



# PROPAGATOR

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association

## ORANGE COUNTY

# FIRE WATCH

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Join us at the Norman P. Murray Center in Mission Viejo, CA on Monday, 3/19 at 7:00 pm for our next General Meeting.

Our featured speaker is Orange County Fire Watch Program Coordinator, Tony Pointer. Tony manages the Orange County Fire Watch program for the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, OC Parks, City of Irvine, and City of Newport Beach with the assistance of over 300 volunteers at 36 locations in Orange County. He will be sharing information on the activities of the Fire Watch program and the current fire situation in Southern California. Orange County Fire Watch and SOARA are currently partnered to utilize the SOARA repeater for Fire Watch deployments on Red Flag Warning days.

To learn more about the Orange County Fire Watch Program [click here](#).

## President's Message

It's SOARA annual elections time, and for those of you not familiar with our SOARA election process for the Constitutional Officers and Directors, a brief explanation follows.

The elections process is set forth in the SOARA Constitution and By-laws, with Section VIII of the by-laws spelling out the procedures. Elections are held annually during April, with ballots being furnished to the current active (paid up) members, by email prior to the April meeting. Voting is electronic, and there are provisions in place to insure that a member can cast their ballot only once. While not foresee-

ing any problems in this area, the Board felt that these secure provisions would eliminate any perception of the elections not maintaining integrity.

Terms of the Officers and Directors are for two years, with the Bylaws calling for electing the Constitutional Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) in even numbered years, and the Directors (Communications, Education, Membership, Publications, Repeater, and Technical) in odd numbered years. 2018 being an even numbered year means that we will be voting for the Constitutional Officers.

The current SOARA Board of Directors is charged with selecting and presenting their recommended slate of candidates at the March meeting, and also calling for additional nominations from the membership at that meeting. The 2018 Board recommended slate of Constitutional Officers is:

**President:** Ray Hutchinson, AE6H Incumbent

**Vice President:** Eric Wresch, W6INE

**Secretary:** Greg De Hoogh, N6PM, Incumbent, Appointed

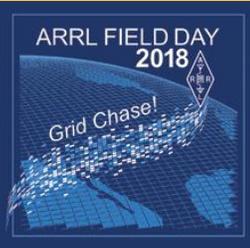
**Treasurer:** Lori Carey, NI6X, Incumbent

You will be receiving your ballot very early in April, with the above candidates, and any nominations from the floor at the next meeting. Please attend and nominate any members you feel would be a good choice for the above positions. Also, please don't hesitate to nominate yourself, awkward as

*(Continued on page 4)*

**General Meeting**  
March 19, 2018  
7:00 PM

NP Murray Center  
Veterans Way  
Mission Viejo



## Mark Your Calendar!

**ARRL Field Day** is coming soon on June 22-24 (June 22nd is set-up) We will be needing volunteers to assist with things like set-up, tear-down, erecting antennas, station leaders and more. Please put this date on your calendars to support us on our BIGGEST event of the year.

Thank you!

Dana Wresch  
KM6LZG -  
SOARA Activities  
Coordinator

## Treasurer's Report

I'm sure that every SOARA member has wondered at times how their dues are being spent. When I first accepted responsibility as SOARA's Treasurer in February 2016, it quickly became apparent that SOARA was spending much more than we were taking in from membership dues. If we didn't get our spending in line fast or raise our dues, we would run out of money. No one on the Board wants to raise membership dues, and I made it my primary goal to reduce expenses and get our spending in line with our current level of membership dues.

Our annual budget is based on membership dues of \$10,000 per year, roughly 200 members at \$50 each. That amount has remained fairly steady for several years. We have many lifetime, family, and student members who don't pay the full \$50, and new members replace those who choose not to renew. Despite all of the Board's hard work since I came on board, our 2017-18 budget still projected a \$1,900 loss for the year and we are still working on ways to reduce expenses.

