



PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

August 15, 2016

7:00 PM

N.P.
Murray Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

2016 SOARA FAIR

Please join us at the Norman P. Murray Center on Monday (8/15/16) as SOARA presents its annual fair.

The SOARA Fair is held once a year during the August general club meeting where club subject matter experts will hold "mini-seminars" on a range of Amateur Radio and electronic topics. The mini-seminars are held informally and you can rotate from seminar to seminar. This event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

2016 Fair scheduled presenters:

- Charlie, WA6RUZ,
EmComm / RACES
- Jon, KK6WFF,
Arduino Microprocessors
- Ed, WA6ED,
3D Printers
- Tak, W6SI,
Digital Communications/SDR
- Mike, K6MSM,
Digital HF Modes - JT65, JT9
- Steve, K6UVR,
Antenna Tuners
- Phil, WA6LDI,
HF DXing and QSLing
- Joe, AE6XE,
HAMNet Mesh Networking
- Tony, W6TNY,
Power Boxes
- Frank, AG6QV,
Microwave Communications

If you are a subject matter expert and wish to demonstrate, please let us know so we may reserve you a location in the room for next time!



T-Hunt Tomorrow!

A reminder that there will be a t-hunt tomorrow (8/14/16). This will be an easy hunt. The first clue (maybe the only one needed) is that I will hide the T in Mission Viejo. Frequency is 146.565 MHz starting at 1:00pm. Coordination will be on the SOARA 447.180 repeater.

Good luck,

Gray, WA6BJY

From the President

This month, I'd like to report on my observations of another club, and how they operate. As many of you know, I have a place in Maine, and spend some time there, typically in the summer, working on the property, and enjoying the surroundings. A couple of summers ago, I stumbled on a group of hams operating at the site of the local lighthouse in my town. I had forgotten that it was International Lighthouse Weekend, but quickly realizing what they were doing, I introduced myself and watched them operating for a bit. I learned that they were from a nearby group, the Pine State Amateur Radio Club. I also learned that if I was interested, they had a website, and of course, the website had a membership application form. Upon my return to California, I downloaded their form, filled it out, and sent them a dues check. Not long thereafter, I received a welcome letter, and a membership card in the mail.

(Continued on page 4)



SOARA Fair
August 15

SOARA Saturday
August 20

Lighthouse & Lightship Wknd
Aug 20-21

SOARA Meeting
Sept 19

SOARA Saturday
Sept 24

VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician

SOARA Saturday News & Notes

Many enjoy this informal educational environment. It's easy to walk around and ask questions. So, show up, have fun, share experiences, and knowledge. SOARA will provide coffee and donuts.

July SOARA Saturday

The July SOARA Saturday was really busy & hot at Gillian park. Tony W6TNY showed us how to build battery boxes. We drilled holes, installed parts, and started wiring. I completed my battery about a week ago. I like it a lot. Jon KK6WFF brought some of his Arduino's. It was interesting to see different boards / shields. We worked with radios, antennas, and analyzers too. I used my RigExpert to better understand Jon's antenna and configuration changes. Thank you Tony and Jon for helping at this event!

August SOARA Saturday at Murray Center (KIT BUILDING 101)

The next SOARA Saturday is at Murray Center on 8/20 at 9am. Bring your kits. I may have some small kits available for \$5. If I get them, first come first serve. We will help anyone that wants to build a kit. Please bring soldering equipment, multi-meter, safety glasses, wire cutters, etc. please bring them.

September, October, & November SOARA Saturday's will be at Murray Center.

- September 24, Arduino, bring your Arduino projects, shields, and lets talk about programming! Demo your latest creation.
- October, 22, T-hunt demo? Build an antenna? Who could help?
- November 26, Need suggestions and volunteers.

73,
Ed, WA6ED

Technical Update

On Sunday, July 24th, your Technical Director, Tom Hobbs, AE6SH, and I (Brian, NJ6N) went up to Santiago and installed new(er) TAIT T800 repeater radios for the 224.640 and 447.180 repeaters, replacing the GE Custom MVP radios that have been in use for several decades.

While mostly a great success, there are still some issues on the 224.64 repeater. The audio level through the machine cyclically fades and recovers. I believe the system is still quite usable, and would appreciate any feedback the membership has on how both systems are working for you.

One thing you may notice immediately is the courtesy tone and ID level on the UHF machine has been greatly reduced. Another thing to be aware of is that our repeater site provider is doing tower replacement work at this time and our antennas have been temporarily moved down to the building. Signal strengths and receive sensitivity for both machines will be reduced until our antennas are back on the tower. We will let the membership know when they're reinstalled. We expect a slight improvement over what we had before, after the antenna system work is completed.

Many thanks to Tom for driving us up there through the rugged terrain!

