



Propagator

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange County Amateur Radio Association

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General Meeting

NPM Center
Nov 20, 2023
6:00 PM

Norman P. Murray
Center
23492 Veterans
Way, Mission Viejo,
CA 92692

President's Message

Greetings.

The word of the month, as far as this message goes at least, is PARTICIPATION!

We have several upcoming activities that are calling, no screaming for your participation! Your participation is special to SOARA and our fellow members. Without you, and the participation of others SOARA just can't exist. You, yes, you and everyone of us are critical to the well being of YOUR club.

For starters, we have several upcoming events that are begging for you to join in;

Monday evening, November, 20 is our semi-annual auction at Murray. Doors open at 6pm, selling starts promptly at 7pm, and ends at 8:30 pm. Grab those things you'd like to part with, together with a sack of money to buy those things you can't get along without, and come on down!

December 8, is the annual SOARA Holiday Party at the Murray Center. We need tickets purchased in advance, since it's a catered event and we have to give the caterer an accurate head count.

In January 2024, we're going do Winter Field Day, "Light" at Gilleran Park. Light, because like Summer Field Day in June, Winter FD runs for 24 hours, beginning 11:00 am PST, Saturday, January 27, and running until 11:00 PST, Sunday, January 28. Unlike Summer FD, SOARA will NOT be operating overnight, putting up large towers and beams, or having food served. It's a portable and wire antenna, brown bag, stop operating at dark, affair. Still it is a good test of our abilities to quickly set up and rapidly get on the air with HF, just as we would have to in a reals disaster. Power will be battery, generator, and alternate sources (wind, solar, etc.). Given the shortened operating schedule for us, we may decide not to bother with the generator(s).

For more info. on all the above, check your SOARA website: soara.org., as updates are made.

And even more on Participation: We desperately need more folks to step up and help with the nuts and bolts operations of the club. It's all too easy to let a few do most of the organizational work, but some of us who have been doing the club business and guidance for a number of years are ready to step aside, and allow new folks to help shape and guide the club with fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm. This is a plea for more participation and help. Without more participation, we won't have a club! It's all up to you. SOARA NEEDS YOU!

73 de Ray, AE6H

General Membership Meeting
Monday, November 20 @ 6:00 pm.
Norman P. Murray Center

SOARA Members,

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.

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

Note: Ham Radio Examinations will NOT be held in November before the meeting to make time for the Auction.

SOARA Membership Report

We're currently at 218 active members. Of those, 81 have not yet paid their 2023-2024 dues. If you did not receive a dues notice last month, and you think you owe dues, please contact me before submitting a payment.

We're pleased to welcome two new members:

David Steffen, W6DS

John Moore, K6JBM

If you need a new badge or a copy of the repeater manual, send me an email at membership@soara.org.

73, Greg, N6PM

SOARA Membership Director

[SOARA Elmer Saturdays](#)

Attendees: WA6ED Ed, N6PM Greg, K6NOV Ray, KK6UMB Tom, KM6FOY Bill, K7KCE Joe, WE4BY Greg, KN6SIP Ravi, K6JKB Jim, KN6WKP Tibor. I think a few didn't sign in...



This is where I demoed Anderson Power Pole assembly, Chirp, and Bill demoed the HT VSWR meter shown later.



Ravi with his receiver. Antenna clipped to a long wire.



Tom, Ray & Greg testing antennas



Zoom in on Ravi's radio.



Here's Bill testing an antenna's VSWR and power output with the SW-33 SWR and power meter by Surecom.

I think this was Tibor's loop. Low cost receive loop antenna. MLA-30 100kHz to 30 MHz About \$47 on amazon. About \$36 on Ebay. Uses USB power. There is also a MLA-30+ I don't know the differences. Do some research before buying.



We took in \$10 and spent \$20. So, we are down from \$60 coffee and donut funds to \$50.

Chirp & Mirkit Testing Notes:

- Kenwood TH-F6 must be set to PC mode for programming to work through speaker and mic connectors, be sure to set back to previous mode when done
- Mirkit Icom adapter cable doesn't work with ID-51A plus 2.5mm vs 3.5mm issue and some wiring or compatibility issue, Yaseu, Kenwood / Baofeng cables worked fine.
- FT-70D doesn't seem to support narrow FM, so no FRS support. Or, I'm missing something.
- FT60 does support narrow FM
- Chirp gets confused sometimes and I need to reboot windows 10, seems like it leaves the com port open and cannot reopen com port for different use. Probably running chirp as administrator would fix this issue.
- Icom ID-51A plus, seems to be the easiest radio to program. No strange button sequence. But, I had to use my RT cable.
- Yaseu programming is a sequence of strange steps, much more involved

- Icom ID-51Aplus RT Software with USB-RTS05 cable worked fine
- Icom ID-51Aplus RT Software USB-RTS05 cable worked with Chirp as well
- Chirp can use menu radio / import stock config to import
 - NOAA
 - US FRS & GMRS
 - US MURS
 - US Calling frequencies
 - US Marine VHF channels
 - When importing you need to understand how to offset the import. Otherwise imports overwrite each other. Practice...
- Icom programming software doesn't let me open a previously saved file unless I import settings from a radio first. Odd bug.
- Kenwood TH-F6 with Chirp only allows me to save CSV due to live mode I don't understand. I managed to update the radio. Very strange radio.

