



Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

NPM Center
 November 21,
 2022 6:30 PM
 Norman P. Murray
 Center
 23492 Veterans
 Way, Mission Viejo,
 CA 92692

President's Message - January 2023

Members,

Unfortunately, I have a dire warning about the future of SOARA. Elections are coming right up (in April). This year (2023) it will be for the Directors. Next year for the constitutional Officers.

Already, we have at least one long time director who will not be running for re-election. I worry that there may be more. I know that there will be current Officers who will not be running next year either.

IF you value and enjoy YOUR club, SOARA, each one of you needs to be seriously considering whether you can step up and take on a leadership role in the club. You can't just assume "the other guy" will do it. If you continue with that assumption, the club will falter and fail to exist.

Many of your Directors and Officers have been in their positions for a long time. We're all getting older and tired. Personally, I have been on the SOARA Board of Directors for about 25 years. Several on our Board have served even longer! It's long past time for some other folks to jump in.

You don't need to be a long time and experienced ham. I was just 2 years past my original licensing date when I became a board member, and several other of us on the Board have similar stories. The main qualifications are to be a licensed ham, a SOARA member in good standing, and most important, an interest in benefiting your club and Ham Radio in South Orange County.

Another reason I hear some giving for not jumping in and contributing to the club: "I'm still working". Well many of your Board members were also working when they stepped up to serve, and worked for several years after they became members of the Board. Several still are working!

Finally, the duties aren't so taxing that you won't have time for family and other activities. We all did. If you're wondering what each Board member's job and duties are, just go to soara.org, pull down the About menu and open the 'Club Constitution and Bylaws'. Scroll down to Bylaws and you'll find a job description for each Director.

FMI: Feel free to reach out to me, or any other Club Officer or Director.

Again, we elect your Club Directors in a couple of months. Please consider putting your hat in the ring. Your club and fellow Hams will appreciate it! And the future of SOARA depends on it!

73 de Ray, AE6H
SOARA President

General Membership Meeting
Monday, January 30 @ 7:00 pm.
Norman P. Murray Center

Please join us at the Norman P. Murray Center for our first Membership Meeting of the year.

We do not have a guest speaker this month and for the record, guest speakers are getting a little difficult to obtain lately.

HOWEVER!!, we do have topics of discussion to be had over snacks and coffee (decaffeinated, of course). There will be some discussion on Winter Field Day, High Altitude Balloon launch in December.

The rest of the time can be an open canvas of discussion which will easily take us to 9pm. We had this format before and it actually was very pleasant.

Erik Wresch - W6INE
Vice President of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Note: Ham Radio Examinations will take place prior to the General Meeting and also at the Murray Center. Testing session starts at 6pm and is \$15/session. Pre-registration is not required and you don't need to be a SOARA member to take the test. Please contact our Education Director, Steve Kuver, if you have questions about testing at k6uvr@soara.org

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

[Winter Field Day - January 28th 2023](#)

Come have a fun day in the park and enjoy working the bands! SOARA will be participating in Winter Field Day again this year. WFD is an emergency communication exercise. Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns. WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions. We don't have the snow and freezing temps here in sunny SoCal but should still be able to operate in the winter.

This is a low-key event, we won't be setting up the tent or the big beam antennas. Bring your field kit or new antenna you want to try out and have a relaxing time working stations all over the world. We will operate Saturday only between 9am and sundown. Burgers will be provided for lunch.

Where: Gillian Park, 24960 Felipe Rd, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

When: Saturday Jan 28th, 9am-sundown

[SOARA Elmer Saturday, 03/04/23, Murray Center](#)

January 14, (Vintage Radio) SOARA Elmer Saturday was at the Murray center 9am to about 11:30 when we started going home. Heiko and Patti brought the coffee and donuts. Thank you Heiko and Patti for all your help.

16 Attendees were: WA6ED Ed, N6PM Greg, W6WK Jamie, AD6OH Patti, AD6OI Heiko, W6TRG Tom, KN6OFF George, W6EDT Dale, KM6FOY Bill, KR6J Kenan, AE6H Ray, W6CAG Claude, KB0S Larry, N6SNX George, N5KZU Bob, WE4BY Greg.

Lots of old stuff and lots of discussion. Here are a few photos.



Kenan KR6J, demoing test equipment he restored. Far right is a HP VTVM he restored. He had very interesting restoration stories.

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Greg N6PM looking at all the cool stuff. Greg also demoed the Morserino 32 (not pictured). If you are interested in learning code, maybe we can start a group? Morserino 32's kits should be available again in February. Just google Morserino 32. Or contact Greg our membership director.



Bill KM6FOY, was on 40 meters with a Heathkit radio. Really cool Bill. The black box in front of the speaker converted 12v to the high voltages needed for the radio.



