



# South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Post Office Box 2545, Mission Viejo, California 92690



[www.soara.org](http://www.soara.org) e-mail: [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name or Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Which number may we publish? Home? Work? Cell?

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Will be aliased to: (your callsign)@soara.org

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

License class/ Expiration date:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Previous Callsign(s) held:

Radio organizations to which you currently belong or have been a member of within the past year:

ARES ACS/RACES ARRL Other(s):

All members receive advanced access, including telephone (Auto-patch) privileges on the SOARA 2 meter, 220, and 440 MHz repeaters. Other interesting features are included, such as digital voice recording and voice response telemetry.

Occupation or areas of expertise which could benefit the club, and community, especially in time of emergency or disaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Relatives & Family members also holding Amateur Radio

Licenses:

call: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

call: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

call: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

call: \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership(s) applied:

- Regular
- Family member
- Student

If a family membership, name and call sign of primary/regular member:

Areas of interest and club activities in which you would be available to help.

- Be a club Officer / Director
- Organize / Work on social functions
- Organize / Work on Field Day
- Organize / work on a special interest group
- Work or Auctioneer at the Club auctions
- Organize / Teach Classes
- Assist with Licensing Exams
- Repeater site / equipment maintenance
- Participate in Public Service events
- Participate in Emergency Communications

*continued on next page*

- Before you submit this application, we ask that you listen to the SOARA repeaters, acquaint yourself with other members, and review the "Repeater Operating Guidelines" provided to you with this application.
- Prior to review and acceptance of your application by the SOARA Board of Directors, it must be signed by three current SOARA members.
- By signing the application below, I agree that I have read and understand the attached "SOARA Repeater Operating Guidelines" and that I will abide by those guidelines, and the SOARA Constitution and By-Laws while a member of SOARA.
- I understand that this membership will be reviewed by the Board of Directors, and if accepted will provide for a 90 day provisional membership. At the end of the 90 day period, the application will again be reviewed by the Board of Directors, and a final determination made. Other SOARA members may provide information and suggestions to the Board that may have a bearing on the final decision regarding this application. **Membership is effective on the first of the month following Board approval of the application.**
- I understand that in addition to the first year full dues amount, I must remit a one-time initiation fee.
- The SOARA Board of Directors reserves the right to reject or deny any application for membership, and may, for just cause, terminate any membership previously accepted and or approved.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your application must include: signatures of three Sponsors, (below) and a payment for first year's dues and the one-time initiation fee. (or if you are not licensed, bring a photo ID to the monthly meeting).

**SOARA Dues and fee schedule: Second year dues for new members are prorated from month of effective membership. See the chart on the website.**

Regular membership annual dues:	\$50.00	Membership first year dues	\$ _____
Regular member initiation fee (one time)	\$40.00	Additional Family member dues:	\$ _____
Each additional family member (residing in same household)	\$25.00	Initiation fee(s)	\$ _____
Additional family member initiation fee (one time)	\$20.00		
Student Membership *	\$25.00		
Student Initiation fee, (one time)	\$20.00		
* Student, enrolled full time, under age 22		Total due	\$ _____

*Note: For your convenience, SOARA accepts*

*online Payment via BrainTree®*

*Or make check payable to: **SOARA***

**New Member/Sponsors:**

We, the undersigned, recommend the above individual for membership in the South Orange Amateur Radio Association, and we certify we are SOARA members in good standing.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Call Sign Name (please print) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Call Sign Name (please print) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Call Sign Name (please print) Signature

# Questions and Answers About SOARA

## How do I become a member of SOARA?

You have already taken the first step. Just fill out this application and send it to SOARA, P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, Ca. 92690, or give it to the Membership Director at a SOARA meeting. Applications are reviewed for acceptance at the Board of Directors, usually the Monday following regular meetings.

