



THE

February 2017

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

Feb. 27, 2017

7:00 PM

N.P.
Murray Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

“DX Admonitions and Aspirations”

By Ralph Fedor – K0IR

In his presentation to the South Orange Amateur Radio Association, Ralph will give us a little insight into what he has gleaned from his past DXpeditions and share some images and experiences from some of the world's most remote places.



With this as a background, Ralph will take us inside the plans for a DXpedition to Bouvet in early 2018 (Featured in the January Propagator). He will discuss the challenges Bouvet presents, the logistics of an operation there, and what we on the West Coast are likely to observe as the DXpedition unfolds.

Please see Ralph's Biography on page 4 and put this DXpedition on your calendar to work next year!

President's Message

Welcome everyone, and thanks for taking the time to read this article. My topic this month is the OC Fire Watch program, and the need for more volunteers, especially ham radio operators. As hams, many of us have trained and practiced as emergency communicators, participating in our local Emcomm groups, and their training exercises. Others take to the field to work public service events such as foot running and bicycle races, marathons, and the like, or volunteer to become net controllers. I'd like to remind all of you of another volunteer

community service opportunity that allows you to put the skills learned in the above activities, and to utilize your radio equipment for the good of the community, and that is to volunteer for the OC Irvine Ranch Conservancy and OC Parks Fire Watch program. Perhaps you've heard the OC Fire Watch Nets on SOARA's 447.180 repeater during Red Flag Days.

OC Fire Watch is deployed whenever the National Weather Service, along with the Orange County Fire Authority and the U.S. Forest Service issue a Red Flag warning, signifying extreme fire weather conditions. The OC Fire Watch program has been steadily growing, training and organization has improved to meet the challenge, and has become a model for surrounding CA counties, and even some out of state jurisdictions. Currently the program calls for staffing up to 34 strategic locations with trained Fire Watch volunteers, depending on the areas of Orange County that are under the Red Flag alert. The mission of the Fire Watch Program is to reduce the incidence and severity of man causes wildfires in fire prone areas of Orange County, by increasing public awareness, providing a deterring presence, and to help provide early detection and reporting of fires while still small and manageable. In short, to see and be seen.

To accomplish the mission, ideally there would be 2 volunteers, working 2 hours shifts, at any given time at all 34 potential locations. Doing the math means for any 2 hour segment of the day, 70 volunteers per shift are desired, times 4 shifts per day, or up to 280 volunteers per day. Fortunately many volunteers opt to take more than one 2 hour shift, some even opting to work most of the day, and of course not all locations will have the desired 2 volunteers. Also, given people's busy work and personal schedules, any volunteer organization generally can only turn out 15% to 20% of their volunteers at any given time. You can quickly see that if Fire Watch were to be able to staff all

(Continued on page 2)



SOARA Meeting
Feb 27

SOARA Saturday
March 4

ARRL DX SSB
March 4-5

CQ WPX SSB
March 25-26

OC Chili Run
March 25

VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician

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

positions with 2 people, over a typical two to three day Red Flag event, the program would need 500-600 volunteers. Currently they have about 100.

This brings me to the sales pitch. I was gratified to see at least 3 SOARA members at the training session on February 18, where approximately 15 new volunteers finished their training, but obviously many more are needed. It may seem somewhat irrelevant to be talking about Fire Watch while we are experiencing heavy rainfalls, more than we have seen in a few years, but as a retired Firefighter, I can tell you that it only takes a couple of days of Red Flag, Santa Ana Winds to dry out the standing dead brush and grasses to tinder dry condition. More than once during my career I have fought brush fires in high winds, while trying to avoid being stuck in mud from recent rains! Also, since the Fire Watch training consists of 3 segments, all presented on different weekends, and once training is completed, a few days wait to receive your uniforms and other needed supplies in the mail, there is a bit of lead time needed from initial sign up, until you're ready to deploy.

I've found it to be a great and fun community service program and I strongly encourage all of you to get involved. For More information, go to letsgooutside.org and click on the volunteering tab. Hope to see you there! -Ray, AE6H

Membership Report

We now have 194 paid members and 39 unpaid. Membership dues help keep SOARA going. If your dues are unpaid and you want to continue your membership please pay your dues as soon as possible. As usual, we will make all unpaid members inactive just before the election. Let me know if you need a new badge or a membership handbook. Pick them up at the next meeting to save SOARA the \$1.40 postage costs. Suggestions to make SOARA better are welcome too.