It should come as no surprise that maintaining our repeaters is our biggest expense. Rental expense for Santiago Peak and the cost for the phone lines and DSL currently comprise 79% of our annual budget. There is no room for play in the rent cost of Santiago, but the board has been working hard to reduce phone expense. We've been able to cancel four lines so far, and a team of people are working on finding a solution for the *Trabuco* repeater, currently \$160 per month. Eliminating that phone line at Trabuco is the key to getting our budget in line. We also budget an additional \$1,000 each year for repeater repairs, but we don't always need to use all of those funds.

Field Day is our next biggest expense, budgeted at \$1,200. This is a \$100 increase over last year due to the increasing cost of renting a generator (budgeted at \$500). The SOARA Board is looking into ways that we might possibly be able to reduce the cost of renting a big generator. We also budget \$100 for our annual picnic. Insurance for equipment and liability runs a close second at \$1158 per year.

While it may seem like nickels and dimes, I sincerely thank everyone who has been donating toward donuts and coffee for SOARA Saturday. We had been spending \$50 per month, and thanks to you our expenses were cut in half last fiscal year and have been minimal this year.

The budget I submitted to the Board for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (See Page 7) doesn't reflect any cost reductions we've made so far this year. Thanks to Mike Mahan's review of our insurance policies we've been able to cancel one of the policies, saving us several hundred dollars per year. But the phone line at San Clemente increases every few months (it was less than \$100 per month just two years ago), and many other expenses continue to increase on a regular basis, so we need to remain diligent.

My thanks to the rest of the Board for working so hard with me to reduce expenses, thank you to the members who are helping to brainstorm ways to replace the San Clemente phone line. I also want to thank the Warrior Society for their generous donation toward our repeater expense. Year to date our financials are right in line with expectations, and once we get the San Clemente phone expense handled we should be in good shape.

73 de NI6X  
Lori Carey, SOARA Treasurer



**SOARA**  
Saturday  
Mar 24

**CQ WPX**  
SSB  
Mar 24-25

**Visalia DX**  
Convention  
Apr 20-22

**SOARA**  
Spring Auction  
May 21

**ARRL**  
Field Day  
Jun 22-24

## VEC License Exams

6pm—before  
the General  
Meeting

Please see our  
[website](#) for  
more info.

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General |  
Technician

## On-the-Air Test of New FT8 "DXpedition Mode"

A second beta version of WSJT-X version 1.9.0 has been released, the WSJT development group announced this week. The "release candidate," as it's called, is designated as version 1.9.0-rc2. An initial beta release has already been field-tested by a small group of users. The WSJT development group said a primary purpose of the second beta release is to allow further field testing of the new FT8 "DXpedition Mode," designed to enable DXpeditions to make FT8 contacts at very high rates, and it is inviting the Amateur Radio community to participate in a public test run of FT8 DXpedition Mode on the evening of March 6 (North American time).

## Communications:

Our year has started off well, we have already supported three events and have more planned. This month, on Saturday the 24th, we are doing the last of the Chili Winter trail run series and we would like some volunteer help. All it takes is a hand held radio and a desire to have some fun. May is our big month, we will have the Orange County Marathon on the 6th, and the Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon on the 28th. The half marathon will need about 12 volunteers and will be done almost entirely on simplex. The marathon will support the sag wagons (they bring in the people who can't quite make it) by using APRS and a local repeater to support the event.

On a more general note, please use our repeaters, especially those on Temple Hill, in Laguna Beach. When possible, move your conversation over to our lesser used repeaters on Temple Hill - that's 147.645-, 224.100- and 445.660- all with PL110.9.

If you have questions please check with myself or our repeater director Brian NJ6N.

Thanks,  
Heiko, AD6OI  
Director of Communications for SOARA

## SOARA Saturday

March 24, HF in Gilleran Park, Mission Viejo, CA

Go to <https://www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/> for details, like topics, information, links, time, date, location. We are very informal, so other topics often start.

The March 24 SOARA Saturday from 9am to noon will be HF operation at Gilleran Park. We will setup a HF radio, tuner, battery box, and antenna(s). And then have some fun on the air. We will also hide the SOARA T for anybody that wants to practice t-hunting.

