



Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

February 15,
2021 7:00 PM
via
[GoToMeeting](#)

Presidents Message - February 2021

Greetings and here are some upcoming events and activities SOARA members will be participating in.

First, while we're all anxious to get back into in person meetings and activities, we realize that the time isn't yet right. The Murray Center has notified us that the earliest they will be open for in person activities is May 2021. I won't be surprised if it isn't later.

Next week-end several SOARA members will be participating in the 4th Science Heads High Altitude Balloon (HAB) launch. While some participate in the actual launch and with coordination of that part of the event, including drone recordings of the site and event, others of us will be "chasing" the balloon and it's scientific experiment payload as it travels generally eastward. The last launch balloon and payload ended up east of indio, and just short of the Joshua Tree National Park. Other launches have ended up on the side of Mt Rubidoux in Riverside, in the MT Palomar region, in San Diego County. It a depends on the winds aloft, but SOARA members track, chase. and hopefully recover the equipment using APRS and DF beacon signals.

As we move into the rainy season, and out of Fire Season, the Thursday evening OC Fire Watch Nets that occur on SOARA repeaters 8 pm Thursday evenings, will go on hiatus until spring, with the last one this coming Thursday.

Discussions have started about how SOARA's participation in ARRL Field Day (FD) will look this June. Covid precautions will be the determining factor, but we may again do individual stations with aggregate scoring as we did last FD, an abbreviated group activity with simple antennas, spread out operating positions, social distancing, etc., or hopefully our usual grand in-person event. All options are on the table, but we're thinking about the possibilities. Major question will be the venue, and how the City of Mission Viejo will allow park usage. Otherwise we may have to locate another site.

We will continue to endeavor to provide Covid safe activities and opportunities to our members.

best 73 to all and stay safe!
Ray, AE6H

[Monday, February 15 at 7pm. General Meeting with Guest Speaker Monte Variakojis KE6GQO](#)

Please join us online for our February 2021 General Membership Meeting to be held on the GoToMeeting platform.

Please welcome one of our own SOARA members, Monte Variakojis KE6GQO, for this months' topic:

Global Positioning System GPS and GPS Timing for HAM Radio

Back in 1993, a full constellation of 24 satellites completed the first phase of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Since then GPS has grown in two additional phases, hardware has become very inexpensive, and the HAM community has adopted it as part of the hobby. FT8 and FT4 are some of many digital modes that utilize a computer's sound card to bring audio from the radio to be decoded by software. These digital modes require some form of time synchronization to UTC. To be successful in these modes while out in the field, GPS has come to the rescue to help synchronization. Join us in learning some of the benefits and pitfalls of using GPS as a time source.

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.

This is the [link](#) to joining the meeting or you may call in by phone **(872) 240-3212** using this Access Code: **838-364-685**

Erik, W6INE

[Building an Arduino Based Keyer](#)

I needed a practice keyer and the MFJ and other alternatives are a bit expensive and I like to build stuff so I looked in my Arduino for Ham Radio book I bought at HRO:

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-013635>

and built it. It has an Arduino Uno3 microcontroller, a Nokia LCD, a potentiometer to control speed and the WPM speed is displayed on the LCD. A switch to select Iambic A, B or straight key, speaker, a power on/off push button and a 3D printed case I made for it that pulls apart for changing the 9V battery. The cost was about \$30.

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Here is a picture of the project as built.



Over the coming months, I'll provide more details on the build and how you can do something similar,

73 de AJ6EE
Kevin Brouelette

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[SOARA Elmer Saturday/Tech Net](#)

We have fun at SOARA Saturday events talking about all types of topics. Lately, lots of Q&A on grounding. Is your shack safely grounded? Electrical ground? RF ground? And Lightning & Static protection? 18 participants last Saturday! Don't miss out.

Since we can't meet in larger numbers at the Murray center or Gilleran park, we are having virus free radioactive technical nets. The log is here:
<https://www.soara.org/soara-saturday-log/> I try to post useful on-topic links in the log. Worth a look..

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!

If you need an Elmer go to Elmer's corner tab on SOARA's main page.

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

[SOARA Membership Report](#)

Let me know if you do not plan to renew your SOARA membership and I will inactivate your account and you will not receive further reminders.