Welcome New Members!

1. John Zimmer, KM6BEE
2. John Kyriazia, N6VEG
3. Dante Loresco, KI6CCT
4. Jeff Haynes, KJ6VZW
5. Michelle Haynes, no callsign yet...

Contact: Ed Barnes, membership@soara.org.

Now Pay Dues Online
Just [Click Here](#) 

New Amateur Radio Parity Act HR 555 Bill Passes House of Representatives

From ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

LATEST NEWS: On Monday January 23, 2017 the US House of Representatives suspended their rules and passed the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 by unanimous consent. This action now sends the bill to the US Senate for its consideration.

The wording of HR 555 is identical to the language of HR 1301, which passed the US House of Representatives by a unanimous consent vote in September 2016 during the 114th Congress, which adjourned in December.

Further information on HR 555 and how ARRL members can assist in working towards its passage will be forthcoming. Please stand by for additional details as this begins its process through the Congress.





AMSAT reports that the TJRE-VERB CubeSat, developed by students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, will carry a 435/145 MHz FM transponder. The University of Washington-Seattle's HuskySat-1 has a 145/435 MHz SSB/CW transponder and was developed by students at the University of Washington in Seattle. The satellite will demonstrate plasma propulsion and high-gain telemetry, in advance of a larger CubeSat lunar mission. The launches are expected to take place in the 2018-2020 timeframe. The two CubeSat missions were selected as part of the 8th round of NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI). Both are eligible for placement on a launch manifest after final negotiations, depending on the availability of a flight opportunity.

SOARA Saturday January Report

Many enjoy this informal hands-on educational environment. It's easy to walk around and ask questions and see things work. So, attend, ask questions, have fun, share your experiences, and knowledge. SOARA will provide [coffee and donuts](#). Time 9am to noon.

Past (January) SOARA Saturday

We were able to bring up a few QRP radios on dummy loads. I broke Frank's radio printed circuit board trying to remove some backward electrolytic capacitors. Sorry Frank! We had a good time playing with radios.

Future SOARA Saturdays:

- March 4, DMR, Murray Center, **DMR Radio**, Mikkel NR6E will present and demo DMR radio. Bring your DMR radio and share your experiences. This will be an interactive workshop.
- March 25, Murray Center, Harbor Freight DMM field strength meter kit.
- Article in Feb 2015 QST page 71.
- Right now, there's a Harbor Freight coupon for a free DMM with any purchase. COUPON Expires 2/26. HURRY!

I have a parts kit less the DMM, solder and hookup wire available for \$5. Kits will be available at the next SOARA meeting and the March SOARA Saturday.

FREE WITH ANY PURCHASE

CENTECH
7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER

Customer Rating **4.5** ★★★★★

\$16.45 VALUE

COUPON CODE **94754335**

ITEM 90899/69096 98025 items

94754335-1021

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid 2/24/17 through 2/26/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

Contact: Ed Barnes, WA6ED@soara.org suggestions are welcome for future Saturdays. If you are interested in helping on SOARA Saturday's please let me know. I would like to start a SOARA Saturday committee to help guide future events.

73, Ed WA6ED

OC Winter Trail Run Series

HEAT UP YOUR WINTER! The OC Chili Winter Trail Run Series will keep you fit and well fed this winter! A beautiful 5 mile, 7 mile or 10 mile trail run through O'Neill Regional Park, high quality t-shirt, and post race chili is included in registration!

If you wish to participate on the 3/25 run, please contact Heiko at ad6oi@soara.org. Dress in layers for this event!

See the picture to the right from the February installment of the race, with Greg, K5MGH as net control. Thanks, Greg!





The K7RA Solar Update 2/24/17

Over the past week, February 16-22, average daily sunspot number compared to the previous seven days increased from 17.6 to 19.1, while average solar flux increased from 75.1 to 78.5. Geomagnetic indicators were slightly higher, with average planetary A index increasing from 4.7 to 11.3, and average mid-latitude A index changing from 2.9 to 9.

Predicted solar flux (on February 22) is 84 on February 23-24, 83 on February 25, 82 on February 26 through March 1, 78 on March 2, 73 on March 3-4, 72 on March 5-7, 73 and 74 on March 8-9, 75 on March 10-14, then 74, 75, 77 and 79 on March 15-18, 82 on March 19-24, then 80, 78 and 76 on March 25-27, 75 on March 28-29, 73 on March 30-31, and 72 on April 1-3.



