsters on Earth. The approximately 8 minute contact was carried out via a "telebridge" with Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, in Australia, where the ISS pass was favorable for a contact. Two-way audio was relayed via landline to Nepal.

"Follow your dreams," Peake told the youngsters. "You need to find out what you are passionate about and what you are enjoying."

Membership Report

Dues

Many members paid their dues over the holiday and this is fantastic. Thank you one-and-all. We have 161 paid members and 82 unpaid. If you haven't renewed please do so soon.

Membership Status

There are 224 active members. I have one new member and one application this month that is in progress. I will publish the name and call sign of the applicant once the board votes at the next meeting.

Our new member is **Johnny Wright, N2JRW**. Welcome to SOARA Johnny! To get the most out of SOARA, participate in the events as much as possible. I guess you need to get on the radio too. ;-)

Badges

I have a large number of requested badges made and waiting. Please see me at the next SOARA meeting and pick up your badge.

If you want a new badge you have to make a request. Just email membership@soara.org. Make sure to tell me your name and callsign as you want it on the badge. If you don't I will use the roster information. I will make you a new badge with all the handy repeater 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.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 2) - SOARA Repeater Fire Watch NET Users Guidelines

Tactical Calls are permitted and encouraged on SOARA repeaters for nets and organized special activities. Tactical Call users are reminded to Identify at the end of their individual QSO, and comply with other FCC id requirements, such as identify after every 10 minutes of continuous QSO. This is not normally an issue with nets, as traffic is usually brief.

All users are reminded, at the recommendation of the area FCC Official Observer(s), to set the transmit TIME OUT timer settings on their radios to time out transmissions between 60 and 90 seconds. This is to prevent accidental extended transmissions that prevent use of the repeaters by others with critical or important traffic. It is also a violation of FCC regulations to continuously transmit without identifying, so this prevents those violations as well.

It is also good practice to install and utilize the microphone hang up clips provided with nearly all mobile radios, and to use care about the placement of mobile microphones and of handheld radios when turned on, to prevent accidental transmissions by inadvertent activation of the PTT functions.

Thanks and 73,

Ray Hutchinson, AE6H,
Fire Watch Volunteer and SOARA President

Silent Key – David Whitney – K6DBW

SOARA is very sad to announce that we have lost one of our own, Dave Whitney, K6DBW. Dave passed away after suffering a stroke in early December. He was a member of SOARA for several years and was a fixture at the meetings. He also manned a booth at each of the SOARA Fair events, showing the many QSL cards he collected from around the world. Dave operated both mobile and at home, with great results with just a G5RV at home. Dave's interest in radio began at a young age and was a SWL (Short-Wave-Listener) back in the glory days of short wave before getting his ham radio license in 2006. Dave was always asking if I'd been on the radio recently and if I had bought a "real" antenna yet and was always enthusiastic about ham radio and was always a pleasure to talk to. It was always great hearing about his latest QSL card or hearing about which DX country he worked just a few minutes ago from the mobile. Dave achieved the following awards: DXCC, WAS, WAC and was working on WAZ and IOTA. He also visited over 60 countries in person in his lifetime, was a Northwest Traveller (Canada) and operated mobile from Alaska on the same trip. Dave loved to travel with his wife Cathy.



Dave will be missed by us all. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers. We went to church together and both signed a beam with our call-signs that was incorporated into the new church at St. Kilian, in Mission Viejo. We have lost a true ham and a great friend. May his love of radio be passed onto other hams both new and veterans of many years.

K6DBW Vy 73 de K6MSM
& K6SOA



Anyone Know This Ham?: KE7KEG/KF6BRY John B. Goldsmith

At the Christmas party we discussed about Dana's dad (John, KE7KEG/KF6BRY) being in ham radio, primarily CW. We found his call sign. He had two of which one is still active. The active call sign is KE7KEG which expires 2/2017. He may have got the active call sign after relocating to Spokane. The inactive, or cancelled, call sign is KF6BRY. Her dad's name was John B. Goldsmith. He lived in Mission Viejo for many years. She was wondering if he ever belonged to the club (SOARA) or if any of the older hams in the area might have known him. So KF6BRY may be the one to look under.

Thanks.
Erik Wresch KK6UZS

[Ed. If you have any information about John, please get in touch with Erik at KK6UZS@soara.org.]



The K7RA Solar Update

Over the past week we saw solar activity decline somewhat. Average daily sunspot number declined from 55.7 (during the January 7-13 period) to 46 during the recent period, January 14-20.

Over the same periods average daily solar flux declined from 106.5 to 100.7. Average daily planetary A index went from 11.1 to 9, and average daily mid-latitude A index declined from 8.4 to 5.6.

Predicted solar flux is 105 on January 22-23, 110 on January 24-28, then 105, 100 and 105 on January 29-31, 110 on February 1-4, 105 on February 5-11, 100 on February 12-14, 95 on February 15-19, and 105 on February 20-25.

Predicted planetary A index is 12 on January 22, 8 on January 23-24, 10 on January 25-26, then 9, 5, 12 and 8 on January 27-30, 5 on January 31 through February 1, then 15, 12 and 8 on February 2-4, 5 on February 5-6, 12 on February 7-8, 10 and 8 on February 9-10, 5 on February 11-17, then 8, 12 and 8 on February 18-20 and 5 on February 21-23.

We saw one new sunspot on January 14, another on January 17, and two more on January 19 and 20. At 0530 UTC on Friday, January 22 I can see four numbered sunspot regions on the sun.

[WM7D's Solar resource Page](#)

(Continued from page 3) - *Membership Report*

Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual

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

My First QSL card package! Woo Hoo!