Please read your dues email, about half way down, it shows how much you owe. Many new members and some older members may have a significant dues balance. This balance is based on the way we prorate the dues.

When paying online with Braintree, If you have an odd dues balance, simply select pay other amount. I will figure it out. If you pay by check, we have to go get the check from the PO box. Sometimes it takes awhile.

We are now at 233 active members with 203 paid dues already! And, 26 unpaid.

If You know someone that wants to join SOARA, the application signatures have been temporarily waived by the board. Applications are available on www.soara.org. 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.

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

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[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 Sunday 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)

Dinner Net - Friday evening at 1900 on 2M/70cm

Tech Net - Saturday morning at 0900 on 2M/70cm

You can find a summary of all of our nets at <https://www.soara.org/activities/net-schedule/>

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

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[Donated Equipment for Sale by SOARA](#)

In the past month SOARA has received several donations from club members and we would like to give our club members the first opportunity at their purchase.

If you have any interest in any of this please get in touch with me, (949) 859-3868 answer machine, no texts, <ad6oi@soara.org>

Here is a listing of what is available:

- One Icom IC-2A 2m HT condition unknown Make an offer
 - One Astron RS-20A power supply it works Make an offer
 - 15 RG-8 Coax connectors, new
 - Heath gear and related:
 - Complete Radios, condition unknown Heathkit unless otherwise noted.
 - 2 HW-100 80 thru 10 meter transceivers \$25 each
 - 2 HW-32A 20m transceivers \$25 each
 - 2 HW-22A 20m transceivers \$25 each
- Assorted Parts and accessories
- Heathkit
 - Model HS-24 speaker \$ 15 sold only in conjunction with a complete radio
 - Electric switch Model S-2 \$10
 - T.V. Post Marker/Sweep Generator Model IG-57A \$15
 - Hallicrafters S-38A receiver \$10

Heiko AD6OI
Communications Director

[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 unmute 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.

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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!

