



The

September 2021

Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

September 20,
2021 7:00 PM
Norman P. Murray
Center
23492 Veterans
Way, Mission Viejo,
CA 92692

Presidents Message - September 2021

Well, it's that time again, so let me remind you that the SOARA fiscal year begins October 1, so membership dues become due and payable on that date. You will soon be receiving our annual letter asking you to renew, and explaining how you can pay. Membership dues are the major funding source and lifeblood of your club, and without it we would be unable to pay our repeater site rent and keep the machines on the air, and provide other fun activities.

Also, the annual SOARA picnic, which has been on Covid-hold for a couple of years, but now we will be holding it once again on Saturday October 2. This year we will move back to Dana Point Harbor, with the exact location still undetermined. Free parking which we have enjoyed in the past is the issue. In the years since we've held our picnic in the harbor, the harbor has instituted a pay to park system that no longer allows us access to the Dana West Yacht Club with free parking. There are still limited free parking areas and we are trying to find picnic locations with-in reasonable walking distance to and from that limited free parking. If you are planning to attend, and we sincerely hope you do, we suggest you come early to insure that you find suitable parking. Keep track of any new info on soara.org.

Also, last but certainly not least, I'd like to welcome our two newest members to the SOARA Board; Ron Mosher, K0PGE as Treasurer and Charles Schultz, NY6I as our new club Secretary. Many thanks to both for stepping up and volunteering their skills and talents to helping our club not only function smoothly, but to continue to improve!

73 and hope to see you at the meeting, either in person or virtually, but also at the upcoming October 2nd picnic.

Ray, AE6H

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

[General Meeting - What is Ham Radio Contesting All About?](#)

We will be meeting at the Murray Center located at 23492 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA, 92692. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

We will be welcoming NC6Q, Bob Grubic as our online guest speaker. He will help us take a look at contesting for the beginner as well as the seasoned ham who really hasn't paid attention to the world of contesting—with an emphasis on HF contesting. Why you might consider becoming a contester.

Bob Grubic NC6Q has been licensed for over 40 years and holds an Amateur Extra Class license. Though inactive for many years raising a family, he's been very active the last 15 years. He has served in many ham radio positions, including:

ARALB: Board Member, Membership Chairman, W6RO Assistant Manager, W6RO Wireless Room Operator, Field Day Chairman, Ham of the Year, Instructor for: 2 CW Classes and Radio Propagation Lessons for a General Class Course, The Milliwatt newsletter editor,

LAX ARES: Assistant South District Emergency Coordinator, Net Manager, Net Control Operator, Baker-to-Vegas radio operator, and Organizer and Net Control Operator for a Slow Speed CW Net

Bob often operates portable from the Republic of Panama.

Bob is a member of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (ARALB), FISTS, CDXC, SCCC and a Life Member of the ARRL. He is a retired English teacher and enjoys HF CW contesting, Field Day, and portable operations.

The online meeting link for those not attending in person at the Murray Center is below.
[What is Ham Radio Contesting All About?](#)

Masking is not required; but we do ask that you use your best judgment of whether or not you should.

Ham Radio Examinations will be administered at 6:00 PM, prior to the start of our general meeting. Cost is \$15/attempt. Pre-registration is not required and you don't need to be a SOARA member to take the test.

Erik Wresch
Vice President - South Orange Amateur Radio Association

[SOARA T-Hunt Report](#)

Come join the fun on the monthly SOARA T-Hunt!

Our most recent T-Hunt was held on Saturday September 11th. There were 3 active hunters, one hider and a couple of spectators. The T was hidden at Reef View Node Park in Laguna Niguel.

Mike - K6MSM was the first to find the hidden transmitter.



Only mere seconds behind was Richard - K6RBS.

Both quickly tracked down the final hiding place of the transmitter, on the side of the hill covered by brush with only a small antenna poking out.



A short time later the group was joined by Erik - W6INE as he homed in on the location.