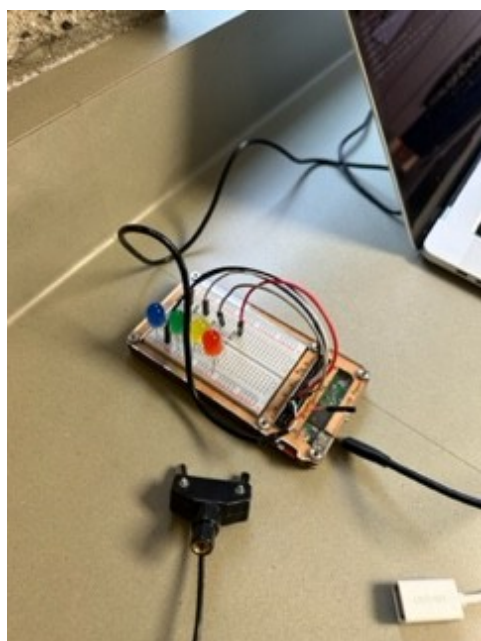
Ray, AE6H brought a really old tube AETNA (spelling correct?) radio he wants to restore. If anyone has ideas to safely pull off the front plastic knobs, let Ray know. All we could come up with is a hair dryer to warm up the plastic. I guess I could put the whole radio in the thermal chamber at work and drive it to 55C. Better ideas?



Ed, WA6ED brought an Radio ACE and forgot the batteries! Oops! It was still fun to look at though. And, it sparked conversation.



Heiko AD6OI and Patti AD6OH taking it all in. I think Heiko made 4 or 5 pots of coffee. It was really nice to have a fresh cup of hot coffee!



George, KN6OFF demoed APRS decoding with a RTLSDR to turn LEDs on and off. Really cool George.

We started the year with \$1 from 2022. Today we took in \$68. I paid Heiko \$20 for the donuts. So we have a \$49 balance going forward.

The next SOARA Elmer Saturday is March 4 at the Murray center. We will help anyone build a tape measure antenna. You need to bring the parts. I will provide some coax with the BNC already installed. Links to get started are on the www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/ page.

I also need demos for the March 18 SOARA Elmer Saturday. Theme APRS. I plan to bring my TNC. I have to get that set back up. Let me know if you plan to demo something.

I'm always looking for good SOARA Saturday topics. I want to thank Claude W6CAG for the vintage radio idea. We had a great morning and lots of fun. Thank you Claude!

**73,
Ed, WA6ED
SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator**

[SOARA Membership Report](#)

We're currently at 221 members. Thanks to the 185 of you who've paid your dues for 2022-23! I hope the rest of you will be staying with us and paying your dues soon.

For those of you who haven't paid yet and owe less than the full yearly dues amount because you've currently got a credit, and you wish to pay online, it may not be immediately apparent how you pay less than the full \$50 (or \$25). When you go to the SOARA website and select Membership->Pay Dues Online from the main menu, you're taken to the SOARA - Payment System page. On that page, instead of selecting Renew Membership, which only allows payments of \$50 or \$25, select Other Payment Amount. On that page, you can enter the desired payment amount. Note, however, that Braintree does not accept payments of less than \$5. If you owe less

If you need a new badge or a copy of the SOARA Repeater User's Guide & Membership Manual, send me an email at membership@soara.org.

**73,
Greg, N6PM
SOARA Membership Director**

SOARA Statement of Income and Expenses October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

| Three Months Ended: | December 31 2022 | December 31 2021 | Increase (Decrease) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Cash Income: | | | |
| Memberships | 7,639 | 6,293 | 1,346 |
| Other | 3,283 | 1,479 | 1,804 |
| Total Cash Income | 10,922 | 7,772 | 3,150 |
| Cash Expenses: | | | |
| Repeaters including site rental, utilities & insurance | 1,448 | 1,457 | (9) |
| Member Activities | 632 | 2,016 | (1,384) |
| Other expenses | 709 | 699 | 10 |
| Total Cash Expenses | 2,790 | 4,172 | (1,383) |
| Cash Net Income | 8,133 | 3,600 | 4,533 |
| Beginning Cash - October 1 | 25,860 | 25,697 | 163 |
| Ending Cash - December 31 | 33,993 | 29,297 | 4,696 |

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

Ron Mosher - KOPGE
SOARA Treasurer

SOARA Nets and Repeaters

As many of you already know, SOARA has nets two nights a week and both Saturday and Sunday. There are also many other nets on our repeaters as well.

We have about seven or eight different net controls for over two dozen available positions every month, depending on whether the month has four or five turns available. We are always looking for more Net Control operators so please apply if you want to join our select group.

In general our nets are friendly and easy going but there are some rules that we should follow, not many thank goodness.

- The FCC requires you to identify with you call sign within ten minutes of getting on the air and every ten minutes thereafter including when you finish the conversation.
- We (SOARA) as well as almost all organizations with repeaters ask you to identify yourself with your FCC issued I.D. when you first get on the air and then follow the FCC guidelines, including when signing off.