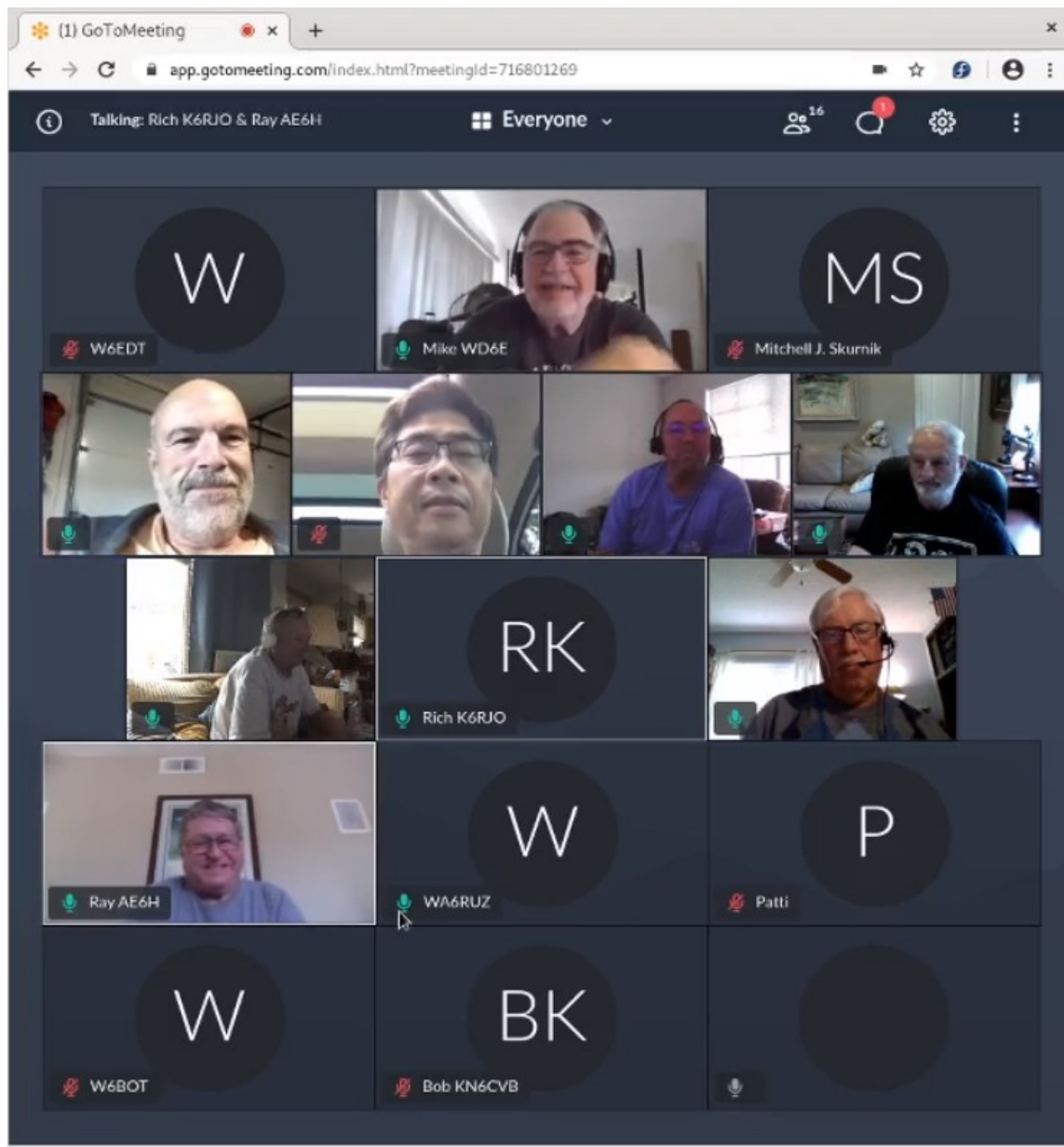
Erik, W6INE

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,

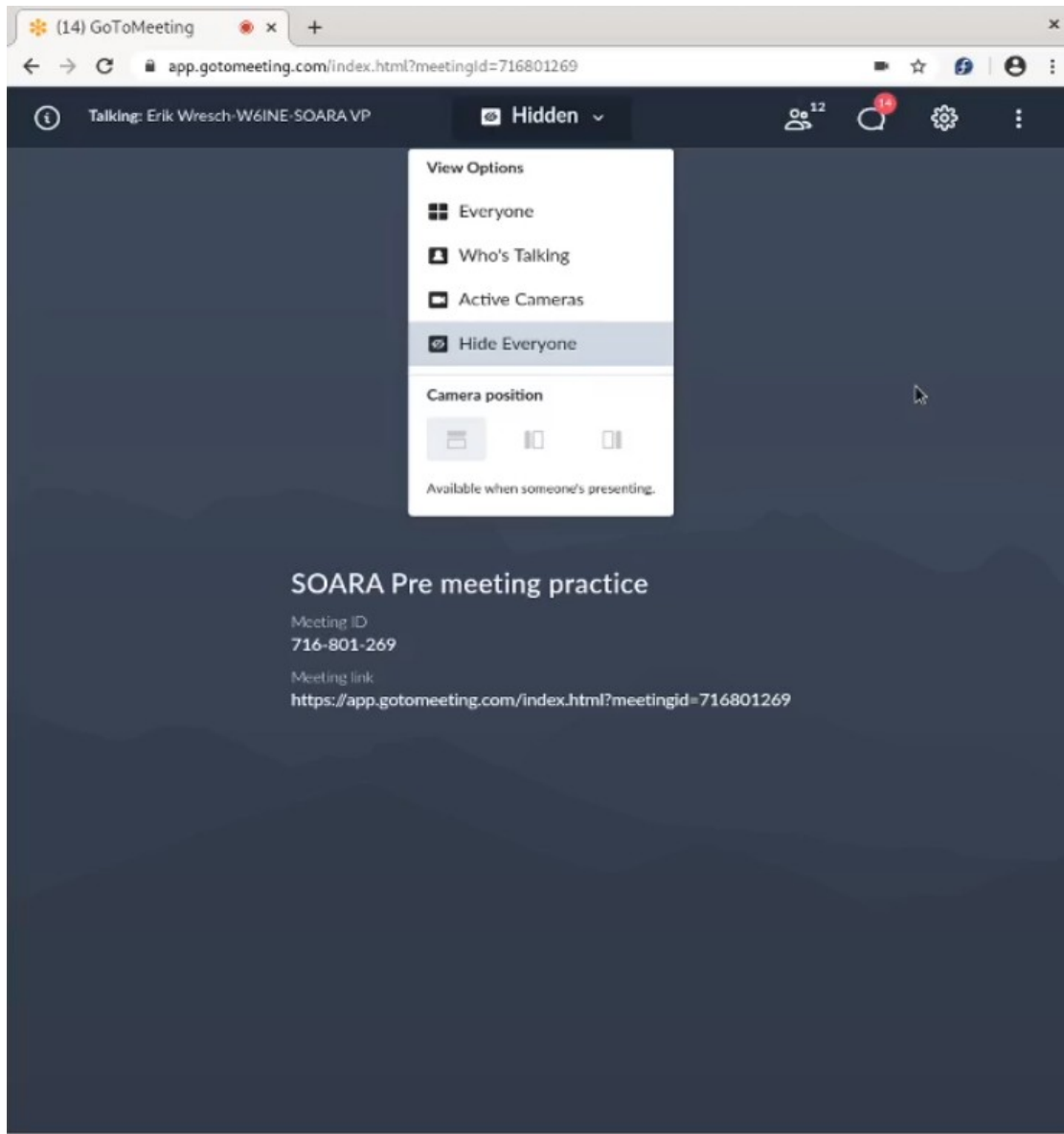
As was mentioned above, a headphone is best, but as long as you do not unmute your mike, the PC speakers will also work.