[WM7D's Solar resource Page](#)

[DX Operations: www.ng3k.com](#)

[ARRL HF Propagation Charts](#)

Biographical Summary Ralph Fedor, M.D. - K0IR

Ralph has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1961 and has been active almost continuously, beginning with CW traffic nets in the 1960's, but ultimately finding his passion in contesting, DXing, and DXpeditions.

Ralph is a retired board certified diagnostic radiologist and is married with four grown children and ten grandchildren. He and his wife, Saundy, live near Waite Park, MN. He is a life member of the ARRL and a member of the Minnesota Wireless Association, the Twin City DX Association, the Southeastern DX Club, the Northern California DX Foundation, INDEXA, and the St. Cloud Radio Club.

His DXpeditions have taken him to some of the most remote places on earth. He has crossed the Equator 14 times and traveled in everything from zodiacs to Russian icebreakers and helicopters. He has visited places like Peter the First, the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia Island, the Falkland Islands, Antarctica, Saba, Malpelo, Bhutan, Desecheo, Heard Island, Easter Island, Reunion, Kerguelen Island, Deception Island, The South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands, Navassa Island, Amsterdam Island and multiple countries in between. He has given presentations in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, New Zealand and throughout the U.S. His DXpedition videos on YouTube have been viewed over 35,000 times, his Google Earth images have had over one million views, and he and his DXpedition team members have made over 4.6 million DXpedition QSO's. Ralph is the chairman of the board of directors of the International DX Association. He holds eleven DXpedition of the Year awards and is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

SOARA (Still) Needs You!

We (SOARA) are looking for an Activities Director to take charge of our special events, Field Day, the Picnic, and the Holiday Party.

Communications is looking for one more Tuesday night net operator to handle one week per month.

We are also looking for someone to help out with the Sunday morning 40m net. If we have any directors who are considering not running for re-election then we need to find replacements for them.



Please support your club. We can only survive from the efforts of our volunteers and I don't think any of us are getting younger. It's a rewarding experience and you will gain insight to the inner workings of SOARA.

Prior long service in SOARA is not required. Some of us volunteered in our first year in SOARA.

-Heiko, AD6OI, & Mike, K6MSM,
Communications & Publications Directors.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	23	27	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	-
Program	SOTA	DXp 3Y0Z 2018	TBD	TBD	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	TBD	SOARA Fair	TBD	TBD	Fall Auction	-
VE Testing	23	27	20	17	15	At Field Day 24	17	21	18	16	20	--
Educational Classes	21	25	18	15	13	17	15	19	16	14	18	-
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	28	Mar 4	25	22	20	-	-	-	-	21	25	-
SOARA T-Hunt	8	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3
Board Meeting	30	Mar 6	27	24	22	26	24	28	25	23	27	-
Special Events	Quartzfest 22-28	Yuma Hamfest 17-18	Palm Springs Hamfest Feb 4	Visalia Intl DX 21-23	Dayton Hamven- tion 19-21	ARRL Field Day 23-25	HRO Ham Jam	SOARA Picnic 6		JOTA		SOARA Holiday Party TBD
Ham-Related Swap Meets	TRW 28 C.A.R.S. 21	25 18	25 18	29 15	27 20	24 17	29 15	26 19	30 16	21 28	25 18	30 16
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 18-19 CQWPX RTTY 11-12	ARRL DX-SSB 4-5 CQWPX SSB 25-26		CQWPX CW 27-28	ARRL Field Day 24-25		CQWW RTTY	CQWW SSB	CQWW CW		
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run 21	Paws Fur Pink Run 26 OC Chili Run 25	OC Chili Run 25 Baker to Vegas 25-26	Desert Storm Rally TBD	HD Trails OC Mara- thon 7 Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon 29	ARRL Field Day/ Setup/ Ops/ Clean 23-25	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 @ 8:00PM

D-STAR (146.115 C module):
Wednesdays @ 7:30PM

40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays @ 8:00AM.

Gordo HF (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Weekdays @ 8:30AM



SOARA OFFICERS

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SOARA APPOINTMENTS

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

Activities: *[Open]—Please contact us (board@soara.org) if you are interested.*

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