On December 8th 2015, I participated in the SOARA Sunday Morning 40 Meter Net on 7.200 MHz. It was great fun as usual. When it was Heiko's turn to talk, he told everyone about a W7P special event. So, after the net, I contacted W7P on 40 meters. I sent them my QSL card, five bucks to cover costs and I just received the Pluto QSL postcard, and a big 8.5x11 card for "The Year of Pluto Amateur Radio Special Event." If you didn't know, Pluto was discovered 85 years ago.

Transfer of information is exactly why I joined SOARA. If Heiko didn't transfer that nugget of information on that day, I would have never made that contact or received this QSL package. Thank you Heiko and all members for generously sharing information. Information is our major asset.



Stay tuned for more information on the Arduino Ham Shield (once it arrives), CrushCraft / MFJ R9 verticle antenna, and 3D printer kit. I want to print a case for the ham shield. I hope to hear you on the radio and see you at the SOARA events! Go the club calendar at www.soara.org for more information on events.

73, Ed Barnes, KK6PUB
Membership Director (membership@soara.org)

Two T-Hunt Reports

12/6/15:

Sunday's hunt (12/6/15) was a good one, thanks to Cliff Pratt, N6PWC. While new at this t-hunting thing, he is a quick learner. Me thinks he is a ringer.

Cliff volunteered to hide the transmitter but didn't have one to hide, so I said I would lend him my box. I handed it off to him last Thursday before the hunt and one of the comments he made was that he had to be in San Clemente Sunday morning so that would work out good for him. Needless to say, on the day of the hunt, I figured that he would be in the south end of the county so that is where Alan, KK6EMC, and I decided we would go looking. Starting out, we didn't hear anything but figured he found a low spot to hide so we headed south. We heard nada, nothing, zip, even from near the repeater site. Ever get that sinking feeling that you messed up? Never believe what the hider says!

So, after a quick tour of San Clemente, we headed north thru Dana Point on PCH to Crown Valley Parkway and over to Pacific Island Dr. to head up to the next high point that I frequent on an occasional hunt. Again, a frustrating nothing. Cliff is NOT anywhere in South County. Maybe if we head up the 73 and up to Ridge Park Rd and listen there, we can get a bearing. This is well after an hour of hunting and touring some of the nicer vistas in Orange County. Still nothing. At this point, I received a text from the other hunting team of Mike, NM6X, Richard, K6RBS, and Tom AE6SH with the cryptic text of "Jamboree & Chapman." Somebody took pity on us.

Once we got into the area, we could hear the transmitter. It wasn't long after that we arrived at the Santiago Canyon College. We were the second (read last) to come in, behind Mike, Richard, and Tom. One of the reasons that you couldn't hear the transmitter was where it was physically hidden. See the pictures Tom took. Gray WA6BJY



Excellent burgers and stories at the end of the January hunt!

1/10/16:

January's hunt was an urban affair. I started from home in Mission Viejo and couldn't hear the T. I think went up to Gilleran Park and still couldn't hear it. After getting a higher powered transmission that was very weak, I got a bearing and set out for Aliso Viejo. One hour and 45 minutes after the start, I finally was looking at Mike, NM6X and Richard, K6RBS, sitting in the patio of a restaurant, the T was on the table. To make things interesting, the patio was surrounded by metal. It took some time to locate the T in the parking lot and I definitely had my share of curious onlookers after waving around the tape measure beam in the parking lot. However, the food was great and there was football on too (playoffs, you know)! Thanks for the great hunt!
73, K6MSM

Holiday Party & New Year's Eve Get Together

Thank you to all who joined us for the Holiday Party and the New Year's Eve get together. Below are pictures of both events, mostly from the Holiday Party.

Hal Silverman, WB6WXO and Raffle Committee Chair was the winner of the Richard Coyne WW7D Memorial Award as the ham of the year, demonstrating excellence to the club and the community.

Congratulations, Hal! (pictured below)



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	TASMA				Spring Auction	Field Day Prep		SOARA Fair			Fall Auction	—
VE Testing	25	22	21	18	16	At Field Day 25	18	15	19	17	21	—
Educational Classes	Tech 23	Extra 20	Tech 19	TBD	General 14	Tech 18	Extra 16	TBD	Tech 17	TBD	TBD	—
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	30	27	26	23	21	18	23	20	24	22	26	—
SOARA T-Hunt	10	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	Quartzfest 17-23	Yuma Hamfest 19-20	Palm Springs Hamfest 12	Visalia Intl DX 15-17	Dayton Hamvention 20-22	ARRL Field Day 24-26		SOARA Picnic 7	ARRL SW Division	JOTA 14-16		SOARA Holiday Party 4
Ham-Related Swap Meets	TRW 30	TRW 27	TRW 26	TRW 30	TRW 28	TRW 25	TRW 30	TRW 27	TRW 24	TRW 29	TRW 26	TRW 31
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 20-21 CQWPX RTTY 13-14	ARRL DX-SSB 5-6 CQWPX SSB 26-27		CQWPX CW 28-29	ARRL Field Day 24-26			CQWW RTTY 24-25	CQWW SSB 26-27	CQWW CW 26-27	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 23	Paws Fur Pink 21 OC Chili Run 27	OC Chili Run 19 Baker to Vegas		HD Trails OC Marathon 1 Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon	ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 24-26	4th of July Fire -works 4			Vision Quest		Run for a Claus

*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



SOARA OFFICERS

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Communications: Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868
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SOARA APPOINTMENTS

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

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

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

Raffle: Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002
wb6wxo@soara.org

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