



The

February 2019

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

February 25,
2019
7:00 PM

NP Murray
Center
Veterens Way
Mission Viejo

President's Message, February 2019

This month, I'd like to offer a couple of, three actually, reminders of, hopefully general interest.

First, I'd like to remind all of you about the HF Radio Giveaway contest, where SOARA will award a Kenwood TS-850SAT HF radio with antenna tuner, and a \$300 gift certificate at HRO. Contestants must be SOARA members, 25 years old or younger, and complete a 250 word essay about "Why I Deserve an HF Radio" or "How I will Utilize an HF Radio" or a combination of the two. The deadline for submitting the essays is Wednesday, March 13, to "Board @soara.org". Details are in last month's Propagator, or email me: <ae6h@soara.org> and I'll gladly answer any questions and provide a copy of the full requirements.

Next, We've had a few recent occurrences of someone, seemingly driving around and accidentally dead keying various repeaters. I say, it's most likely driving around because the signal strength varies, and we can often hear conversations, radios, and road noise. Of course, this is not only illegal (unidentified transmissions) but also annoying and often prevents others from utilizing the repeaters. This is most likely inadvertent and because of loose microphones stuffed into the seat, drink cup holder, or some other place where the PTT can accidentally be triggered. Handhelds, in similar situations, can do the same thing. The solution is to use microphone hang up clips. If you don't want to drill hole in that beautiful dashboard or console (I don't), there are a number of designs of plastic microphone hanger brackets that successfully attach with heavy duty double-stick tape. I've successfully used this method of safely securing the mic in my Ford Focus since 2013. As for handhelds, there are a number of clip on dash or cupholder mounts available. If you or a friend has access to a 3D printer there are several mike holder designs available for free. All these are a good inexpensive alternative to the screw mounted spring metal mike clips. Another good tip and "Good amateur practice" is to set the Time Out Timer on your radio(s). Recommended is between 30 seconds and one minute. You can actually say a lot in a minute, and

this prevents an open mike from tying up the repeater for a long time.

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

Finally, I'd like to do a shameless plug for the OC Fire Watch Program (OCFW). Hard to think of wildfires being a threat after the heavy and frequent rains we've been experiencing, but all this rain means lots of new growth of the light flashy ladder fuels that cause wildfires to spread so quickly. All too soon these fuels will become dead and dry, ready to ignite. The OCFW just compiled their 2018 report which has some pretty impressive statistics:

Orange County Parks, and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, the two primary agencies served, combined manage over 100,000 acres of parks, wild land and open space. Since the inception of the OCFW program, volunteers have dedicated over 18,000 hours to help prevent wild fires through active public education, visible reminders, deterrence, and early detection. In 2018 alone, volunteers gave 3,333.5 hours to the program, with 12 days of Red Flag deployments, and presented 25 public education and outreach programs. Major partners in the OCFW program, are the OC Parks, the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, the Orange County Fire Authority, along with the Cities of Irvine, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods. Other cooperating agencies include the National Weather Service, South Orange Amateur Radio Association, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County RACES, Crystal Cove State Park, and the US Forest Service.

We could use a lot more Ham volunteers on the roster, because there are deployment areas where cell coverage is unreliable, and ham radio fills in the gaps. Hams, using SOARA's 447.180 repeater on Santiago Peak, in addition to reporting fires and other emergencies, help provide situational awareness to the deployed volunteers. The party-line nature of radio allows all on the net to know what is occurring at other FW posts, vs having to wait for a cellphone call from the OCFW operations center,

We encourage all interested SOARA members to consider volunteering for OCFW. FMI, go to www.orangecountyfirewatch.org

73 de Ray, AE6H

[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 at "soara dot org" alias. You must be able to send and receive email from the address you provide.

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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/>

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

Brian NJ6N

SOARA Elmer Saturday (SES) March 2 **Kit Building at the Murray Center**

The January SOARA Saturday was lots of fun. We had about 16 folks show up. One person built an antenna and several brought their tape measure antennas for demo. Jim, K16LOM helped with his antenna analyzer for testing once the antenna was built. Even though this is a receive only antenna, we like to make it as resonate as possible for the t-hunt frequency.

The February SOARA Saturday was moved by one week due to President's day. Plus the Murray center was closed.

The February SOARA Saturday will be March 2 at the Murray center, 9am to noon, coffee and donuts will be provided. We will be kit building. If you expect to be soldering, please bring some cardboard to protect the table and wear safety glasses. I plan to bring my soldering equipment and it will be appreciated if other Elmers bring their equipment too.

