



The

September 2020

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

September 21,
2020 7:00 PM
via
[GoToMeeting](#)

President's Message, September 2020

Greetings Members,

My message this month is to solicit help in keeping SOARA functioning: First and foremost, our excellent Treasurer, Lori, NI6X will be relocating very shortly to the Jackson Hole Wyoming area, because of her spouses work, so we desperately need a Treasurer replacement. Lori has done a fantastic job, and has a great system in place, on which she has graciously agreed to train her successor.

She estimates, that except for dues month (October) she is able to take care of her monthly duties is about an hour or so. Much of the bill paying, etc., has been automated! We'll definitely miss Lori, not only for her great work as Treasurer, but as a great contributor to SOARA in many other ways. Wishing Lori all the very best at her new QTH, and we hope someone will step forward to pick up the reins very soon, so that Lori can get them up to speed before she leaves. She has also indicated that she is willing to remotely Elmer the new Treasurer remotely, if questions come up.

If you have any experience or interest in helping your club by filling this extremely critical position and function, Please come forward now!

On a less urgent, but also important note, we need someone with web page via Wordpress creation and maintenance, to take some of the burden off Brian, NJ6N. Contact Brian, <Nj6n@soara.org for more details. If you have even more IT experience and a desire to learn, Brian can also use an assistant in other areas like programming the repeaters, etc. Again, please contact Brian if you can help us out.

And lastly, but certainly not least, we need an Activities Director, This person assists with planning our annual events like the Summer Picnic, the Holiday Party, and of course Field Day. When it comes to Field Day we normally have an overall coordinator for the event, along with an antenna coordinator, Radio coordinator, Location Director, etc. Field Day is truly an all hands event, so the Activities Director gets lots of help on this, our most extensive activity.

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

Update: For the Thursday evening Fire Watch Net, we are experimentally linking the Santiago Peak 447.180 repeater with the San Clemente, 146.025 repeater to improve coverage into the lower coastal areas. We may also do this on deployments, especially if the Red Flag / Fire Watch deployment extends to the OC Coastal Zone. This is being done on a trial basis, and if it works out, we may decide to link the two, for other events beyond Fire Watch. Please let us know if this arrangement is beneficial to you.

Thanks for reading, and Best 73,

Ray, AE6H
SOARA President

[General Meeting - September 21 via GotoMeeting](#) **[Matt Knebl N2GPD](#)**

Please join us online for our September General Membership Meeting to be held on the GoToMeeting platform which most of you should be familiar with by now.

Matt Knebl, N2GPD, will describe how cellular networks are designed and optimized by RF engineers. The session will focus on items of interest to amateur radio operators, such as wireless system design and optimization techniques, antennas, RF power levels, and test equipment. Matt has 25 years of wireless network RF engineering and management experience at operators including AT&T and T-Mobile as well as large consulting and testing companies.

Our General Meetings have always been open to the public and our online platform using GoToMeeting is also open to anyone that wants to join in. You can join our GoToMeeting using either the GTM plug-in or access it via the Chrome web browser. We will also record this meeting and post a link to this page after the meeting.

This is the [link](#) to joining the meeting or you may call in by phone **(646) 749-3122** using this Access Code: **855-254-021**

Erik, W6INE

[Membership Report](#)

October is when all membership dues are due. Please wait for me to send the email with the president's letter and your specific dues balance. Many new members and some older members may have a significant dues balance. This balance is due to the way we prorate the dues. Please read the dues email carefully. I will send the emails soon! And, thank you ahead of time for paying your dues. Dues are how we pay all the bills to keep the repeaters going and many other functions.

We are now at 229 active members with 3 new members and one application in process! Welcome new members.

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- **Stan, KM6VMI**
- **Joe, WB6HRO**
- **Mike, W6UXD**

Now for the old members. Get on the air and say hello! The SOARA repeaters are under utilized. Get out there and have some fun with that dusty HT.

If You know someone that wants to join SOARA, the application signatures have been temporarily waived. The process is: fill out the application, email it to membership@soara.org, pay your new member dues & initiation fee \$90, when the board meets we will review and vote on your application.

Once approved, I will verify your email and send you the SOARA Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual electronically in PDF. Now, the hard part. You need to participate to maximize your value! Something as simple as participating in a net will get you going. Check out www.soara.org for event details.

