



The

November 2019

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

In This Issue

Auction.....1

Elmer Sat.....2

Membership
Report.....3

Holiday Party . 3

OCHEART.....4

Put Up an
Antenna.....5

Howto Net
Control.....8

Sale Mail List. .8

General Meeting

November 18,
2019
7:00 PM

NP Murray
Center
Veterans Way
Mission Viejo

General Meeting - Auction - November 18, 2019

Norman P. Murray Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

Time to clean out the HAM shack and pick up some new projects for the holidays. All are welcome to attend the SOARA Spring Auction on Monday, November 18th at the Norman P Murray Center in Mission Viejo at 7pm. The SOARA semi-annual auctions benefit the ham community by providing opportunities not otherwise available:

- New hams get an opportunity to purchase equipment at prices that are a fraction of the cost of new equipment at the retail store. A great way to get into a new hobby.
- Experienced hams get an opportunity to purchase classic equipment items and accessories for equipment lines that are no longer currently available at retail stores.
- All hams get an opportunity to purchase supplies and small parts and build up their own stocks of bits and pieces to repair old equipment or build new homebrew goodies (doo-hickeys or whatcha-ma-callits!).

Sellers are encouraged to arrive at 6pm to allow sufficient time for check-ins and tagging of all items prior to the auction. For more information and auction rules and procedures, please check here.

For those of you who have asked to pre-fill tags for auction items, there is a link below to download and print. <https://www.soara.org/wp-content/uploads/SOARA-Auction-Tags.pdf>

In addition our regularly scheduled FCC licensing examinations will occur at 6pm prior to the auction.

Erik Wresch W6INE
Vice President/SOARA

SOARA Elmer Saturday (SES) November 23 **Gilleran Park - Meggers and High Voltage Insulation Testing**

The November SOARA Saturday will be on the 23th at Gilleran Park, 9am to noon, coffee and donuts will be provided. The theme is high voltage insulation testing. Bring some old coax to test. If you have a megger bring it! More the better. Other topics are okay too. We can breakout into groups as needed.

If you want to be an Elmer, please talk to me. The main requirement is the willingness to help fellow amateurs with your knowledge and experience. I will gladly make you a special edition green SOARA Elmer badge! Goto: www.soara.org/elmers-corner/

The SOARA Saturday 2020 calendar is almost final. If I missed something of need to make a change, please let me know quickly. We are also moving SOARA Saturdays to the second Saturday of the month. This will help us avoid a conflict with the TRW swapmeet.

Jan, APRS

Feb, SDR, RTLSDR, Raspberry Pi4, remote access

Mar, kit building, soldering, soldering coax / solder gun

Apr, HT programming and proper usage

May, HF operation / knobs and buttons, antennas, baluns, random wire

Jun, Noise hunting, RFI, ferrites, noise suppression, grounding

Jul, Antennas in the park

Aug, FT8 operation, JTAlert, psk reporter

Sep, DSTAR, Fusion, & DMR

Oct, SDR's what's new and fun?

Nov, measurement instruments, multimeters, oscilloscopes, service monitors, ...

Dec, no SOARA Saturday, Holiday party!

The October SOARA Saturday had a great turnout on emergency power. I didn't count, but we had 20+ attendees setting up radios on tables by the connex box at Gilleran park. It was a fun morning. I added even more ideas to my emergency checklist. Thanks to all that participated!

I updated the SOARA Elmer Saturday page webpage a few days ago. I added the above 2020 calendar of events and a link to the HamNation show 426 where I was fortunate enough, with Gordo's help, to talk about and show SOARA Saturday's in action! I also added a PDF of my presentation guide to the show. I thought members might like to have a copy. Here is the SOARA link:

<https://www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/>

73,
Ed, WA6ED
SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator

Contacting Soara: Questions about SOARA? Postal mail: P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690
Send e-mail to membership@soara.org or leave a message at 949-667-0173
Facebook: K6SOA Twitter: @K6SOA

Membership Report

Dues are past due they were due in October. I will send another notice early December. This November has been an interesting month. I have had all types of issues with this simple dues payment process. Some have paid dues twice. Others haven't paid their dues but thought they did. If you haven't paid your dues please do so now. If you have a question, please let me know and I will be glad to help. Also make sure to check if you have a credit. Many new members have a significant credit.

We now have 225 active members, 153 paid and 70 unpaid. Let me know if anybody needs help with an application! Receive the most from your membership and participate go to www.soara.org and check out the calendar and activity information. Get radio-active! No new members this month. The nets announce activities as well.

Oh, we had a wonderful DSTAR net with 8 members participating last Wednesday night 11/13/19. We had a great time. Go digital and get on the Wednesday evening DSTAR net. We had reflector 88 connected and many of us was using a Zum or Jumbo spot. You can also use an antenna if you like. DSTAR is really fun to play around and have fun. We run the net round robin so everyone gets a chance to talk several times. Information on all nets are here:

<https://www.soara.org/activities/net-schedule/>

**73,
Ed, WA6ED
SOARA Membership Director**

SOARA Holiday Party - December 1

Sign Up Now!