Bring a kit you want to build and we will try to help you get started. I will bring a few completed tube kits to show and tell. If you have items to show and tell you are welcome to do so. Lets have some fun!

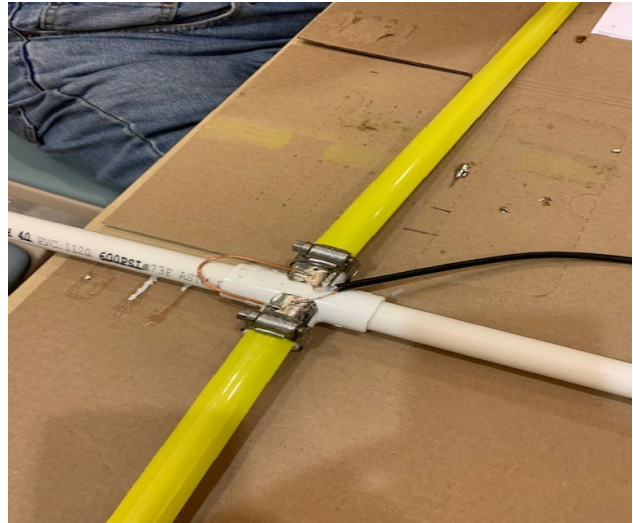
If you want to be an Elmer, please talk to me. The main requirement is the willingness to help fellow amateurs. I will gladly make you a special SOARA Elmer badge.

73,
Ed, WA6ED
SOARA Elmer Saturday Volunteer

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Building a Tape Measure Antenna



Details of Center Element



Kevin M Brouelette, AJ6EE - builder of "servo" clock in photo - showed his project at the SOARA January meeting and Elemer Saturday on Feb 2.

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Membership Report

We now have 244 active members, 191 with dues paid and 49 unpaid. If you haven't paid your dues, you will go inactive soon. Please pay your dues soon. Next, I expect to call each unpaid member and ask them if they wish to continue their membership. This is our way of trying to be helpful and keep membership strong and active.

If you don't think your membership has value, please call me, email me and tell me why. I often find lack of participation the biggest culprit. Personally, I have had the most fun participating in meetings, SOARA Elmer Saturdays, Hamjam, Field Day, Communications for the numerous runs like OC Chili, Ride to Rwanda, the weekly 40 & 10 meter HF, UHF, VHF, DSTAR nets, and even VE work helping with the testing for new hams. Also, being the membership director, it gives me the unique opportunity to meet new amateurs. This is fun since amateur radio attracts all types of people from many different backgrounds. Bottom line, get out there and participate.

A few days ago we needed some plumbing repairs at work. I called the plumber and scheduled the work. When he finished, he knew all the antennas were for amateur radio and asked who is the ham? Well, just about all of us at work are hams! He wanted to get a license for his wife and himself. So, I told him about SOARA education and testing, the website, and Gordo's book. I always tell those new to highlight and only read the correct answer. That's the best tip I know. Well, you have to read the book too.

I hope to hear you on the radio soon!

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

SOARA Repeater Update

Last week, the radio that provides our link to Santiago from Laguna Beach started transmitting spontaneously. We have disconnected the link radio from the controller and are investigating the cause of the key-ups.

The 224.100 machine lost receive audio recently. The cause was determined to be a fault in the RLC-3 radio interface card that it was connected to. A spare card was swapped in and the machine is back up and running.

At Santiago, our 224.640 machine is having problems again. The transmit audio becomes very low and eventually you can't hear it intermittently. It will be some time before we can make another trip up there to repair this repeater.