73,
Ed, WA6ED - SOARA Membership Director

[SOARA Elmer Saturday/Tech Net](#)

We have fun at SOARA Saturday events talking about all types of topics. Since we can't meet in larger numbers at the Murray center or Gilleran park, we are having virus free technical nets. Heiko is net control and I log to the SOARA website. This week, we discussed antennas, and chokes. Lots of good comments. The log is here: <https://www.soara.org/soara-saturday-log/>

Join us Saturdays 9am, on Laguna Beach 147.645 or Santiago Peak 447.180 repeaters. Bring your questions, be there to help others, or listen in. Try having some radio fun!.

73,
Ed, WA6ED
wa6ed@soara.org
SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator

[SOARA Statement of Revenue and Expenses](#) [YTD as of 31 July 2020](#)

Revenue:

Membership Dues	\$11,325.00
Initiation Fees	\$720.00
Total Membership Income	\$12,045.00

Activities:

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Auction Commissions	\$131.00
Donations - Unrestricted	\$813.00
Donations - Restricted	
Donations - Hal's Estate	\$680.00
Asset Disposal	
Total Other Revenue	\$1,624.00
Total Revenue	\$13,669.00

Expenses:

Site Rental:

Santiago Peak	\$3,500.00
City of San Clemente	\$120.00
Laguna Beach Water Dist	\$5.00

Utilities:

Internet DSL	\$601.40
Telephone Lines	\$741.16

Website:

Linode	\$137.05
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Insurance

Hartford	\$633.00
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Post Office Box

\$118.00

Postage

\$0.00

Corporate Fees

\$0.00

Activities:

SOARA Saturday	\$34.80
Field Day - Food	\$0.00
Field Day - Other (Generator)	\$0.00
Picnic	\$0.00

Equipment and Repeater Maintenance \$3,108.96

Other/Miscellaneous

Heiko - Radio Manual	\$24.45
Holiday Door Prizes	\$337.02

Total Expenses \$9,360.84

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Net Revenue	\$4,308.16
Raffle Income	\$919.00
Raffle Expense	\$1,071.74
Ending Cash Balance	\$19,699.21
PayPal Balance	\$550.37
Raffle Balance	\$2,061.27

[Ham Radio Funny Story](#)

Funny story about a new class of license in Canada but fits here too!

Joe Orrico

WB6HRO / WR6AAC Repeater

Canadian Amateur Radio operators will be excited to hear that a new class of license will be available starting September 1, 2020: the Quiet Radio Transmitter or “QRT” license. To qualify for this license you need to simply agree to never transmit.

A 2019 study found that 73% of hams never transmit. Most interestingly, the study found a third of those not only don't want to transmit, but object to others transmitting, preferring to have silence for hours, if not days on end. As one survey respondent said, “We invested over \$1000 in equipment to setup our club's repeater and yet people think they can just use it as if this were a hobby. It is really bothersome to hear someone looking for a QSO. It only encourages others to join in and, before you know it, everyone's on the air disturbing the peace and quiet.”

Responding to the survey's results, commercial interests proposed the QRT license be created. During the consultation period no-one from the ham community spoke up, confirming that the license was a perfect match to the needs of many hams. One exception was a special interest group who requested an endorsement be created allowing for frequent short transmissions, such as kerchunking of repeaters (provided you never say your call sign) or dialing DTMF to turn off a link.

A second endorsement was also agreed to after a letter was received from a meeting held at Tim Hortons requesting that some QRT licensees should be able to say, “That's not real ham radio” whenever someone is talking about new technology.

A third endorsement, the “stuck microphone with road noise” was not adopted as this was agreed to be a form of lengthy transmission, something that was in opposition to the spirit of the new license.

Hearing the news, a local Amateur instructor and examiner said, “This really is a game changer. The QRT license can be earned in a single day, except for the kerchunking

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endorsement which can take an extra day to practice using a test repeater we have setup in the classroom. Mind you, some people think the extra day is worth it as you can earn a new 'Kerchunked All Repeaters' award in as little as 24 hours using just a simple handheld radio."

Commercial interests across the country are welcoming the arrival of the QRT license. Speaking at a spectrum auction, an industry representative said, "This really speeds up the process of taking back our VHF and UHF spectrum from the Ham community. As people see the benefits of a QRT license such as no antennas, longer battery life, and no RFI, they will quickly see that it makes sense to hand over the spectrum to us so more kids can send emoticons to each other instead of wasting their time experimenting with electronics."