Sunday, December 1st at 5 p.m. will be the Annual SOARA Holiday Party. This year we will be celebrating the season at Peppino's Italian Restaurant at Mission Viejo Lake. Non-members are also invited to join us for this event.

The cost will be \$30 per person and includes dinner, dessert and a raffle ticket. We have some great prizes this year that you won't want to miss. We will also present the annual Richard Coyne Memorial Award to a SOARA member who has contributed greatly throughout the year to both SOARA and Ham Radio.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

[Click Here](#) to pay by credit card on the SOARA website or you can pay by check or cash at the General Meeting on Monday.

**Dana Wresch - KM6LZG
SOARA Activities Director**

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[OCHEART Volunteer Recruitment Appeal](#)

It is often said that “Ham Radio Saves Lives”. It would be more accurate to say “Amateur Radio Operators who are properly equipped and trained can save lives”. Ham radio operators have a unique opportunity to support perhaps the most vital resource in any community: a hospital or other medical facility.

Here is the problem: All the sophisticated communications systems employed in the healthcare industry need backup. Imagine a disaster scenario where

- Landline service
- Cellular service
- Internet
- Power grid
- Satellite Phones

is/are overloaded or defunct.

The one communications system that can still function is amateur radio. Your amateur radio skills and equipment can fill the critical gaps that history tells us will inevitably exist in a widespread emergency.

A new ARES unit known as Orange County Hospital Emergency Radio Team, or OCHEART, has been formed to establish a backup communications system for critical Orange County medical facilities.

Besides the requirement for an Amateur Radio License, OCHEART communicators are expected to complete certain FEMA and ARRL courses, demonstrate understanding of the privacy and security provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), learn to operate appropriately in the hospital environment and maintain portable equipment for “Every Day Carry”.

Yes, you can do it. With a minimal investment in equipment and proper training and practice you can be a critical part of protecting the lives of those in need of medical assistance during a major incident or countywide disaster.

Learn what you need to have, know and do to be a Hospital Communicator with OCHEART. Contact KB6BXD@SOARA.org for more information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q:** What if I am currently in a RACES group?
- **A:** According to the ARRL, FEMA and the ARRL both recommend dual membership in RACES and ARES*.
- **Q:** What if the leadership in my RACES group expresses concern about possible conflict arising from dual membership in RACES and OCHEART?

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- **A:** You can assure them that there is no conflict. There may be occasions when OCHEART has been activated before any RACES activation. In such cases, a communicator with dual membership will come under the jurisdiction of a government's Emergency Management Incident Commander once RACES is activated, who may direct that RACES/OCHEART hospital communicators remain at a medical facility or be deployed elsewhere in a RACES-specific role.

Heiko AD6OI ad6oi@soara.org

[How to Put Up an Antenna Witout Risking Life and Limb](#)

One SOARA Saturday, Steve K6UVR and I discussed how to get a connection at the peak of my roof without risking my body bouncing off the ground. His initial idea needed some fine tuning to clear up some issues, but resulted in a sound solution.

How to:

1. Mounting the clamp on an extension pole in a fashion that could be easily released once deployed.
2. Hold the clamp open against the spring pressure while at the end of the extension pole.
3. Releasing the clamp pressure once located properly.
4. Allow a method for easy retrieval when needed.

Items needed:

Pittsburgh 3.5" Spring Clamp
 Unger 20ft Extension pole
 Small pulley
 Clothesline rope



Unger 962780 2-Stage Lightweight Telescopic Pole, 8 - 20 Ft L, Aluminum, Size: 8 x 20 ft., Blue

from Walmart - UnbeatableSale

★★★★★ 638 product reviews

Unger

Lightweight telescopic pole extends your reach up to 20 ft. for getting to hard-to-reach areas. Standard locking cone and threaded tip fit almost any Unger Professional ... [more »](#)

Other options ▾

\$39.16

+\$4.40 tax and \$17.60 shipping
 Walmart - UnbeatableSale

\$51.03 [Home Depot](#)

\$45.49 [HardwareAndTools.com](#)

\$56.75 [Walmart - Southfork Homecenter](#)

[Visit site](#)

[Compare prices from 10+ stores](#)

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Start by bolting the pulley with clothes line rope loop to one side of the clamp handle. The rope loop needs to be long enough to reach to some feature that will allow you to tie it off when the antenna is hoisted. The rope loop allows the ability to raise and lower for maintenance or experimenting with different designs. Additionally, it allows you to quickly and easily remove the clamp when necessary to satisfy #4 above by giving it a tug to pull the clamp off.