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- Other than that we try to avoid controversial subjects that might displease or anger others.

Now to the fun part.

- First of all, all SOARA nets are directed nets and the Net Control is in charge.
- In a conversation with a friend recently we came up with some thoughts and ideas on how to run an amateur radio net and also how to respond to it.
- As Net Control you should try to let your guests do the talking. Guests please feel free to express yourselves.
- Prime them with a good general topic that they can expound on. Guests, if you have topical suggestions for the Net please address the Net Control operator with your thoughts.
- Net Controls, prepare yourself with some good leading questions ahead of time to ask when you need to get a response.
- If it is a small group let them do a round robin, being sure to remind them who is before and who follows. This will make it easier for you.
- Round robin is from Net Control to the first operator A, then to operator B, then to operator C, and so on until everyone has had a chance to express themselves.
- If one operator has a question for another operator, let the operators go directly one to another as necessary, this will save you time and effort.
- In general make sure that they are enjoying themselves.
- Never put anyone in a position where they might feel uncomfortable.
- As a special note for my Emergency Communications friends, this is for our casual SOARA nets, Emcom lives by a different set of rules.

Nota bene: been there and done that.

Heiko AD6OI Director of Communications for SOARA

[Swap Meets and Auctions are Back](#)

One of the most fun I have as an electronics enthusiast and amateur radio operator is attending electronic swap meets and auctions. They are great places to pick up some cables, used ham gear, test equipment and much more.

The Yuma Hamfest and Swap meet was held February 18-19 in Yuma, AZ. There were a number of good presentations and a swap meet. As usual, I found some bargains, including 2 BK8514 1200W Programmable DC loads (need repair) for \$40, a Bird 79-2 coax switch (DPDT - rare) and a big variable capacitor and tapped inductor. Plus assorted coax connectors and switches. They also had new equipment for sale in the Exhibit Hall. \$10 for all weekend - a great deal. I highly recommend attending next year.

We have two local swap meets that are up and running monthly.

The TRW Swap meet is held on the last Saturday of each month. The swap meet hours are 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM., located on the southeast corner of Aviation Blvd. and Space

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Park Drive (one traffic signal south of Marine Ave.) in Hawthorne, CA. More information can be had at [W6TRW Swap Meet](#) The next one will be on April 30, which does not conflict with SOARA Saturday, then May 28 and June 25. They even happen on Christmas - attendees are pretty dedicated. SOARA has a booth where excess club equipment is being sold by Heiko, AD6OI. There were about 30 vendor booths in February. My find last month was a 3 pack of 433 MHz remote controlled outlets for \$20.

The Claremont Amateur Radio Society (CARS) Radio/Electronics Swap meet is held on the third Saturday of each month, except December. 6:00am to 11:00am, at the parking lot of Granite Creek Community Church 1580 N Claremont Blvd, Claremont, CA 91711. There are usually 10 or so vendors selling radios, components and other items. I picked up a AR-22 antenna rotor and control box rebuilt and tested for \$40. The next swap meet is May 21, which unfortunately conflicts with SOARA Saturday.

There was also a used equipment sale at Silicon Salvage in Anaheim. They had a really diverse selection of RF gear, test equipment and assorted stuff. This is a great surplus sale and it is definitely worth going to when they have them.

There is also the former ACP Swap Meet, used to be held on the 4th Sunday of each month at Edinger and Grand in Santa Ana. This event has mostly faded away and there were no vendors the last two months, but I mention it just in case it re-appears.

Remember, one person's "junk" is another person's "treasure".

Dale - W6EDT

[SOARA Library](#)

As some of you have already heard the AD6OI/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 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.

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 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

2023 SOARA Calendar (updated through May)

| Month | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| General Meeting 7:00 PM | 30 Online | 27 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 21 | - |
| Program | | - | - | - | Spring Auction | Field Day Prep | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Education Classes 8:00 AM | | | - | - | - | - | 17 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 13 | - |
| SOARA Elmer Saturday 9:00 AM | 28 WFD Gilleran | Mar 4 Murray Center | 18 Murray Center | 22 Murray Center | 20 Gilleran Park | 25 FD Gilleran | 23 Gilleran Park | 20 Gilleran Park | 24 Murray Center | 22 Murray Center | 26 Murray Center | - |
| SOARA T-Hunt 1:00 pm | updates | updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | Updates | updates |
| Board Meeting | Feb 6 | Mar 6 | 24 | 24 | 22 | FD | 25 | 22 | 26 | 24 | 28 | - |
| Special Events | Quartz-fest 17-23 | Palm Springs Yuma | | Visalia DX Canceled | Dayton Ham-vention | ARRL Field Day 25-27 | | | SOARA Picnic 24 | JOTA 16-18 | SOARA Auction 12 | SOARA Holiday Party 16 |
| 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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Ambassador: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
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