Is your license a QRT license? Perhaps consider upgrading.

de VE7NZ Adrian

[Watch Those Tools](#)



That'll Buff Out!

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Swap Meet

We have received equipment and parts from the estate of Jeff Towle, W6FCC, a former repeater director for SOARA. In addition to this equipment, we invite SOARA members to host a table at the swap meet where you can sell unneeded radios and other electronic for cash..

Note: Some of this equipment listed may have been sold and there are some new items that have been added.

The swap meet is at our house at 4 Parrell in Foothill Ranch. The donated items from the SK estate It will be sold by silent auction in the following process. Other items will be sold for cash/check. The conditions to visiting 4 Parrell in Foothill Ranch will be thus:

- Open for business Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Please wear a mask while on our property.
- Place a bid on any item that you might be interested in and send it to me <ad6oi@soara.org> .
- Wait until the bidding is done (one to two weeks).
- Items bid on will go to the highest bidder when no new bids have been received for three days.
- Pay by Braintree, cash, or check made out to SOARA when you receive your stuff from the SK estate. Make your own arrangements with other sellers at the swap meet for payment..
- This is a partial listing and there will be more over the next few days.
- There are also many audio cables and connectors that are not listed.
- Please note that the two scopes are not on the spreadsheet yet.

Motorola Desk mike
Motorola Desk mike (NIB)
Kenwood MC-60 desk mike with base
D104 desk mike
Astron RS-12A P.S.
MFJ-1224
MFJ-810 SWR/Power Mtr
Hamkey paddle
Dummy load HF to 225mhz
Kantronics KAM
Kantronics KAM
Kantronics KAM +
AEA PK-88
AEA DS-232
AES DS 2232
Pace swr mtr P5453
Switching power supplies (5)
Soldering kit
Spool of wire

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Heiko AD60I

Director of Communications for SOARA

Questions? Call me at (949) 859-3868 or e-mail at <ad6oi@soara.org>

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“Heavy Iron” Test Equipment and Parts Cabinet Auction

Just prior to the Covid-19 situation becoming significant SOARA received a donation of some older, high quality test equipment from the Alfred Mann Foundation. A second load consisting of parts cabinets with electronic components, 16mm movie projectors, a 36x60 work bench and assorted loose items was donated later.

The items will be available for inspection and bids on Saturday, October 10 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and Sunday October 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bids should be communicated to me, Dale Tyler at the auction or via email, bidding will continue until no more bids are received for 3 days and then the item will be sold. Bidders will be notified by email of any higher bids within 24 hours via email. Some items may have a reserve below which they will not be sold. All items are sold as-is with no refunds. Payment may be made via Braintree, cash or check made out to SOARA. Braintree payments need to be verified prior to pickup.

SOARA would like this equipment to go to interested members at reasonable prices. However, it would be good to gauge the interest in this equipment from the 1980s and early 1990s in case more becomes available. Many of these instruments were top of the line when built and/or are very specialized for laboratory use.

A partial list includes:

TEK 7904A, TEK 7854, assorted 7xxx plugins, Wavetek 3006 Signal Generator, HP 3466A Multimeter*, Fluke 8600A Multimeter, Clarostat Model 250 Power Resistance Box, TEK TM503, Rockland 7500 FFT Spectrum Analyzer (Audio), TEK 7D20 Digitizer, TEK 1101A Power Supply, MicroServo SR6402 strip chart recorder, Panasonic TV Monitor TR920M, HP 16058-60003*, 2 digital scales, Ballentine AN/USM-441 marker generator, HP 353A Patch Panel, TEK AN/USM-281C (500 series), Keithly 610A Electrometer (no probes)*, HP 430C RF Power Meter (no probe), Hitachi VC-8041 O-scope, Waage Solder Melting Pot (small rectangular opening), TEK 5440, 5xxx plugins, TEK 5440 rack mount Style*, Wayne Kerr PSG2400L*, Keithly 409 PicoAmmeter (no probes), HP 721A power supply 30V, 300ma, HP 2138 Pulse generator, Bearcat 800XLT scanner, Bearcat BC140 scanner, HP 3476A Multimeter, 2pc General Radio 1602-B UHF Admittance meter in wooden cases, General Radio 847ML component mount, General radio 1212-P2 IMC filter.

*Item is damaged, but may be repairable.