The solution to #1, #2, #3, come with a simple combination of components. A spring clamp which can be purchased at Harbor Freight for about \$2, a pulley for \$3, rope to fit the pulley, a small block of wood 5" x 3" x 5/8" or 3/4" thick. The final item is an extension pole which allows you to reach the desired location. For my purposes, I used an Unger 20' aluminum extension pole from Home Depot.

Prepare the wood block by cutting a notch 1" deep x 2 3/4" long in the center of a long side. Notch the rectangle so that the clamp handles can be inserted while being held open. Drill a hole in the plywood slightly larger than the threaded end of the extension pole.

Wrap a few turns of Teflon tape around the threads of the extension pole. This step is necessary to keep glue from the next step from sticking to the threads (making for easy removal).

Set the plywood down on a flat surface that can release hot glue... fill the hole approximately half full of hot glue and insert the taped threads slowly into the hot glue, allowing threads to fill and form. Let cool completely.

The plywood block will hold the clamp open and securely so that it can be located where needed.

To Install, simply thrust the pole with clamp attached at a rafter in order to allow the plywood to slip up the clamp handle and thereby release the clamp to collapse onto the rafter. The plywood should now be free to slip off the clamp handles.



A hefty yank on the clothesline should pull the clamp off the rafter... care should be used to avoid it falling on your head!



Rich Gordon W6BOT

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[How to be a Good Net Control](#)

Here are some of my thoughts on how to be a good net control whether you are running an open net or a directed one.

- Start by realizing that in order to do a good job as a net control, that it is a full time job.
- When starting a conversation feel free to use your tactical call, when you are finished be sure to use your call sign, this applies at the end of any conversation.
- Always listen to your radio and always be ready to respond to something being asked.
- Do not wander away from your station to chat with others, if you must do so assign someone else as net control while you are doing this.
- Get into the habit of writing everything down so that you won't err when passing the information on to someone else.
- If you are not sure of what was said, ask for a repeat phonetically if necessary.
- Always be polite to others.

When in doubt ask.

Thanks

Heiko AD6OI

Communications Director

[SOARA Equipment For Sale Online Site](#)

Based on numerous requests from SOARA members for a place to post Ham Radio related items for sale to other club members, we have set up an opt-in based Mailman mailing list on our server. Interested SOARA members are invited to join the mailing list. The SOARA organization and Board of Directors do not provide any warranty or guarantee for the items being advertised, buyer beware!

To subscribe, navigate to:

<https://soara.org/mailman/listinfo/forsale>

Enter your "real" email address, not your "soara dot org" alias. You must be able to send and receive email from the address you provide.

Once subscribed, you will receive email when other members post items for sale. When posting to the list, you should provide an accurate description of the item for sale, its condition, and asking price. Replies to postings should be sent to the poster of the item, and not the list.

The archives of postings are publicly available on the web here:

<https://soara.org/pipermail/forsale/>

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This mailing list may be suspended or discontinued at the discretion of the SOARA Board of Directors should that become necessary.

Brian NJ6N

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2019 SOARA Calendar

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	-
Program	DXpedition	-	-	-	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	-	SOARA Fair	-	-	Fall Auction	-
FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM	28	25	18	15	20	At Field Day (2pm)	15	19	16	21	18	-
Education Classes 8:00 AM	Tech 26	-	-	Tech 13	General 18	Tech 15	Extra 13	Tech 17	General 14	-	Tech 16	-
SOARA Elmer Saturday 9:00 AM	Feb 2 Murray	Mar 2 Murray	23 Murray	20 Gilleran	25 Murray	22 Gilleran	20 Gilleran	24 Murray	21 Murray	26 Gilleran	23 Gilleran	-
SOARA T-Hunt 1:00 pm	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	26	23	28	25	-
Board Meeting	Feb 4	Mar 2	25	22	28	-	22	26	23	28	25	-
Special Events	Quartz-fest 20-26	Yuma 15-17		Visalia DX 12-14	Dayton Ham-vention 17-19	ARRL Field Day 21-23	HRO Ham Jam -	SOARA Picnic August 4		JOTA		SOARA Holiday Party 1
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW	ARRL DX-SSB CQWPX SSB		CQWPX CW	ARRL Field Day 21-23			CQWW RTTY	CQWW SSB	CQWW CW	
Volunteer Events	OC Chili Run	Paws Fur Pink OC Chili Run	OC Chili Run Baker to Vegas	Dessert Storm Rally Ride for Rwanda	HD Trails OC Marathon LH Marathon	ARRL Field Day 21-23	MV Fire-works 4			Vision Quest		Run for a Claus

Dates subject to Change - Check the SOARA Web Site (<http://www.soara.org>) to verify locations and times

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SOARA Information

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	-	(pvt)	Santiago Peak. (C)
440	—	445.660	-	(110.9)	Laguna Beach
D-STAR 440	—	445.705	-	(K6SOA B)	Laguna Beach
440	—	447.180	-	(pvt)	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 @ 8:00PM

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

10 meter HF (28.410 +/-) Sundays after the 40m net.

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



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