A good round of radio conversation followed along with plans for next months Hunt. T-Hunting is fun and enjoyable way to engage with our radio hobby and has the added benefit of letting you explore and see many interesting areas of South Orange County. If you are interested in becoming a T-Hunter a great place to start is Joe Moell's (K0OV) comprehensive website <http://homingin.com> Joe provides useful information and links for beginners and those looking to improve their craft. A simple tape measure Yagi, HT and attenuator (home built or low-cost kit) is all that is need to get started.

More information can be found on the SOARA website:
<https://www.soara.org/activities/transmitter-hunting/>

I hope to see you out on the hunt soon!

Joe Perrigoue
K7KCE
Activities Director

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[Volunteers Needed for the Club and for Special Events](#)

Hear ye, hear ye. We are looking for more support for our radio system.

Type of people needed:

Volunteers who can help with net control duties on our nets, HF, or VHF/UHF no experience necessary, that is how I started. I actually had two nets to learn the job before they gave me the position.

Seriously it is not that difficult. If you are a good listener, and this is important, know how to get the other person to tell their story and prompting them when they start to falter, then you are qualified.

Help with recording the SOARA Saturday Tech nets using WordPress. Ed <wa6ed@soara.org> says that this is not difficult, he has been doing it for about one and a half years for the SOARA Saturday Tech net.

Also we are looking to form a SOARA Tech committee to help Brian, our repeater director/software/hardware engineer, (See Brian, <nj6n@soara.org>)

Special Event:

On Oct 23 there will be a benefit bicycle ride starting and finishing in Santa Margarita, and we are looking for about 5 or 6 volunteers for that, I already have two but we have 4 or 5 aid stations and some will need am and pm operators.

Heiko AD6OI
Director of Communications for SOARA

[SOARA Membership Report](#)

Welcome new members!

KN6KYT, Don
KM6HEA, Joe
KN6QAM, Rich
KN6KHN, Jonathan

Dues are due Oct 1st. Regular dues are \$50. Please read through your email I send for your dues balance. I put the dues information after the presidents letter. New members typically have a credit of some amount. If you don't use the credit, it keeps rolling over. Some members have already paid their dues. Thank you for paying promptly.

Currently, we are at 231 active members. There is one new membership application in process. This applicant should be new members after the next SOARA board meeting.

Don't have the SOARA Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual? Simply email me at membership@soara.org and I will email a PDF to you.

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Let me know if your badge is getting old or faded. I need to make more badges soon. I don't mail badges. You have to come to events and pick up the badge from me thus saving postage.

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

SOARA Saturday Report

Last SOARA Saturday had a great turnout about 20+ participants, and lots of discussion despite the rain. Due to rain, we had to use plan B and setup on the picnic tables under the shelter at Gilleran park. We still had fun and the weather didn't slow us down a bit.

The next SOARA Saturday will be Sept. 25 in Gilleran Park at 9 am upper parking lot. Coffee and donuts will be provided.



This is Charley WA6RUZ emergency go box. We had great fun looking and understanding all that goes into Charley's equipment. Lots of details to learn!

We have been covering emergency preparation and fun things like connector boxes, and Dale has been testing radios with his spectrum analyzer. SOARA Saturday is a great opportunity to meet others talk about radios and ask questions.

Let's keep this coming SOARA Saturday open theme. We will likely have AC power of some sort. So, bring antennas, radios, and cool stuff to demo and talk about!

**73,
Ed, WA6ED**

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[Slinky Antenna - Work in Progress - Part 1](#)

This is an example of iterative development, borrowing ideas, and solving problems.

I was operating FT8 on 9/12/2021 when I worked NV5B Roger. I have a habit of looking up the QRZ page and reading their bio. Well, Roger has a photo of a slinky antenna on his back porch. I thought it would be really cool to have a self supporting portable slinky dipole like his. In his photo, I later saw some support line holding up the pvc. More on this later. I know there are lots of builds where you hang the slinky from cord between trees. But, I wanted a portable self supporting dipole that would easily fit in a backpack. I thought a slinky would be great since it would spring back into shape. I wouldn't have to deal with coiling wire.

So, off to Home Depot to buy a bunch of PVC pipe. Once I got home, I said measure twice cut once. So, instead of cutting PVC like I wanted to do. I started making sketches similar to Roger's photo.