Vy 73, Brian, NJ6N





The K7RA Solar Update 8/12/16

After two days of no sunspots on August 3-4, solar activity resumed with both sunspot number and solar flux rising into the 90s. Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 10.7 in the last reporting week to 52 this week (August 4-10). Both averages were suppressed by having a sunspot number of zero on the last day of the old week and again on the first day of the most recent week.

Average daily solar flux rose from 72.1 to 87.9. Average planetary A index went from 13 to 14.6, and average mid-latitude A index from 11.9 to 13.7.

The latest solar flux prediction from USAF/NOAA shows 95 on August 12, 90 on August 13-15, 95 on August 16-18, then 90 and 85 on August 19-20, 75 on August 21-26, 80 on August 27 through September 1, then 85, 95, 100 and 105 on September 2-5, 100 on September 6-9, 95 on September 10-13, with flux values dropping to 75 on September 17-22 before rising again.



DX Operations:
<http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

ARRL HF Propagation Charts

SOARA Raffle

The \$5 raffle for August is a TYT TYTERA DMR Digital Radio (model # MD-380). It covers 400 to 480 MHz. We would need to sell 25 tickets to break even.

The \$1 raffle will be a collection of prizes from HRO and from Harbor Freight. There are several books that were donated to the raffle that will be in the mix of \$1 prizes as well.

73.....Hal WB6WXO



Membership Report

No new members this month. We have 226 active members. Go to www.soara.org and get event details on the calendar. Be sure to welcome new members to SOARA. If you know someone that wants to get started in ham radio let's help them! If you want a new badge, email membership@soara.org. Tell me your name and callsign as you want it on the badge. I will make you a new badge with all the handy repeater information on the back. You can pick up badges at most SOARA events. At least, the ones I attend. I have plenty of manuals with a wealth of SOARA information for easy reference. I hope to hear you on the radio and see you at the upcoming SOARA events!

73,
Ed Barnes, WA6ED
Membership Director
membership@soara.org

Come Out & Help SOARA!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find some of the interesting things that the club is doing. Here I would like to expound on the need for more participation on the part of the membership in helping to keep the club running. Recently we have made some changes in the operation of the Tuesday evening VHF/UHF net. Jason (W6NRD) has taken over net control from Sean (AJ6B) and Jon (KK6WFF) has taken over for Mikkel (NR6E). I would like to extend my appreciation to Mikkel and Sean for their excellent support of our club (Mikkel was a previous Communications Director). Ed (WA6ED) has volunteered to be an alternate net control when needed and we appreciate that. Jon, who is also our Activities director, is moving out of the area late this fall and we will need to find replacements for his two positions before then. If you have any interest in helping with these tasks, please get in touch with a member of the board about the activities position and/or contact me about being a net control operator.

Thanks

Heiko AD6OI
Communications Director





**Comments in FCC
"Symbol Rate" Rule
Making Proposal Due
by October 11**

08/12/2016

The FCC will accept public comments in response to a July FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239 — the "Symbol Rate" proceeding — are due by October 11. Reply comments — ie, comments on comments already filed — are due by November 11.

The NPRM now has been published in The Federal Register, thus opening the respective 60-day and 30-day comment/reply comment windows.

In response to a 2013 ARRL Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708), the FCC proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

Interested parties may comment on the [NPRM](#) in WT Docket 16-239 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing Service (EFCS), as well as by mail.

**Pictures from 2016
Field Day ---->**

(Continued from page 1) - (President's Message)

That was over a year ago, but I hadn't ever had an opportunity to attend a meeting. I finally was able to attend a general meeting at the beginning of this month. I learned more about their organization, but more interestingly, I came away with some thoughts and experiences that I hope SOARA can use to improve our club. They are a small group, with about 50 paid memberships, but that is to be expected, given the much smaller general and ham populations in their area.

Occasionally. I learned, they do have a speaker or technical presentation at their meetings, but as a rule this doesn't occur, and it didn't the evening I attended. Because it was all new to me, I found the meeting interesting, but were I to attend frequently, I'm sure I'd get pretty bored. This reinforced the importance of having the informative meetings that SOARA does. Instead they use the meetings to recruit participants in the several public service events they do annually, for individual members to report their ham radio activities for the past month. They also report the maintenance status of the 2 repeaters and 10 meter beacon the club operates, right down to the minutia of installing connectors on the repeater feedline, etc.

They have 2 repeaters, a 2 meter analog, and a new DMR repeater. Whereas most DMR activity in Southern California is on UHF, in Maine, the predominant DMR systems are on VHF, but DMR seems to be catching on here quite rapidly. Their meeting lasted only an hour, and we were on our way.