After testing several radios, I would make separate modular files to import for various frequencies like, NOAA, SOARA, DSTAR, FRS, 220, etc. Then import the files your radio supports. For example, FT70D doesn't seem to support FM narrow, so not importing FRS frequencies would bypass the issue. The Kenwood TH-F6 supports 220. Having a separate 220 file of frequencies is useful. The FT-60 doesn't support 220. In this case, don't import the 220 file. But you could import the FRS file.

73,

Ed, WA6ED

SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator

SOARA - Statement of Cash Income & Expenses October 1, 2023 Through October 31, 2023

SOARA - Statement of Cash Income & Expenses October 1, 2023 Through October 31, 2023			
Twelve Months Ended:	October 31 <u>2023</u>	October 31 <u>2022</u>	Increase (Decrease)
Cash Income:			
Memberships	5,251	5,013	238
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>1,445</u>	<u>(1,445)</u>
Total Cash Income	<u>5,251</u>	<u>6,458</u>	<u>(1,208)</u>
Cash Expenses:			
Repeaters including site rental, utilities & insurance	478	473	5
Member Activities	885	632	253
Other expenses	<u>189</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>(358)</u>
Total Cash Expenses	<u>1,552</u>	<u>1,652</u>	<u>(100)</u>
Cash Net Income	3,698	4,806	(1,108)
Beginning Cash-October 1	<u>24,917</u>	<u>25,860</u>	<u>(943)</u>
Ending Cash - October 31	28,616	30,666	(2,050)
Note: If any member has questions about the financials, please contact the Treasurer or any Board member.			

Ron Mosher - KOPGE
SOARA Treasurer

Holiday Party

In lieu of a regular club meeting in December, SOARA presents a holiday social gathering for its membership, friends and family.

With the rapidly rising cost of food and one of past favorite spots closing we have decided to return to holding a buffet diner at the Murray Center in the Palo Verde room (our normal meeting spot).

Diner will be a catered buffet with salad, main entree (vegetarian or meat) and desert. The club will provide water, soda and some sparkling cider. You are very welcome to "bring your own bottle" of wine or beer, no liquor is allowed.

Please RSVP by purchasing tickets using this link "[Buy Tickets Online](#)"

Also, we will announce a few special awards for our membership.

The Richard Coyne WW7D Memorial Award was created in 2005 to recognize an individual SOARA member who had made an outstanding contribution to the club and the HAM community throughout the prior year. The award is traditionally presented at the annual SOARA Holiday party and banquet in December.

The rotating award was created by the SOARA Board in memory of Richard Coyne WW7D, a very active member of the HAM community, longtime SOARA member and past SOARA board member. Richard passed away unexpectedly in May 2002. Richard would certainly be a worthy recipient of the award that bears his name.

Past WW7D winners are:

- 2005: Lou Frank, KG6FCT
- 2006: Brian Roode, NJ6N
- 2007: Richard Saunders, K6RBS
- 2008: Michael Slygh, KI6IRA
- 2009: Howard Brown, KG6GI
- 2010: Spencer Ammermon, NG6K
- 2011: Mack Garrett, KD6KSP
- 2012: Dale Griffith, W8RRV
- 2013: Sean Reigle, AJ6B
- 2014: Not awarded to anyone.
- 2015: Hal Silverman, WB6WXO
- 2016: Lori Carey, NI6X
- 2017: Ed Barnes, WA6ED

There is a cost for this event. Non-members are welcome to purchase tickets and participate with us.

WHEN: Friday December 8th 2023

TIME: 6pm - 9pm

WHERE: Norman P. Murray Center - Palo Verde Room. 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

COST: \$33 per person

Bring your own wine or beer if desired (hard liquor is not permitted)

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 your 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 20	SOARA Holiday Party 8
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 CW	
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

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

V.P.: Erik Wresch, W6INE 714-883-7694
w6ine@soara.org

Secretary: Charles Schultz, NY6I
ny6i@soara.org

Treasurer: Ron Mosher, K0PGE 949-363-0047
k0pge@soara.org

SOARA DIRECTORS

Repeater: Brian Roode, NJ6N 949-257-2749
nj6n@soara.org

Publications: Ray Frericks, K6NOV 949-682-9106
k6nov@soara.org

Membership: Greg De Hoogh 949-362-5529
n6pm@soara.org

Education: Steve Kuver, K6UVR 949-874-1972
k6uvr@soara.org

Technical: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-887-6527
ae6sh@soara.org

Communications: Dale Tyler, W6EDT 949-360-1717
w6edt@soara.org

SOARA APPOINTMENTS

Past President: Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131
ae6sh@soara.org

Activities Coordinator: Joe Perrigoue, K7KCE
k7kce@soara.org

S. Saturdays: Ed Barnes, WA6ED 949-468-7706
wa6ed@soara.org

Raffle: Bill Colvin KM6FOY
km6foy@soara.org

Testing: Steve Kuver K6UVR
k6uvr@soara.org

Website: Open

Ambassador: Heiko Peschel, AD6OI
ad6oi@soara.org