The April 21 SOARA Saturday will be kit building at Murray Center. Bring your kit assembled or unassembled. I will bring my solder station in case anyone needs help getting started. Also, bring some completed kits to share your experiences with others. Anyone that wants to help others with kit building is encouraged to help. These tend to be very busy SOARA Saturday's and I need all the help I can get.

73,  
Ed, WA6ED



### Bouvet DXpedition Reboot

3Y0I Bouvet DXpedition Invites 3Y0Z Team to Join Forces

This week, the 3Y0I Bouvet Island DXpedition team publicly invited the members of the ill-fated 3Y0Z team to join forces as part of "rebooted preparations" for the venture, but 3Y0Z team co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, told ARRL that his group has other plans. Dates for the 3Y0I DXpedition, meanwhile, remain up in the air at this point, but the team said it would announce its expected dates of operation soon.

### ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees



ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, [currently limited to CW for Technicians] and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/2018%20Entry%20Level%20License%20PRM%20FINAL.pdf>

### NTIA Targets Portion of 3.4 GHz Amateur Band for Potential Wireless Broadband Use

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has identified 3450 to 3550 MHz for potential wireless broadband use. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation of 3300 to 3500 MHz, sharing the spectrum with government radars; the popular "weak-signal" frequency is 3456.1 MHz. The NTIA oversees the use of spectrum by federal government agencies.

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2018/ntia-identifies-3450-3550-mhz-study-potential-band-wireless-broadband-use>

### The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Adding an Amplifier to your Station" is the topic of the latest (March 1) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn! More than a half-million downloads since its debut in April 2016 attest to the podcast's popularity.

[https://www.blubrry.com/arrl\\_the\\_doctor\\_is\\_in/](https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/)

(Continued from page 1) - *President's Message*

it may seem, if you have interest in serving your club in any of the open positions as well. One caveat, please be certain that whoever you nominate is willing and agreeable to serve in the office you nominate them for.

Hope to see you on the 19th.

73,

Ray, AE6H

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Patti, AD6OH was the winner of the February Raffle (pictured to the right). Don't miss the March Raffle!





## Membership

We welcome two new members:

**Mark, KJ6YXR**  
**Bruce, NH7WG**

We have 240 active members, 3 life members, 207 paid and 30 unpaid. Please pay your dues if you have not already. All unpaid members will go inactive on 3/30/18. Just before we start the Officers election process.

I also plan to update the, members only, SOARA manual & guide in April. Membership dues fund all SOARA's expenses. If you need an official SOARA badge replacement, call sign change or have a question, email [membersh@soara.org](mailto:membersh@soara.org)

73, Ed

WA6ED

## High Altitude Balloon Launch

Science Heads is planning to launch a number of student designed experiments aboard a High Altitude Balloon on April 20th, 2018 as part of a local STEM education initiative. The launch will like take place at Mile Square Park. An APRS transmitter will be included in the payload providing telemetry including GPS coordinates and altitude information.

We are seeking HAMs willing to help with the recovery of the payload. Two or three recovery teams in vehicles will be needed to fan out in Orange County and stay in contact with our command post.

Thank you for considering this request.

Richard Stember  
Executive Director  
Science Heads Inc.  
KM6HCB, Cell: 949-616-9481, Email: [richard@scienceheads.org](mailto:richard@scienceheads.org), Web: [www.scienceheads.org](http://www.scienceheads.org)

## Special Event Communications

For those of you interested in emergency communications this a good way to get trained in using your radio. Here is a list of upcoming special events that we would like help with:

- OC Chili Run
  - ⇒ Saturday, March 24 2018.
  - ⇒ 7:15 AM 12:00 PM
  - ⇒ O'Neill Regional Park ([map](#))
  - ⇒ A beautiful 5 mile, 7 mile or 10 mile train run through O'Neill Regional Park, high quality t-shirt, and post race chili is included!
- OC Marathon, May 6
- Memorial Day Half Marathon, May 28

Please call or e-mail me at:  
(949) 859-3868  
[ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org)

Thanks,

Heiko, AD6OI  
Director of Communications  
for SOARA



The logo for the Warrior's Society Vision Quest. It features the words "Warrior's Society" in a stylized, serif font with a sword and a quill pen integrated into the design. Below this, the words "Vision Quest" are written in a large, bold, black font with a yellow outline. The background of the logo is a colorful, abstract pattern of red, green, and yellow.