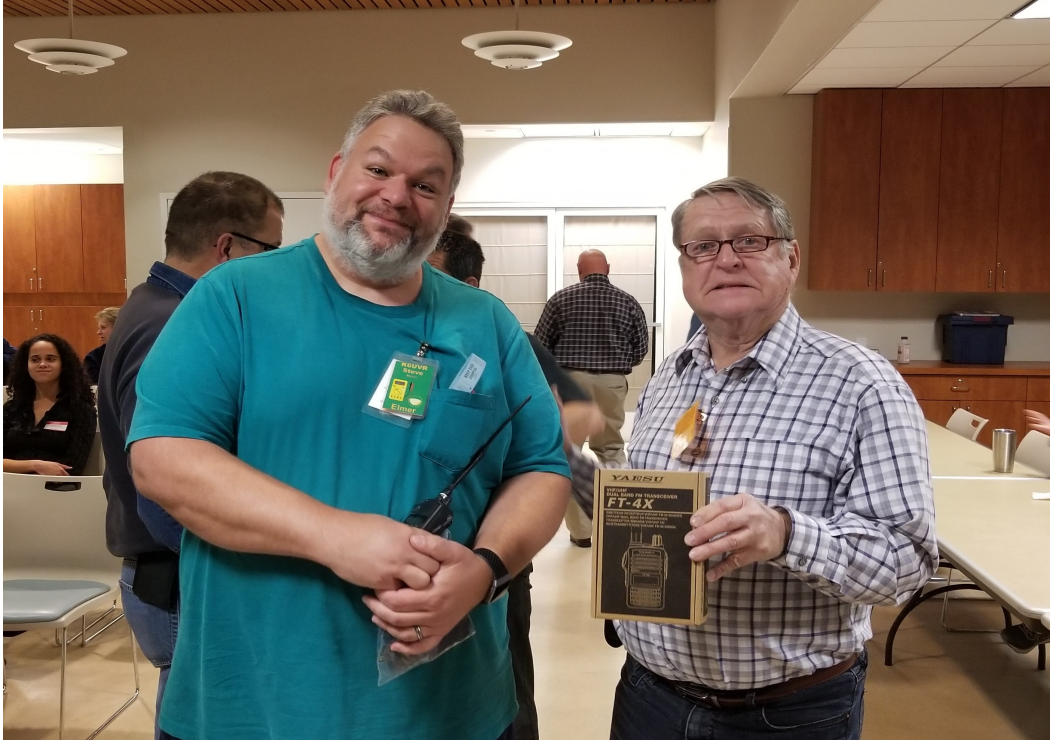
Everything else is working well.

Vy 73, Brian NJ6N

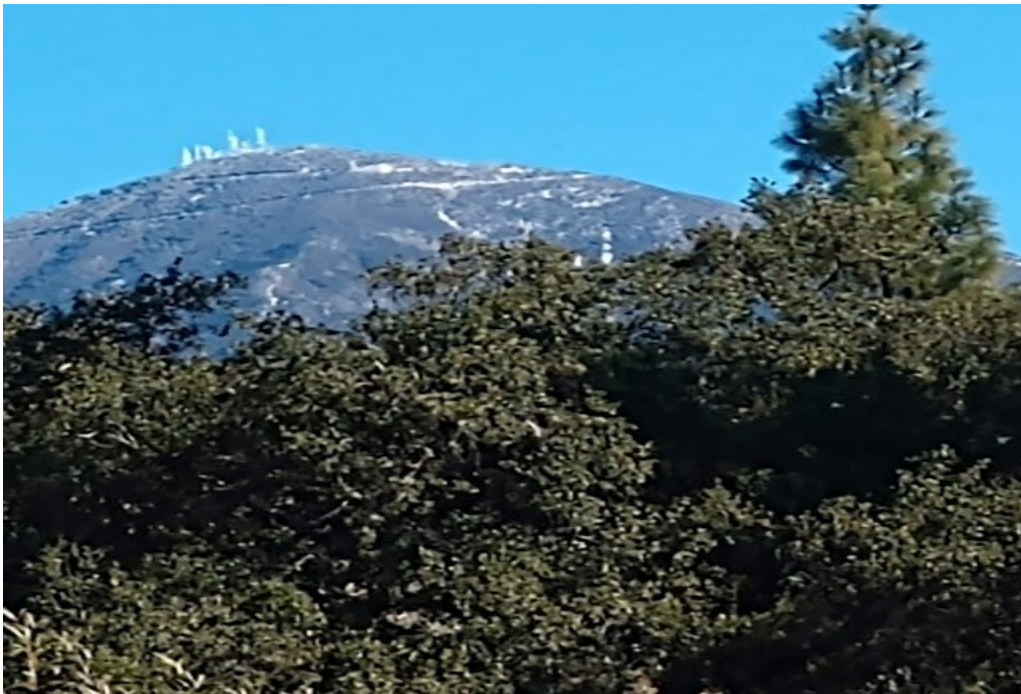
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January 2019 - Meeting Raffle Winner

The “Big Prize” a Yaesu FT-4X Dual Band radio was won by Steve Kuver, K6UVR. Come to the meetings so you can win great prizes like this one!



Santiago Peak - Antenna Ice



Dave Seroski, KG6QCI sent in a picture of the ice covered antenna farm on Santiago Peak

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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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board Meeting	Feb 4	Mar 2	25	22	28	-	22	26	23	28	25	-
Special Events	Quartzfest 20-26	Yuma 15-17		Visalia DX 12-14	Dayton Ham-vention 17-19	ARRL Field Day 21-23	HRO Ham Jam -	SOARA Picnic -		JOTA		SOARA Holiday Party -
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 Fireworks 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 @ 7:30PM

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



SOARA OFFICERS

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