If you think you might be interested in any piece of this gear, please come and have a look in person. I suggest that you look the specifications up for any of these items on the Internet. Some items have been powered on, most have not. There are no probes for any of the scopes. In general the condition is fairly good on most of the items, given their age. Be aware that equipment of this vintage often have power supply problems because of aged electrolytic capacitors. We may be able to power on some of the units and perform limited testing.

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Thanks,
Dale Tyler W6EDT

[SOARA Nets](#)

We are running a number of nets on our repeaters to help all of us stay in touch and keep ourselves occupied while we are mostly staying at home. Except as noted below, the nets are held on the 2M (147.645) and 70cm (447.180) linked repeaters.

Some of these are what we have been doing for a while such as the Tuesday night 2000 net on the 2M/70cm repeaters, the Dstar net Wednesday nights at 2000 on 146.115 MHz and the HF nets on Saturday 40M (7.200 MHz) at 0800 and 10M (28.415MHz) at 0900.

There are new nets as well:

Astronomy Net - Wednesday evening at 1900 on 146.115MHz (Dstar)

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Dinner Net - Friday evening at 1900 on 2M/70cm
Tech Net - Saturday morning at 0900 on 2M/70cm

Dale, W6EDT

[GotoMeeting Information](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT MONDAY EVENING

When you join Monday's meeting, it is highly recommended you use Google Chrome if you plan on entering via browser. It is also recommended to use a headset or earbuds with a mic. Avoid a laptop mic as the speakers that sit right next to the mic tend to produce echo and feedback. Your webcams will be disabled.

The meeting will be locked in order for Soara Board members and our Presenter to arrive first. Please email me if you would like to make an announcement to the other members so I'll know in advance to call on you. You will be in a waiting room until 7pm when I'll open up the meeting. Please keep your microphones muted when not talking. I will Mute all attendees if there is an unmuted mic disrupting the meeting.

You can use the Chat feature to request to ask a question. When, acknowledged, you can unmmute your mic and ask away. You may ask the question in the chat if you prefer and we'll ask the question for you. You may comment as well if you like, just keep it clean. You can also chat with a specific individual privately. Just be sure of what you are saying and where it is going.

As this meeting is open to the public and announced as such on the website, we expect a smooth meeting. If we, by chance, get a disruptive guest they will be Dismissed from the room by the Moderator and the meeting room will then be locked to prevent re-entry.

Let's have a great online meeting!