This is a request from one of the groups who support SOARA with a request for ride radio support for the next Vision Quest/Counting Coup rides on **April 7**. Please offer your support, if you can.

My name is Chris Vargas (KF6TKE) and I'm a member of SOARA. I'm planning my annual mountain bike event to be held on Saturday, April 7th and I'm looking for ham support. Joe Lopez, cc on this email, has been Net Control for our events for many years and we've had many members of SOARA support it.

The event takes place in the Santa Ana Mountains and starts at 4:30 a.m. and ends about 5:00 p.m. We need support at various aid stations and on the mountain. If they have a 4 wheel drive vehicle that's a plus but not necessary.

As always, we reimburse support for their costs supporting the event and they get a t-shirt and lunch.

In 2004 the Warrior's Society produced a video on the Vision Quest and Counting Coup mountain bike events. It gives a 3D video tour of the course with original music. It captures the true toughness of the event showing the struggles and triumphs of those participating.

Please pass it on to anyone willing to support the event and ask them to contact me at [sanofan.chris@gmail.com](mailto:sanofan.chris@gmail.com)

Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqrWwOGrijNs>

Thanks!

Chris

More information at: [http://www.warriorssociety.org/events/vision\\_quest\\_general\\_info.html](http://www.warriorssociety.org/events/vision_quest_general_info.html)



## SOARA Proposed Budget FY 2017-2018

**Revenue:**

Membership	\$10,000.00
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## Activities:

Auction Commissions	\$100.00
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Donations	
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**Total Revenue**

	\$10,100.00
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**Expenses:**

## Site Rental:

Santiago Peak	\$4,200.00
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City of San Clemente	\$20.00
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## Utilities:

Internet DSL	\$847.92
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Telephone Lines	\$2,820.00
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## Website:

Linode	\$237.50
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NameCheap	\$12.50
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## Insurance

Hartford	\$569.00
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Mercer	\$589.00
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Post Office Box	\$85.00
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## Activities:

SOARA Saturday	\$240.00
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Field Day - Food	\$700.00
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Field Day - Other (Generator)	\$500.00
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Picnic	\$100.00
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Equipment and Repeater Maintenance	\$1,000.00
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## Other/Miscellaneous

PayPal fees	
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Filing Fees	\$20.00
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**Total Expenses**

	\$11,940.92
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**Net Revenue**

	-\$1,840.92
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Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	22	26	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	-
Program	Science Heads	Power werx	OC Fire Watch	TBD	<a href="#">Spring Auction</a>	<a href="#">Field Day Prep</a>	TBD	<a href="#">SOARA Fair</a>	TBD	TBD	<a href="#">Fall Auction</a>	-
FCC Ham Exam	22	26	19	16	21	At Field Day (2pm)	16	20	17	15	19	-
Educational Classes	Tech 20	Gen 24	-	Tech 14	Extra 19	Tech 16	Gen 14	Tech 18	Tech 15	-	-	-
SOARA Saturdays (9am)	27 Murray	Mar 3 Gilleran	24 Gilleran	21 Murray	26 Murray	23 Gilleran	21 Murray	25 Murray	22 Gilleran	20 Murray	24 Murray	-
SOARA T-Hunt	7	11	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Board Meeting	29	Mar 5	26	23	29	-	23	27	24	22	26	-
Special Events	<a href="#">Quartzfest</a>	<a href="#">Yuma Hamfest</a>		<a href="#">Visalia Intl DX</a>	<a href="#">Ohio Hamven- tion</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day 22-24</a>	HRO Ham Jam	<a href="#">SOARA Picnic</a>		<a href="#">JOTA</a>		<a href="#">SOARA Holiday Party</a>
Major HF Contests		<a href="#">ARRL DX-CW</a> <a href="#">CQWPX RTTY</a>	<a href="#">ARRL DX-SSB</a> <a href="#">CQWPX SSB</a>		<a href="#">CQWPX CW</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day</a>			<a href="#">CQWW RTTY</a>	<a href="#">CQWW SSB</a>	<a href="#">CQWW CW</a>	
Volunteer Events	<a href="#">OC Chili Run</a>	<a href="#">Paws Fur Pink</a> <a href="#">OC Chili Run</a>	<a href="#">OC Chili Run</a> <a href="#">Baker to Vegas</a>	<a href="#">Desert Storm Rally</a> <a href="#">Vision Quest</a>	<a href="#">HD Trails</a> <a href="#">OC Mara- thon</a> <a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Mara- thon</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day</a>	MV Fire- works			<a href="#">OC Cycle for Life</a>  OC Prep Expo		<a href="#">Run for a Claus</a>