## Where are the SOARA repeaters?

The SOARA repeaters operate from four primary sites; Laguna Beach @ 1000' elevation, Trabuco Canyon, a mid-level site at 1800', Santiago Peak 5600' and San Clemente @ 1000'. Our 224.640- repeater, with a PL of 123 and our 447.180- repeater with a PL of 131.8 which resulted from SOARA's merger with Henry Radio of Orange ARC, are at the Santiago site and are closed to anyone outside of SOARA members. Our 146.025+ repeater resulted with SOARA's merger with the Beach Cities Wireless Society and is located in San Clemente. Our remaining repeaters are at Laguna Beach including the 147.645- repeater. SOARA also operates a second 220 repeater on 224.100- and a 446.55 repeater at the Laguna Beach location. The 446.55 repeater is currently disabled to permit use of the frequency for our D-Star repeater. Our Laguna, Laguna Beach, Trabuco and San Clemente repeaters all operate with a PL of 110.9, and are open repeaters.

## What is the coverage of the repeaters?

The Temple Hill repeaters have coverage over the greater Orange County area, with coastal coverage extending from Baja California into Santa Barbara. Stations from Long Beach to Oceanside to Riverside use the 2-meter machine almost daily. However, some portions of Irvine surrounding the 405 freeway near the university and the airport lie in an RF shadow created by Signal Peak. This causes some weakening of signals in that area. The Trabuco 2-meter repeater fills this shadowed area, and also covers the Saddleback Valley communities. Santiago Peak 440 and 220 are our high level machines. They provide us with coverage well into Los Angeles, San Diego, parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as Orange County. Our San Clemente repeater provides coverage along the coast from San Diego to Santa Barbara with some coverage into the Saddleback communities. We are co-channeled with a Mt. Thom repeater which limits our inland coverage.

## When are the monthly meetings, and where are they held?

The association has a monthly meeting of the membership on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 24932 Veterans Way, off La Paz near

Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo. There are three exceptions. In January and February, the meetings are on the fourth Mondays and in December there is a holiday party instead of a meeting.

**What kind of activities does the club have?** Club activities include a summer picnic, December holiday dinner, 2 auctions, and best of all - Field Day! Other club benefits include; a subscription to the Propagator, SOARA's monthly newsletter; a member email address, a personalized callsign badge, and a full membership roster. SOARA also offers VE testing and ham radio classes. SOARA actively supports and the clubs' members are invited to participate in the several ARES/RACES groups serving the immediate area. You will also have the opportunity to work as a radio operator in a number of special and community service events for which SOARA members volunteer each year. We are always looking for volunteers for a variety of committees, including the Technical Committee, which does much of the work on our repeaters.

## How many members does SOARA have?

The club presently has approximately 200 members.

## Repeater Operating Guidelines

At SOARA we ask that these good operating practices be followed:

### I. Station identification on the SOARA repeaters.

Identify legally. On the SOARA equipment, identification must be made at the start of a QSO, at the FCC required 10 minute intervals, and at the end of a QSO. Your call sign also must both precede and follow any control operation on the repeater.

### II. ARRL Guidelines

- A. Use of the repeater shall conform to the "Repeater Operating Practices" as outlined in the FCC rule book published by the ARRL. Operating according to these guidelines represents "good operating practice" which is an FCC requirement for station operators.
- B. Monitor the repeater regularly to become familiar with the particulars of its operation, and the protocol practiced by its users.
- C. To initiate a contact, simply indicate that you are on frequency. Once every 10 minutes is more than sufficient. Various geographical areas have different practices for making yourself heard, but generally, "This is W1AW, monitoring" will suffice. One practice that is looked upon with disfavor, universally, is calling CQ on a repeater. Another is more than one "This is W1AW, monitoring". If people want to have a QSO, they will answer your call. Most people who monitor a repeater do it quietly, without announcing their presence. If you find you are not having much luck, simply continue to monitor until someone else announces they are monitoring, and give them a call.

- D.** Pause between transmissions. There is a courtesy beep that occurs when each station ends a transmission. Wait for the beep before beginning your next transmission.
- E.** Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your monologue may prevent someone with an emergency (or other use of the repeater) from using the frequency.
- F.** Use simplex whenever possible. If you can complete your QSO on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.
- G.** Use the minimum power necessary to maintain communications, and be cognizant of your signal quality.
- H.** Don't break into a contact unless you have emergency traffic or something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person. This also means that you should not expect people to "break in anytime" even if you invite them to. If you have been using the repeater for a several minutes, and think others may be waiting, leave plenty of time between transmissions to allow them an opportunity to break in, but don't say "break in anytime". Just offer to pick up the conversation again later and say 73.
- I.** Repeaters are intended to facilitate mobile and handheld operation. During commuter rush hours, base stations should relinquish the repeater to allow mobile stations to use the autopatch. QSOs should be kept relatively short during these periods.
- J.** Business Communications. The FCC prohibits business communications over amateur radio, both on autopatch calls, and between stations. Efforts to disguise business conversations using cryptic language or code words or skirting the subject matter in a way that makes it clear that the conversation is about business, is poor operating practice (and illegal).
- K.** All repeaters (including SOARA repeaters) are assembled and maintained at considerable expense and inconvenience to a few individuals. It is suggested that complaints about the technical operation of the repeater should be made directly to those responsible, if at all possible, by telephone. Your constructive suggestions are of course encouraged and welcomed.