Erik, W6INE

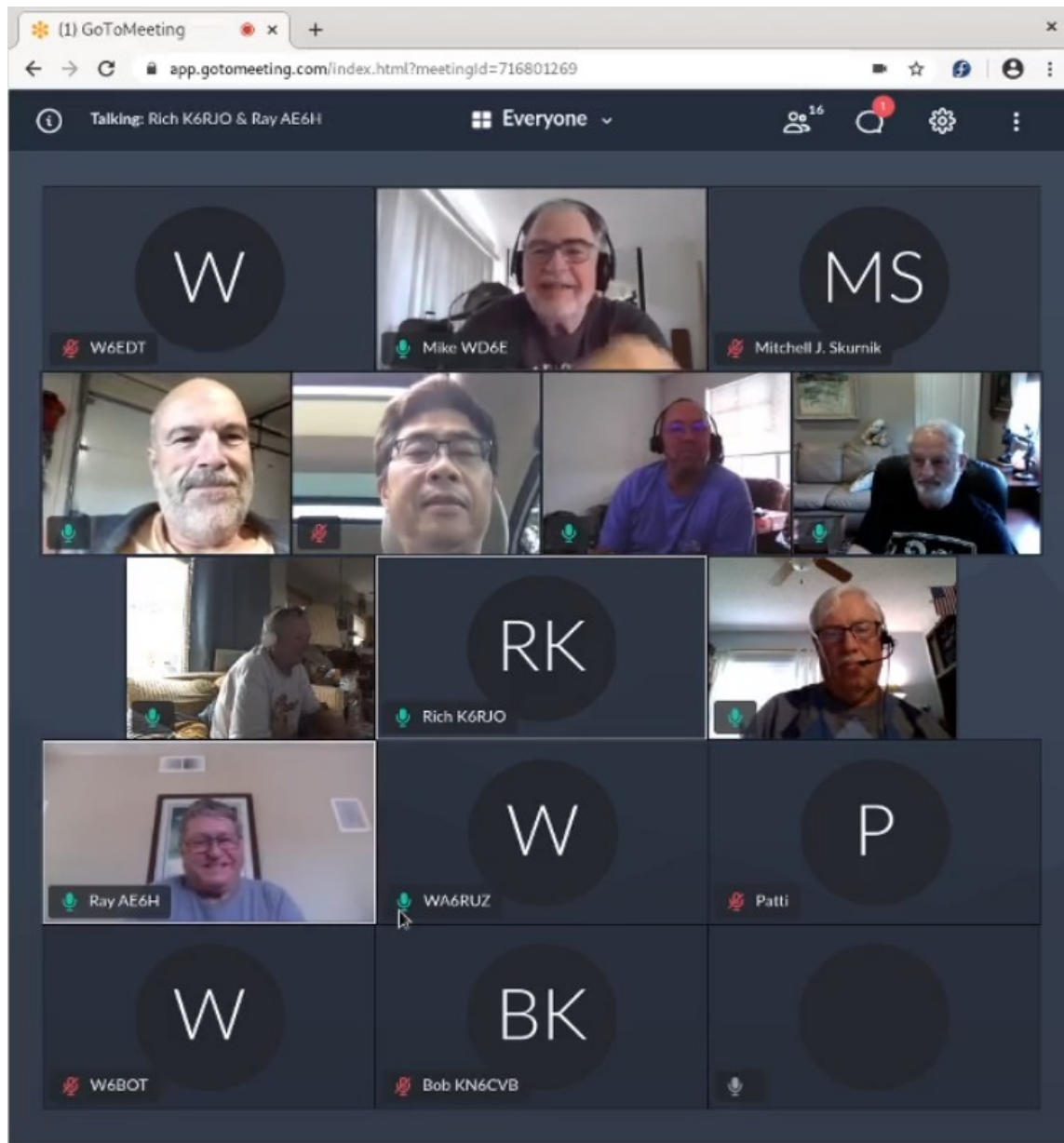
Some additional notes from Dale Tyler. Meeting details and links, etc. will be sent out Monday afternoon and will also be available on the soara.org website.

So far, the only browser that I have seen work is Chrome. The meeting link will look something like SoaraMeeting_ **subject to change - check email or soara.org**). When you follow the link you will see a screen similar to this
Be sure to choose "Join Meeting in Browser". Next you will have an opportunity to enter your name and ID. Please use your callsign for your ID. For example, I used W6EDT and my name was Dale. If you have previously used GotoMeeting, your name and ID will be stored in cookies associated with the site. You may or may not want to change them,

As was mentioned above, a headphone is best, but as long as you do not unmute your mike, the PC speakers will also work.