Aside from the smug feeling I had knowing that SOARA's meetings were so much more interesting, my main takeaway was that although a member, this was my first meeting, and although cordial, no one came forward to greet me, inquire even as to my name, my area of interest in the hobby, or the like. They just weren't very friendly. This is where SOARA, I hope generally excels, but it reminded me that we can't let that personal touch go unheeded. We all need to make the effort to greet new members, guests, even folks that aren't able to make meetings often, and make them feel extra welcome. Now, I'm pretty certain that no one at Pine State ARC meant any malice in anyway, and I'm confident that I was indeed welcome, it's just that the little extra efforts of one or two members could have made me feel so much more welcome and at home. I would have left the meeting with a much more positive view of the club. This welcoming feeling is something I hope all of us can work on when we see a new member, or guest in our midst. If we see them not being greeted by a member, please just go up to them, introduce yourself, shake their hand, even make a small inquiry about their ham radio interests. Having now been on the other end, I really appreciate how important an even small friendly gesture by one or two people can be. We need to work on this a little bit. 73 de Ray, AE6H



Annual IOTA DXpedition Plans Morph into Visit to a Rare One — Aves Island (YV0)

An unexpected invitation from the Venezuelan Navy gave rise to a DXpedition to Aves Island — Isla de Aves — (YV0), the current number 17 on the ClubLogDXCC Most Wanted List. While trying to organize its annual IOTA DXpedition to Los Monjes Island (SA-015), members of the Asociación de Radioaficionados de Venezuela (ARV) and Grupo DX Caracas received the surprise Navy invite. Aves Island was last activated on February 13, 2007, by YW0DX.

Plans call for an August 31 departure with “a restricted number of operators,” to including both experienced and new operators from the Navy. The exact dates of operation are dependent on the Navy. The group will be on the air for up to 10 days as YX0V, with the full support of the Navy. Despite the last-minute change of plans, a team has been chosen, as well as radios and antennas, and other logistics.

The tiny Aves Island is situated west of the Leeward Islands. It's only about 1200 feet long and some 150 feet wide. (from ARRL News)



International Light House & Lightship (next!) Weekend

(Paraphrased from last month's Propagator). Next weekend, the ARRL recognized 19TH International Light House and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) will be on the air. The event is organized by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, ARLHS, which was founded in 2000, and coincides with the national lighthouse heritage weekend by the Association of Lighthouse Keepers.

The dates for 2016 are Saturday August 20, and Sunday August, 21. In 2015, over 500 lighthouses and lightships were on the air for the event representing 85 countries. This year promises to be the biggest ILLW event yet. Because the ILLW is world wide, it is a great opportunity for newcomers to HF to experience some excellent DX or a great way to add countries or states to your WAC and WAS lists.

In my experience, this event is rather low key compared to some almost cutthroat contest operations, and there are almost no complicated rules. Registration is limited to Activated Light Houses and Lightships that will have amateur radio stations transmitting from the lighthouse, or the surrounding grounds. I recommend that you give it a listen and even make some fun HF contacts!

For more information go to, illw.net

73 de Ray, AE6H



Bouvet 3Y0Z DXpedition Website Goes Live

The website for the [3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition](http://3Y0ZBouvetDXpedition.com) planned for early 2018 is now open. Bouvet is the second most-wanted DXCC entity. The website details the vast DXpeditioning experience of the 3Y0Z team members.

3Y0Z plans to be active on all available bands using traditional modes coupled with “the very best antennas, radios, and amplifiers.” The team's stay on what it's calling “the most remote island on Earth” could be as long as 3 weeks, weather permitting.

The DXpedition leaders said they hope to make tens of thousands of contacts from 3Y0Z “consistent with the safety of the operating team.” At this point, the DXpedition has officially inaugurated its fundraising effort.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007-2008. (from ARRL & The Daily DX)



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	LFP Batteries	WU6D	Arnie Shatz N6HC	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	Battery Boxes	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	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	-	General 14	Tech 18	Extra 16	-	Tech 17	-	-	-
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	30 Murray	27 Murray	26 Murray	23 Gilleran	21 Gilleran	18 Gilleran	23 Gilleran	20 Murray	24 Murray	22 Murray	26 Murray	-
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 Hamven- tion 20-22	ARRL Field Day 25-26	HRO Ham Jam 16	SOARA Picnic 7		JOTA 14-16		SOARA Holiday Party 4
Ham-Related Swap Meets	TRW 30 C.A.R.S. 16	27 20	26 19	30 16	28 21	25 18	30 16	27 20	24 17	29 15	26 19	31 17
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 25-26			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 19-20	Desert Storm Rally 1-2	HD Trails 7-8 OC Mara -thon 1 Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon 30	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.

KIO Hexbeam
(20m only right
now)



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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SOARA APPOINTMENTS

Past President: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
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Activities: **VACANT**—Please contact us (board@soara.org) if you are interested.

S. Saturdays: Ed Barnes, WA6ED 949-468-7706
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