After a few sketches, I decided to dry fit the pvc pipe. I quickly came to the conclusion the PVC would be way too heavy. So, back to home depot to return the PVC pipe. Then I bought some hardware I needed for my 3D printed idea.

Back home, I made several 3D models of the middle support structure. This progressed nicely and I had a good enough part within a day. Next, I thought how am I going to hold up the slinky horizontally? Well, how about tent poles? I wanted something light weight and it had to fold up into a backpack. I ordered two fiberglass tent poles off Amazon. A few day's later they arrived.

Now I'm ready to assemble this thing! I assemble the center onto a PVC mast and then insert the tent poles. At this point the mast is only about 5 feet off the ground on the tripod. The tent poles are



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sagging! As you can see in the photos the basic idea is good, but I need to fix the sagging tent poles.

I have a hole in the center part to support a vertical mast above the center 3D part. But, I think that will sag too and it will be two U shaped slinkys.

Here is a close up of the center 3D printed part.



Next steps are to look for stiffer tent poles or some other material that can be made into sections. Once the antenna is free standing, I plan to use a taller mast, attach coax, and take antenna measurements. Definitely, work in progress. I might visit the Buddipole antenna website and see if I can get some ideas.

Here's a link to a good online article on slinky antennas:
https://nonstopsystems.com/radio/frank_radio_antenna.htm

**73,
Ed, WA6ED**

SOARA Statement of Income and Expenses - August 2021

Eleven Months Ended August 31, 2021

General Account:

Income:

Memberships	11,344
Other	<u>1,128</u>
Total Income	12,472

Expenses:

Repeaters:

Site rental	3,970
Utilities	1,554
Equipment & Maintenance	1,936
Property Insurance	<u>820</u>
Total Repeaters	8,280
All Other Expenses	<u>874</u>
Total Expense	9,154

Net Income 3,319

Beginning Cash 20,661
Ending Cash 23,980

Raffle Account:

Received	285
Spent	<u>44</u>
Current Year Cash	241

Beginning Cash 2,061
Ending Cash 2,302

Note: If any member has questions about the financials, please contact the Treasurer or any board member.

Ron Mosher - K0PGE
SOARA Treasurer

SOARA Library/Nets

As some of you have already heard the AD60I/SOARA Library is now up and running at our house. (Please see attached picture for details). This library contains ARRL Handbooks, Repeater location guides, Tech modification books, radio and electrical books and a wealth of radio related information. For now the library will be open from 1pm to

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4pm on Saturdays, and other times by appointment, if you call first, either by radio or telephone. E-mail will also work but allow at least 24 hours for a reply.

In other news, when using SOARA repeaters there are some things that it might interest you to know.

It is always good to key down for several seconds when first waking up your favorite repeater, otherwise the beginning of your announcement won't be repeated.

Also if you are in an extended conversation please leave room for others to break with their call sign.

It is never good form to interrupt a conversation with a comment. Using your call sign to identify yourself is usually sufficient to get the attention of the individuals involved in a conversation (aka QSO). When recognized feel free to go ahead with your comment.

You can find a summary of all of our nets at [SOARA Net Schedule](#)

**Thank you
Heiko AD6OI
Director of Communications for SOARA**

[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/>

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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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	-	RF Exposure	-	-	-	-
FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM			15	19	17	-	19	16	20	19	15	-
Education Classes 8:00 AM			13	17	15	-	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 2 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 LH Marathon	ARRL Field Day 25-27	MV Fire-works 4				Vision Quest OC Marathon 7	

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 @ 8 PM
- LNACS - 147.645: Thursdays @ 7 PM
- OC Parks Fire Watch - 447.180: Thursdays @ 8 PM

SOARA OFFICERS

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Activities Coordinator: Joe Perrigou K7KCE
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wa6ed@soara.org

Raffle: Bill Colvin KM6FOY km6foyl@soara.org

Testing: Steve Kuver K6UVR k6uvr@soara.org

Website: Vacant
@soara.org

Ambassador: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
ng6k@soara.org

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