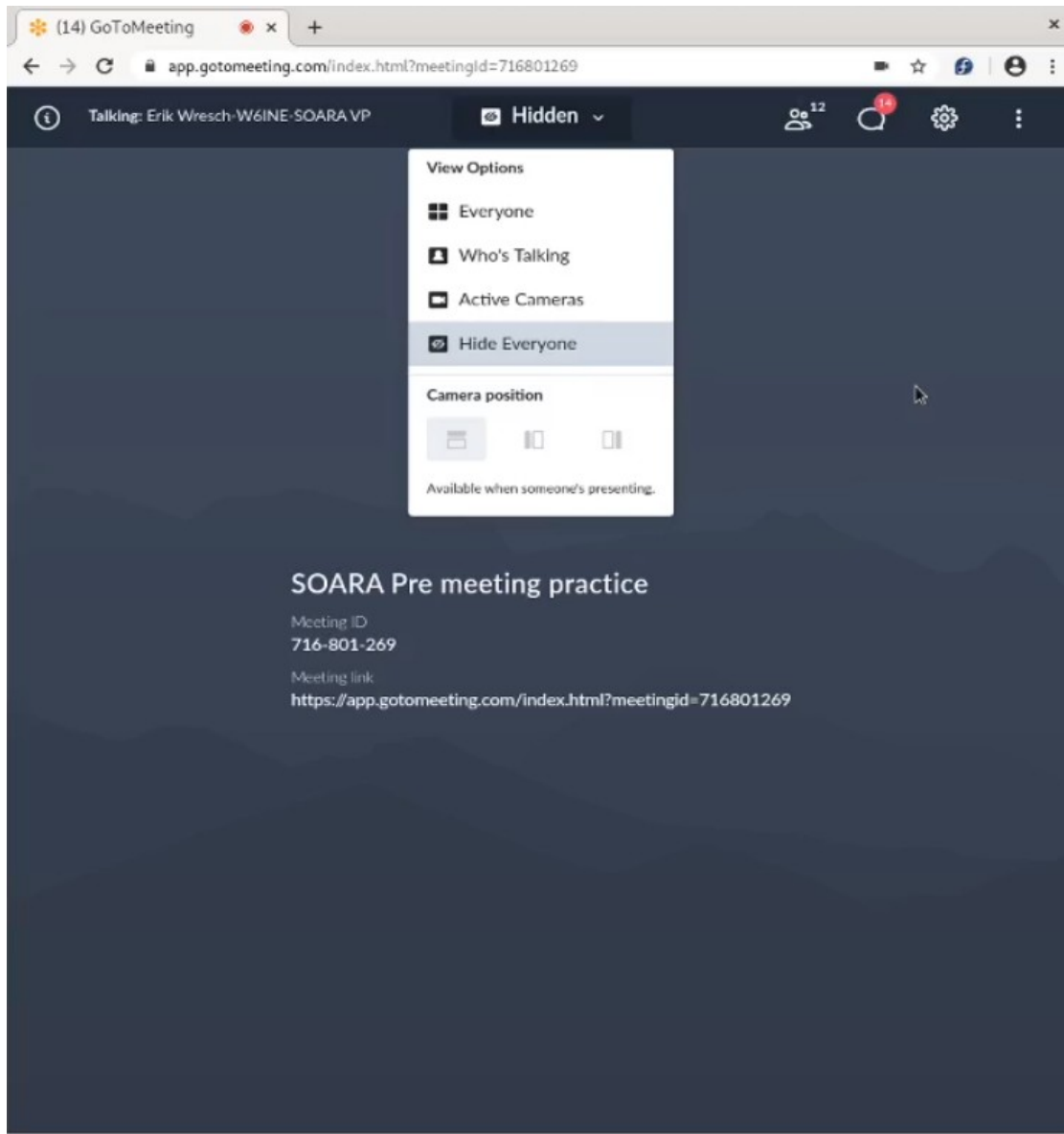
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Once you enter the meeting you will see something like this (I am the "W" in the upper left):



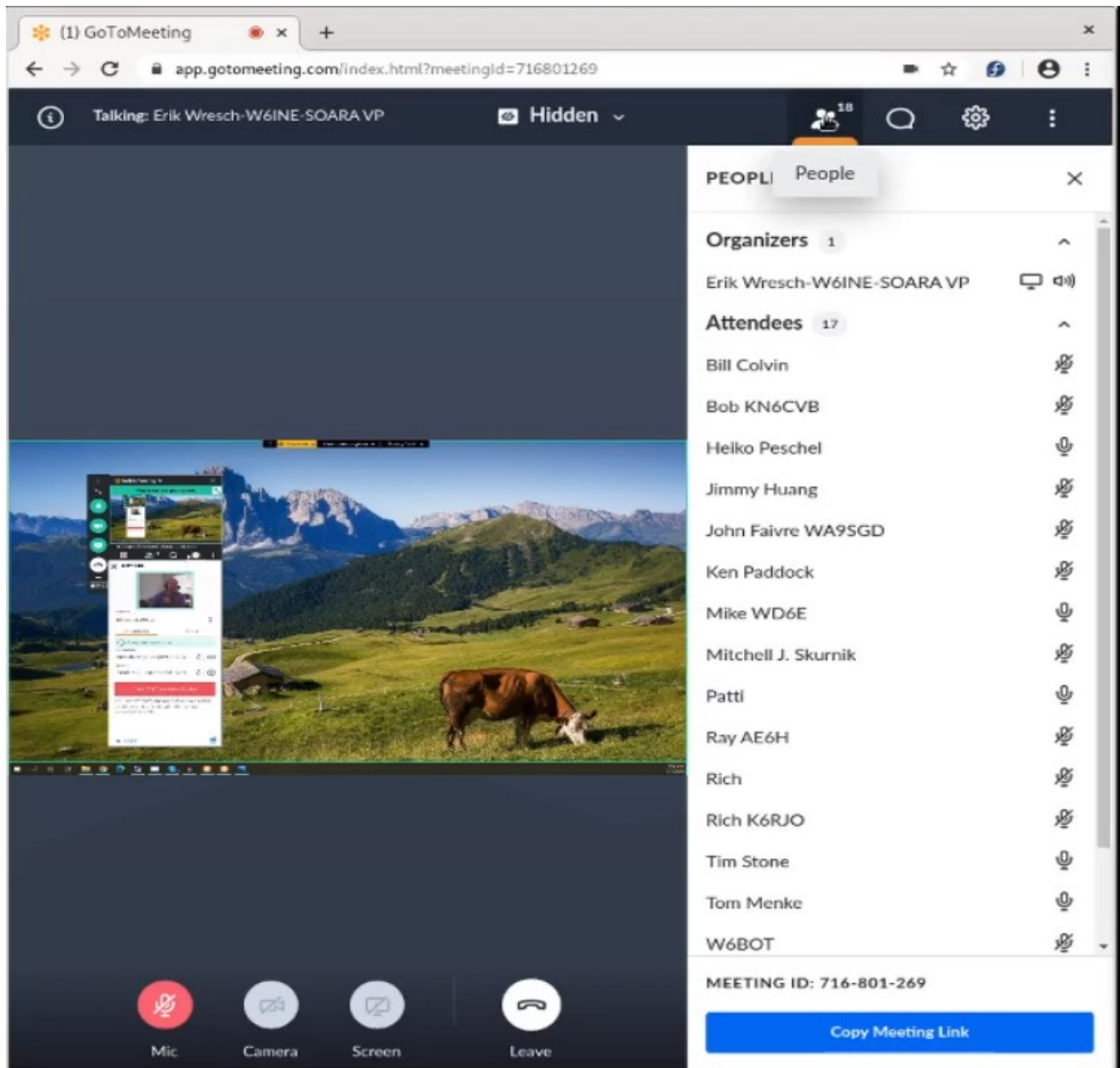
I would suggest you click on 'Everyone' at the top of the screen and change the display to 'Hide Everyone'. This will make the presentation, larger and easier to see.