### III. Other Guidelines

In addition to the ARRL section which covers a variety of operating practices, users should also recognize that the repeater covers a wide geographic area, and is used by many amateurs. It is a limited resource. Expanding on the ARRL Repeater Operating Practices:

- A.** The repeater should not be used for lengthy rag-chews, particularly during busy times. These might be more appropriate on simplex.
- B.** If you must indicate that you are monitoring, do it once. Repeated "This is W6\_\_, monitoring" is poor operating practice. It puts other potential users off, as they may not be interested in talking to you, but feel that it would be impolite to ignore you until several minutes have elapsed.
- C.** After using the repeater for five minutes or longer, any station that breaks in to make a call should be clear indication that you may have been talking too long. End your QSO for a few minutes to let other users make their contacts. If you find that your conversations are frequently interrupted by breakers you should reduce your usage of the equipment.
- D.** When the repeater is quiet this does not mean that it is not being monitored. Many stations that are monitoring (only a few of whom announce that fact) do so for extended periods. During this time, a quiet repeater is often a blessing. A break, followed by a call which is not successful, does not mean that nobody is listening.
- E.** KERCHUNKING the repeater is very poor operating practice. Instead, just say something like "This is W6xxx Testing." Furthermore, it is illegal to transmit without identification. It is not necessary, and it is not recommended to kerchunk the repeater before making a call.
- F.** Courtesy on the repeater is a must. On-the-air comments made about other amateurs that are degrading, or otherwise intended to impugn the reputation, judgment, or character of others represents poor operating practice, and may be sufficient grounds to terminate membership in the association, upon review of the Board of Directors.

### IV. Control Codes and Repeater Locations

**Important:** Please do not discuss any repeater control codes or details about the exact locations of the repeater(s) on the air. You may indicate that the repeaters are near Laguna Beach, Trabuco canyon, or on Santiago Peak whichever happens to be the case. Also, if you have difficulties using the advanced access features, call someone on the telephone to talk about codes and how they work. Again, please do not discuss this on the air!

## SECOND YEAR PRORATED DUES CHART FOR NEW MEMBERS

First year dues are the full amount \$40 initiation fee plus \$50 dues. SOARA will prorate dues when you renew on the second year.

Your membership begins on the first of the month following Board acceptance. Starting at the first of the month following your acceptance by the Board, this table shows how much the prorated dues will be on the second year.

For example, if you submit an application in September, before the September board meeting, your second year dues amount is \$50.00 for regular membership. If you submit your application in July and receive approval the same month, second year dues are \$8.00. Board meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month with the exception of January and February when the Board meets on the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday. Please contact the membership directors, [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org) if you have any questions.

Dues the years following the second year will be the full dues amount set at that time.

\* month following Board acceptance

First month of Membership *	Second Year's Dues	Regular Member Initiation	Regular Membership total	Family /Student Membership total
October	\$ 50.00	40.00	90.00	45.00
November	\$ 46.00	40.00	86.00	43.00
December	\$ 42.00	40.00	82.00	41.00
January	\$ 38.00	40.00	78.00	39.00
February	\$ 33.00	40.00	73.00	36.50
March	\$ 29.00	40.00	69.00	34.50
April	\$ 25.00	40.00	65.00	32.50
May	\$ 21.00	40.00	61.00	30.50
June	\$ 17.00	40.00	57.00	28.50
July	\$ 13.00	40.00	53.00	26.50
August	\$ 8.00	40.00	48.00	24.00
September	\$ 4.00	40.00	44.00	22.00