



Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

NPM Center
 Oct 16, 2023
 7:00 PM
 Norman P. Murray
 Center
 23492 Veterans
 Way, Mission Viejo,
 CA 92692

President's Message

Recently, another large repeater club; the PAPA System, presented an online "Chat with Riley" U-Tube session, Riley being Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Also in virtual attendance, and in, as he made very clear, an unofficial capacity, was Lark Hadley, KA4A, Director, Region Three, FCC Enforcement Bureau. This approximately 30 minute online program was very interesting, and hopefully you had a chance to catch it. While I can in no way relay all the good information and humorous anecdotes that were shared, I can give you 2 takeaways, that I found interesting.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Riley Hollingsworth, he spent over 30 years with the FCC as chief of the Amateur Radio Enforcement Bureau. Currently he is employed by the ARRL, as manager of the VM, or Volunteer Monitor program.

The ARRL Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations are referred to the FCC by ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.

One takeaway that Riley noted was that the vast majority of illegal activities on the ham bands are inadvertent and honest mistakes. In these cases, the VM program of the ARRL will send the errant ham a letter to which they must respond and simply state that it was an accident, and that reasonable attempts will be made to insure that the mistake doesn't reoccur. The VM actions end there in these cases. For those illegal acts that are intentional recurring and egregious, evidence gathered by the VM's is forwarded to the FCC for enforcement action.

My second takeaway is, as Riley described it; 'The Big Knob'. This term came from when Riley was a teenager, and his uncle introduced Riley to Ham Radio by taking him to visit an active Amateur Operator in Riley's home town. This Op., apparently had a complete Collins setup, which of course was all vacuum tube, and unlike today's HF rigs, quite expansive in size. While watching and listening to this operator, Riley was hooked.

One thing that stuck with him was “The Big Knob” or VFO knob on the Collins gear. That concept of the “Big Knob” persists in modern gear today, and is, of course the VFO or device to change the operating frequency.

Riley’s point in describing the “big knob” was to encourage us, when ever we encounter “LIDS, or really bad operators, that either intentionally operate in illegal fashion, or are just plain rude, argumentative, harassing, etc. is to utilize ‘The Big Knob’; move to another frequency, channel, or band. This is true of both HF ops, but also with VHF, UHF, repeater or simplex operation. When you encounter a difficult operator, as Riley said “Don’t take the bait”. Typically these LID operators are trying to elicit a response. They are the Trolls of the Ham world. Acknowledging, recognizing, arguing with, or in anyway recognizing their existence usually only makes things worse. As Riley emphasized, “Don’t take the bait.”

We at SOARA strongly recommend that whenever you hear or encounter a bad or illegal operator on our repeaters, that you simply ignore them, and move on to another channel or repeater. Same for HF: ignore them and move to another frequency. Use that “Big Knob”! It robs them of their dubious satisfaction!

73 de Ray, AE6H

General Membership Meeting
Monday, October 16 @ 7:00 pm.
Norman P. Murray Center

Join us for our membership meeting Monday, October 16th, 7pm at the Norman P. Murray Center.

The subject for tonight: **So You Want To Be A Dixer?!**

We welcome back, Arnie Shatz N6HC to tell you about DXing.

Arnold “Arnie” Shatz, N6HC, has been a FCC licensed amateur radio operator for 65 years and earned an Extra Class ticket in 1976. He is a resident of Orange County, California and a retired Board Certified Urologist. His affiliations include more than a 60 year history of ARRL membership with inclusion in the ARRL Legacy Circle, membership in the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), Southern California DX Club (SCDXC), Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC), Medical Amateur Radio Council, Ltd. (MARCO) and Chiltern DX Club (CDXC – UK). He is a Volunteer Examiner (VE) and ARRL / CQ awards Field QSL Card checker. He serves as station Trustee for the Dorothy Grant Elementary School Amateur Radio Club (K6DGE) in Fontana, California. He enjoys operating HF CW, SSB, digital modes and VHF/UHF/microwave contest roving. He is an active contester, DX chaser and DXpeditioner. He has earned DXCC #1 Honor Roll status (Mixed/Phone) and Honor Roll status (CW), DXCC (RTTY), 9 band DXCC and WAZ (CW & Phone). Since 2005, he has been a team member and medical consultant on 14 major Dxpeditions to many exotic and uninhabited islands in the North and South Pacific, Indian

and Southern oceans. He has been a featured speaker at numerous amateur radio clubs and conventions around the country.

Erik Wresch, VP - SOARA

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

SOARA Membership Report

We're currently at 216 members.

I've sent out dues notices for the 2023-2024 dues year.