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Finally, if you need to update your name or simply want to see who is logged in, use the people icon at the top right of your screen. To update your name or ID, click on your name and press "Edit" in the drop down menu.



Please leave your Mic icon as shown (muted **RED**), which prevents noise at your location from disrupting the meeting.

There will also be a telephone number you can call on a telephone and an access code to allow you to listen to the presentation, if a computer is not available. Please be sure you have unlimited long distance, as the number will not be toll-free.

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If you wish to join the meeting on a phone or tablet, either Android or Iphone, you will need to install the GotoMeeting App from you phone vendors approved 'store' The App is free, but may require certain permissions to function.

If you need help getting connected, please place a call on the Santiago repeater and I'll try to help you.

Also, if you would prefer to watch a live stream on YouTube, the link will be announced on the soara.org web site. The meeting will be available for playback later on YouTube as well.

This is a great way to participate in our club's meetings even when staying home to be safe.

**73,
Dale, W6EDT**

[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.

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

2020 SOARA Calendar

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	27	24	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	-
Program	-	-	-	-	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	-	SOARA Fair	-	-	Fall Auction	-
FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM	27	24	16	20	18	At Field Day (2pm)	-	17	21	19	16	-
Education Classes 8:00 AM	Tech 25	General 22	-	-	Tech 16	-	-	Tech 15	-	-	Tech 14	-
SOARA Elmer Saturday 9:00 AM	11 Murray	8 Murray	14 Gilleran	11 Gilleran	9 Murray	13 Gilleran	11 Murray	8 Gilleran	-	10 Gilleran	14 Murray	12 Gilleran
SOARA T-Hunt 1:00 pm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board Meeting	Feb 3	Mar 2	23	27	26	-	27	24	28	26	23	-
Special Events	Quartz-fest 19-25	Yuma 14-16		Visalia DX 24-26	Dayton Ham-vention 15-17	ARRL Field Day 26-28	HRO Ham Jam -	SOARA Picnic 3	-	JOTA 16-18		SOARA Holiday Party 6
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 15-16	ARRL DX-SSB 7-8 CQWPX SSB		CQWPX CW 30-31	ARRL Field Day 21-23			CQWW RTTY 26-27	CQWW SSB 24-25	CQWW CW 28-29	
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 26-28	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



SOARA OFFICERS

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ae6h@soara.org

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w6ine@soara.org

Secretary: Dave Southworth ks6rfi@soara.org

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

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