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

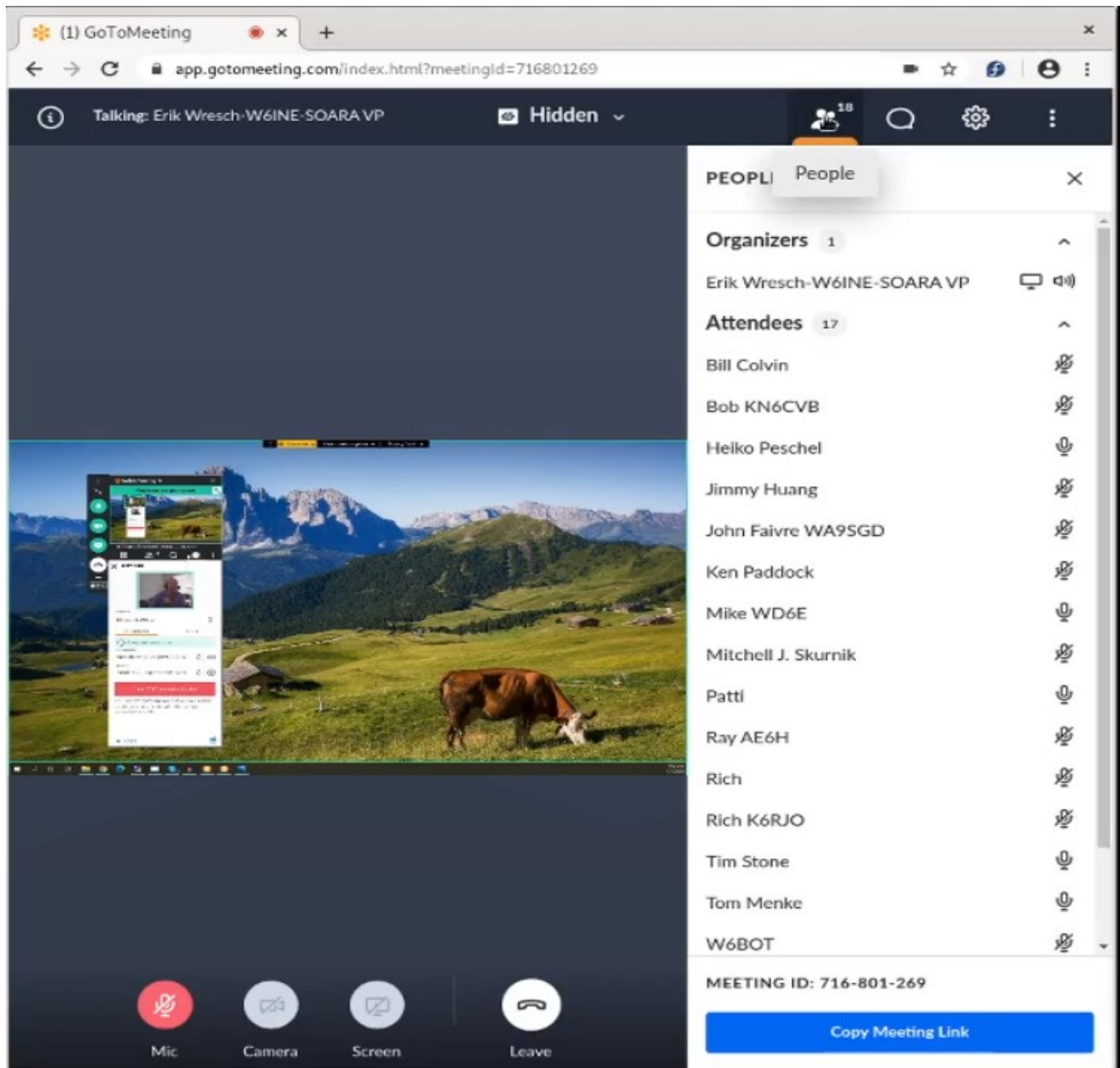
I would suggest you click on 'Everyone' at the top of the screen and change the display to 'Hide Everyone'. This will make the presentation, larger and easier to see.

