



THE

March 2017

PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

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Meeting

March 20, 2017

7:00 PM

N.P.
Murray Center
Veterans
Way
Mission Viejo

Earthquakes!

Please join us at the Norman P. Murray Center, in Mission Viejo, CA on Monday, 3/20, at 7pm for our General Meeting.

Our guest speaker is Tom Broz, P.E., S.E., F.ASCE, and a member of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. He is a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) in multiple states, in the fields of Civil, and Structural Engineering, as well as a licensed General Contractor. The topic will be Earthquakes, Causes, Effects, Mitigations, and Preparations. As an animated visual presentation, the slant will be slightly different from the usual.



Tom holds a BS in Civil Engineering, and a MS in Structural Engineering. In his over 44 year career he has worked for and held leadership positions in a number of notable engineering and construction firms, including Bechtel, DMJM, Wildan, and Stantec, to name a few. He also belongs to a number of professional associations, such as Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Structural Engineers Association of Southern CA, and several more. He is also a recent OC Fire Watch volunteer. His presentation will range from the technical to the practical.

President's Message

Next Month (April) is the time for the SOARA annual elections. Because Officers and Directors terms are for 2 years, we alternate between Officers and Directors elections each year. This year, being an odd numbered year, the elections are for the Directors. These positions are the directors for (alphabetically), Education, Communications, Membership, Publications, Repeater, and Technical.

We will be taking nominations for these positions from the floor at this Monday night's meeting. Feel free to nominate someone who you think would be good at handling these jobs, or even feel free to nominate yourself, if you are interested. The Board of Directors also prepares a slate, often the incumbents, but we truly welcome others to step forward. One caveat, if you nominate someone to the position, please check with them first to be sure they are willing to run and serve.

While I'm recruiting, we're also looking for someone to coordinate this year's Field Day. Even though Field Day is not until the end of June, that's a scant 3 months away, and the sooner we get the plans started, and people plugged into various positions for Field Day, the smoother things will go. The Field Day Coordinator's role is to organize the event. The key to remember here is that the coordinator doesn't do all the work, as there are numerous people who are always willing to help. Even if you haven't attended very many Field Days, there too are many folks who can give you advice and help steer the ship. Please consider this challenge.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make it to this Monday's meeting.

Ray, AE6H
SOARA President



**COMING
SOON**

**SOARA
Meeting**
Mar 20

**SOARA
Saturday**
March 25

**CQ WPX
SSB**
March 25-26

OC Chili Run
March 25

**Desert Storm
Rally**
April 7-8

VEC License Exams

6pm—before
the General
Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

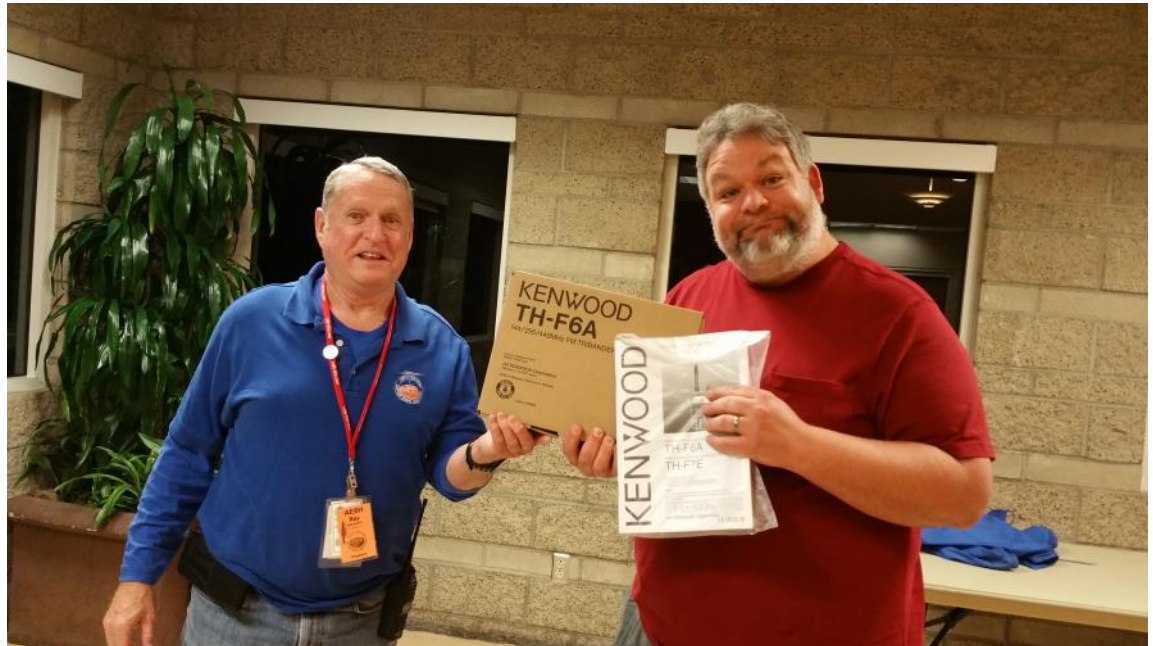
Extra | General |
Technician

Raffle Report

For a future \$5 prize we are thinking of the new Kenwood Tri-band hand held TH-D74A.

For the \$1 prizes we are thinking about the 2016 handbook if HRO still has them. We are also looking at bringing back the little MFJ speaker and the MFJ headphones.

We have a 2014 handbook that was donated. We are also thinking of offering the Harbor Freight digital multi meter. The membership director recently hosted a SOARA Saturday on making a field strength using the one of the Harbor Freight digital meters.