\*Dates subject to change.

Check the [SOARA website](#) to verify locations and times.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

UHF/VHF (447.180, 147.645 & 224.640): Tuesdays @ 8:00PM

D-STAR (146.115 C module):  
Wednesdays @ 7:30PM

40 meter HF (7.200 MHz +/- for QRM), Sundays @ 8:00AM

10 meter HF (28.410 +/-)  
Sundays after the 40m net.

Gordo HF (7.250 MHz +/- for QRM), Weekdays @ 8:30AM



#### **SOARA OFFICERS**

**President:** Ray Hutchinson, AE6H 949-322-8468  
[ae6h@soara.org](mailto:ae6h@soara.org)

**V.P.:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
[aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org)

**Secretary:** Greg De Hoogh, N6PM  
[n6pm@soara.org](mailto:n6pm@soara.org)

**Treasurer:** Lori Carey, NI6X 949-444-8190  
[ni6x@soara.org](mailto:ni6x@soara.org)

#### **SOARA DIRECTORS**

**Repeater:** Brian Roode, NJ6N 949-257-2749  
[nj6n@soara.org](mailto:nj6n@soara.org)

**Publications:** Mike Mahan, K6MSM 949-279-9936  
[k6msm@soara.org](mailto:k6msm@soara.org)

**Membership:** Ed Barnes, WA6ED 949-468-7706  
[w6ed@soara.org](mailto:w6ed@soara.org)

**Education:** Steve Kuver, K6UVR 949-874-1972  
[k6uvr@soara.org](mailto:k6uvr@soara.org)

**Technical:** Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Communications:** Heiko Peschel, AD6OI 949-859-3868  
[ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org)

#### **SOARA APPOINTMENTS**

**Past President:** Tom Hobbs, AE6SH 949-830-8131  
[ae6sh@soara.org](mailto:ae6sh@soara.org)

**Activities Coordinator:** Dana Wresch, KM6LZG  
[km6lzg@soara.org](mailto:km6lzg@soara.org)

**S. Saturdays:** Ed Barnes, WA6ED 949-468-7706  
[w6ed@soara.org](mailto:w6ed@soara.org)

**Raffle:** Hal Silverman, WB6WXO 714-897-5002  
[wb6wxo@soara.org](mailto:wb6wxo@soara.org)

**Testing:** Sean Reigle, AJ6B 714-261-1717  
[aj6b@soara.org](mailto:aj6b@soara.org)

**Website:** John Zimmer, KM6BEE  
[km6bee@soara.org](mailto:km6bee@soara.org)

**Ambassador:** Spencer Ammermon, NG6K  
[ng6k@soara.org](mailto:ng6k@soara.org)

**Contacting SOARA:** Questions about SOARA? Postal mail: P.O. Box 2545, Mission Viejo, CA 92690.

Send e-mail to: [membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@soara.org), or leave a message at 949-667-0173. Facebook: K6SOA, Twitter: @K6SOA