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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**

2021 SOARA Calendar

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	18	15	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	19	15	-
Program	-	-	-	-	Spring Auction	Field Day Prep	-	SOARA Fair	-	-	-	-
FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM			15	19	17	21	19	16	20	19	15	-
Education Classes 8:00 AM			13	17	15	19-	17-	14	18	16-	13	-
SOARA Elmer Saturday 9:00 AM	Net Every Sat	Net Every Sat	20	24	22	FD	24	21	25	23	20	-
SOARA T-Hunt 1:00 pm	updates	updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	Updates	updates
Board Meeting	25	22	22	26	24	FD-	26	23	27	25	22	-
Special Events	Quartz-fest 17-23	Palm Springs Yuma		Visalia DX	Dayton Ham-vention	ARRL Field Day 25-27	HRO Ham Jam	SOARA Picnic		JOTA 16-18		SOARA Holiday Party
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 20-21	ARRL DX-SSB 6-7 CQWPX SSB 27-28		CQWPX CW 29-30	ARRL Field Day 25-27			CQWW RTTY	CQWW SSB	CQWW SSB	
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 25-27	MV Fire-works 4				Vision Quest	

Dates subject to Change - Check the SOARA Web Site (<http://www.soara.org>) to verify locations and times or click on the live links in the table

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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:

- 40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- , Sundays @ 8 AM
- 10 meter HF (Technicians Welcome) (28.415 +/-) Sundays @ 9 AM
- General Membership Net - UHF/VHF (447.180, 147.645 & 224.640): Tuesdays @ 8 PM
- Astronomy - VHF 147.645: Wednesdays @ 7 PM
- D-STAR (146.115 C module): Wednesdays @ 8 PM
- Dinner Net - 147.645, 224.640, 447.180: Fridays at 7 PM
- Tech Net - 147.645, 224.640, 447.180: Saturdays @ 9 AM

- California Rescue Communications (Gordo Net) HF (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM): Weekdays @ 8:30AM
- MVRACES - 447.180: Tuesdays @ 7PM
- Tri-Cities RACES - 146.025: Wednesdays @ 7:15PM
- LNACS - 147.645: Thursdays @ 7 PM
- OC Parks Fire Watch - 447.180: Thursdays @ 8 PM

SOARA OFFICERS

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

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w6ine@soara.org

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SOARA APPOINTMENTS

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ae6sh@soara.org

Activities Coordinator: Vacant
@soara.org

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wa6ed@soara.org

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Testing: Steve Kuver K6UVR k6uvr@soara.org

Website: Vacant
@soara.org

Ambassador: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
ng6k@soara.org

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