- ➔ If you didn't receive a notice, please DO NOT send us your renewal! Not receiving a notice means you either have a sufficient credit from the previous year or you've already paid for this year. If you believe this isn't true, please check with me before sending your money.
- ➔ If you did receive a notice, please check the amount due shown in the notice before making your payment. You may have a credit that reduces the amount owed. If you owe less than \$50 (or less than \$25 if you're a family or student member), see the instructions in the email for how to pay a non-standard amount via our online payment system.

If you need a new badge or a copy of the repeater manual, send me an email.

73, Greg, N6PM

SOARA Membership Director

membership@soara.org

SOARA Elmer Saturdays

The 14 Attendees were: WA6ED Ed, KM6FOY Bill, KC6FZY Charlie, W6TRG Tom, AF6HR Steve, AD6OH Patti, AD6OI Heiko, N6PM Greg, N6SNX George, KK6TTL Jimmy, KN6VPX Jack, KN6WKP Tibor, W6EDT Dale, & W6WK Jamie

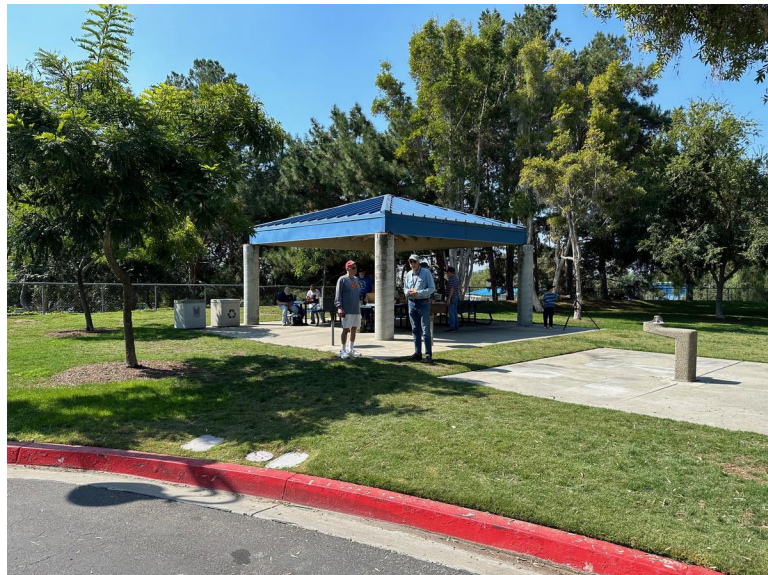
The theme was antenna measurements. We tested several antennas with a NanoVNA. We also ran experiments with different 50 ohm loads. Some loads were better than others. Test your RF loads.

Bill brought the coffee cups, sugar and creamer. I made the coffee and brought donuts. Always thank Bill for his help. It really helps me for one less thing to do. A dozen Donuts and a dozen holes cost \$20 and we had \$20 in donations. Donuts broke even. \$60 donut fund balance.

Bill, KM6FOY also demoed a hand held antenna analyzer for UHF/VHF antennas. Very interesting device. I also have one and took it apart to study.

It is a basic directional coupler, A/D and a CPU with 7 segment display. There is also a newer LCD version. Check ebay.

W6EDT, Dale brought various equipment and demonstrated with a HF antenna on a tripod. He also showed a HP calibrated reference load set. Seeing this was way cool!



Jimmy, brought his QRP wire antenna with built in tuner. Very interesting design!

Heiko and Patti brought lots of antenna books.



Dale did a survey and here are some requested SOARA Elmer Saturday topics. Let me know if you have different requests. I will work on next year's schedule and publish later this year.

- Programming HTs using Chirp
- Creation of SOARA Code Plug
- Getting on HF Digital, especially FT8 - bring their own device for setup help
- DMR programming
- Soldering Skills and practice
- Kit Building

- Understanding NanoVNA and TinySA use cases
- Use of Test Equipment to debug issues

73,

Ed, WA6ED

SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator

SOARA - Statement of Cash Income & Expenses
October 1, 2022 Through September 30, 2023

SOARA - Statement of Cash Income & Expenses October 1, 2022 Through September 30, 2023,			
Twelve Months Ended:	September 30 <u>2023</u>	September 30 <u>2022</u>	Increase (Decrease)
Cash Income:			
Memberships	10,854	8,423	2,431
Other	<u>8,327</u>	<u>2,498</u>	<u>5,829</u>
Total Cash Income	<u>19,180</u>	<u>10,921</u>	<u>8,259</u>
Cash Expenses:			
Repeaters including site rental, utilities & insurance	15,016	8,064	6,952
Member Activities	4,079	3,506	573
Other expenses	<u>1,027</u>	<u>997</u>	<u>30</u>
Total Cash Expenses	<u>20,123</u>	<u>12,567</u>	<u>7,556</u>
Cash Net Income	(943)	(1,646)	703
Beginning Cash-October 1	<u>25,860</u>	<u>27,506</u>	<u>(1,646)</u>
Ending Cash - September 31	24,917	25,860	(943)
Note: If any member has questions about the financials, please contact the Treasurer or any Board member.			