Raffle Winner for the February Meeting

Steve, K6UVR (right) won the Kenwood, TH-F6A. Congrats, Steve!
SOARA President, Ray, AE6H (left) presented the award

Membership Report

I suggest all members attend and participate in as many events as possible to gain maximum benefit from your membership.

We now have 197 paid members and 37 unpaid. Volunteers and membership dues 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 April election. Let me know if you need a new badge or a membership handbook. Pick them up at the next meeting to save SOARA postage costs. Suggestions to make SOARA better are welcome.

Welcome New Members!

Dick Hoyer, KK6LE, Extra
Chris Carbajal, K6KJ, Extra

73, Ed, WA6ED, membership@soara.org.

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



The K7RA Solar Update 3/17/17

There haven't been sunspots since March 3, other than March 5, when one sunspot appeared for only one day. Also, solar flux values have recently dipped below 70, for the first time since the other side of this solar cycle.

Solar flux appears at 70 over the past week: <ftp://ftp.swpc.noaa.gov/pub/indices/DSD.txt>

But this is an approximation. Resolved to 0.10, you can see that it is dipping lower: <http://www.spaceweather.ca/solarflux/sx-5-flux-en.php>. You want to look at the Observed Flux column.

Average daily sunspot number dropped from 14.1 to zero. Average daily solar flux went from 74.3 to 70.3.

Average daily planetary A Index quieted from 20.9 to 8.1, while average mid-latitude A index went from 15 to 6.4.



[WM7D's Solar resource Page](#)

[DX Operations: www.nq3k.com](#)

[ARRL HF Propagation Charts](#)

Desert Storm Rally

April 7 & 8, Blythe, CA
AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Communications Job Description

What you deliver: Communications for the entire rally by providing a safe operating environment for our volunteers, public and competitors.

The radio communicator will serve 4 basic functions: 1. Providing safety and logistics information for rally officials. 2. Reporting the locations of all cars on the stages. 3. Reporting to net control the status of cars out of the event, and their location.. 4. Assistance in the direction of emergency vehicles to the site of an emergency. How you deliver: By setting up at your designated location, establishing communications with your other team mates and securing you location so that unauthorized traffic is not allowed on the Stage during the Rally. Be able to report unsafe conditions or emergencies immediately. If so directed, be able to stop rally traffic by displaying the appropriate sign to competitors. In case of an emergency, maintain the security of your location and provide reports and updates on activity in your vicinity and follow directions of the Rally Organizers as needed. Requirements: Be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator (ham) Must have a radio capable of operating within the Communications Plan (2M) for the event. Be prepared to adapt to changing communications and operational needs. For additional information contact Barry Colston at KG6NWJ@ARRL.NET or sign up for Desert Storm 2013 at www.rallydata.com and register as a HAM volunteer.

Thank you for your efforts in providing emergency communications in unlikely locations!

SOARA Saturday

We built field strength meters last Saturday 3/4. About sixteen members and one non-member attended. I made about 14 kits and all are either sold or reserved. At least five kits were built at the meeting. I know three kits were completed and worked sufficiently well at the meeting.

Three Harbor Freight DMM's were donated by Tony, W6TNY. I asked for a \$5 donut donation for these meters. We managed to collect \$38 for donuts and the Dunkin Donuts bill was \$38 and change. So, there was no need to have SOARA to pay for donuts this time!!! I did collect another \$5 late in the morning and I will apply this to the next SOARA Saturday donut purchase. My goal is to have SOARA Saturday's self fund the coffee and donuts as much as possible.

The next SOARA Saturday, 3/25, will be a DMR radio workshop with Mikkel NR6E presenting. Currently, we do not have a room reserved at Murray for March 25. Heiko is helping me to possibly reserve any room. If necessary, we will have the DMR Soara Saturday at Gilleran Park.

I did manage to understand WordPress enough to update the SOARA calendar for SOARA Saturday dates. I entered locations for each Saturday except for the uncertain months. I will replace the question marks with locations once everything is finalized.

I'm starting the research to build a 100W dummy load in a quart size paint can filled with mineral oil. Cost should be less than \$20 per kit. I need a cheap source for the

(Continued on page 4)



The Doctor Will See You Now!

“Remote Antenna Tuners” is the topic of the just-released episode of the “ARRL The Doctor is In” podcast. [Listen...and learn!](#)

Sponsored by DX Engineering, “ARRL The Doctor is In” is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

The crew at Paws Fur Pink. (Left to Right) Mike, K6MSM, Greg, K5MGH, Safa, W6SSK

Thank fully, the rain did its best to stay away during the race, but there was some mud, even on the rain course!

(Continued from page 3): *SOARA Saturday*

oil and cans. I expect to have a prototype and documentation at the next general meeting with analyzer charts. <http://k4eaa.com/dummy.html>

I talked to Horst about possibly doing a SWR meter build. Stay tuned... We may also want to build battery boxes again too. Several folks were talking about battery boxes on Saturday as well. SOARA Saturday **suggestions are always welcome.**

OC Winter Trail Run Series & Paws Fur Pink

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 train 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 below pictures from the February installment of the race.



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	EQ Tom Broz	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 26 OC Chili Run 25	OC Chili Run 25 Baker to Vegas 25-26	Desert Storm Rally 7-8	HD Trails 6 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

President: Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-322-8468
ae6h@soara.org

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

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

Treasurer: Lori Carey, NI6X 949-444-8190
ni6x@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

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

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

Membership: Ed Barnes, WA6ED 949-468-7706
wa6ed@soara.org

Education: Steve Kuver, K6UVR 949-874-1972
k6uvr@soara.org

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

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

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
wa6ed@soara.org

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

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

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

Ambassador: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K *[In England]*
[Blog](http://ng6k@soara.org)
ng6k@soara.org