Ron Mosher - K0PGE
SOARA Treasurer

[The Next Generation of Hams](#)

In today's rapidly evolving world of Internet communication options, such as Discord, Snapchat, and Instagram, inspiring youth to explore amateur radio can be a challenge. Soara member, **Tibor (KN6WKP)**, has put together a special pamphlet aimed at igniting the curiosity of young minds about the world of ham radio. This pamphlet can prove particularly valuable during events like Field Day or Elmer Saturdays in the park, where families and young individuals often inquire about our activities. We encourage you to take a look at this pamphlet and share it with any young individuals who may have an interest in electronics or radio.

Follow this link to view the pamphlet: <https://www.soara.org/Props/Propagator%20Archive/2023/Youth-Technology-Education-Learn-from-Handson-Experiences.pdf>

[Chirp Step One](#)

Dale took a survey and a number of members want to use Chirp and access an example list of repeaters (like a codeplug), stations, and simplex information to program their HT's. Let's make this a group project!

First we need a way to communicate with various radios. I ordered this FTDI kit from Amazon: **MIRKIT FTDI USB Baofeng Programming Cable Model 5 for Flashing Ham Radios: Baofeng Radio, Wouxun, Kenwood, Motorola, Yaesu 6 in 1**
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07TKMKDZ6?ref_=pe_386300_442618370_TE_sc_as_ri_0

At the next SOARA Saturday at Gilleran park, I plan to test this kit with Chirp on my laptop. I will review this kit in the next Propagator.

Second, we need to download Chirp from Dan Planet's website and install:
<https://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home>

This website has good install instructions and information for various operating systems. I plan to pre-install Chirp onto a Win10 laptop before the next SOARA Saturday.

Finally, we need some frequencies and pl tones. This SOARA page lists lots of good information plus Gordo's WB6NOA list that can be downloaded. We can use information on this page plus contributed information to make a new list for SOARA Chirp list. Another piece of information can come from this issue of the Propagator which lists SOARA repeater frequencies and pl tones. We may want to add other frequencies like NOAA. Much of this information is already listed in Gordo's list. The back of your SOARA badge lists useful information as well.

Now, I need your help. Please send me your codeplug / repeater list to share with others. Preferably a chirp export file. We can update the listed SOARA page with a Chirp export file and make a new list to help new hams.

Note: some newer HT's just use a USB cable. The FTDI chip or equivalent is built into the radio. So, do your research before buying a new radio. Then buy an Icom. Yes I'm biased... Actually, any Japanese radio is really good.

We should do this exercise for DMR too. I don't have a DMR radio. We need a volunteer to help.

73,

Ed, WA6ED

SOARA Saturday Coordinator

November Auction

November is Auction Month.

This is open to all licensed Hams.

This is your opportunity to get a bargain on a piece of Ham gear or to sell it or both. Please check out the Auction page on the SOARA website for more details.

On November 20th, doors open at 6pm. Auction will start at 7pm sharp and end promptly at 8:30pm. This is to allow time for the club Treasurer to settle up all accounts for the evening as we need to be out of the building by 9pm.

Erik Wresch, VP - SOARA

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.
- 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

2023 SOARA Calendar

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	30 Online	27	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	-
Program		-	-	-		Field Day Prep	-	-	-	-		-
FCC Ham Exam 6:00 PM		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Classes 8:00 AM			-	-	-	-						-
SOARA Elmer Saturday 9:00 AM	28 WFD Gillieran	Mar 4 Murray Center	18 Murray Center	22 Murray Center	20 Gillieran Park	24 FD Gillieran	22 Gillieran Park	26 Gillieran Park	23 Gillieran Park	21 Gillieran Park	25 Murray Center	16 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	27	24	22	FD	24	28	25	23	27	-
Special Events	Quartz- fest 17-23	Palm Springs		Visalia DX	Dayton Ham- vention	SOARA Auction 10			SOARA Picnic 17	JOTA 20-22	SOARA Auction TBD	SOARA Holiday Party TBD
Major HF Contests		ARRL DX-CW 20-21	ARRL DX-SSB 6-7 CQWPX SSB 27-28		CQWPX CW 29-30	ARRL Field Day 23-25			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 Mara- thon	ARRL Field Day 23-25	MV Fire- works 4				Vision Quest OC Mara- thon	

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

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
- D-STAR (146.115 C module): Wednesdays @ 8 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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wa6ed@soara.org

Raffle: Bill Colvin KM6FOY
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Website: Open

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ad6oi@soara.org