



THE

April 2018

# PROPAGATOR

*The Monthly Newsletter of the South Orange Amateur Radio Association*

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**General Meeting**  
April 16, 2018  
7:00 PM

NP Murray Center  
Veterans Way  
Mission Viejo

## NCG Company

The April speaker will be : Mick Stwertnik of the NCG Company, distributors for Comet, Daiwa, amateur radio products. Their website, Comet Antenna | states: NCG "is the North American distributor for COMET and MALDOL brand antenna products designed, manufactured and quality controlled in Japan. We are also the distributor of DAIWA brand RF SWR/power meters and switching power supplies."



## In Support of Communications

We have two important communications events coming up in May.

On Sunday May 6 there is the Orange County Marathon and we will support two city EOC's, Newport Beach and Costa Mesa. MESAC is supporting us by using their EOC to support the race. We need eight operators who have the capability of setting up and using their APRS in the Sag wagons that they will be in, so that our monitors know where they are at all times. We are planning on using two shifts 5am

to 9am and 9am to 1pm. If you can help us with this we would like to hear from you.

On Monday the 28th of May we have the Laguna Hills 1/2 marathon, 10K and 5K and we need about 12 operators to cover the aid stations as well as rovers and the net control position.

Again, if you can help us with this event, please get in touch with me at:

[ad6oi@soara.org](mailto:ad6oi@soara.org) or (949) 859-3868

Thanks,

Heiko

SOARA Director of Communications

## From the President

I was well into writing this month's President's Message column on a completely different subject when an event popped up that I think worthy of mentioning and recognizing. I wanted to recognize the cooperative teamwork of amateur radio operators to problem solve.

This immediate past Sunday morning, I received a text message from T-hunter extraordinaire Richard K6RBS. He had noted what was clearly non-ham activity on the main 70 cm band simplex, 446.000. Actually the rogue signals were strongest just slightly off at 446.005. This activity had been heard intermittently on Saturday, and resumed again Sunday morning. Several of us banded together, gathered some T-hunt gear, and two of us

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<b>SOARA Saturday</b>
Apr 16
<b>Visalia DX Convention</b>
Apr 20-22
<b>OC Marathon</b>
May 6
<b>SOARA Spring Auction</b>
May 21
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>
Jun 22-24

## SOARA Elmer Saturday

We are changing the SOARA Saturday name to SOARA Elmer Saturday (SES). Lots of Elmering happens at SOARA Saturday's anyway so the new name is a better fit. If you want to help others, and be an Elmer, let me know and I will make you a special green "Elmer" badge. This is a good way to tell others you are willing to help. If you have Elmering questions email: [elmers@soara.org](mailto:elmers@soara.org). Various members have signed up to help answer technical and other questions over email.

Go to <https://www.soara.org/activities/soara-saturdays/> for more SOARA Elmer Saturday details, like topics, information, links, time, date, location.

The April 21 SOARA Elmer 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 or projects to share your experiences with others. Anyone that wants to Elmer others with kit building is encouraged to bring their equipment. These meetings tend to be very busy and I need all the help I can get. If anyone wants to practice T-hunting around Murray Center, let me know and I can bring the SOARA T.

The May 25 SES will be demo an Arduino with a display and a sensor reading temperature, humidity, and pressure. I will demo the hardware, schematic and source code. Bring your Arduino project and share your experiences.



### VEC License Exams

6pm—before the General Meeting

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

Walk-ins ok.

Extra | General | Technician



## Membership

We have 216 active members.

The SOARA manual & guide in PDF is ready to email once we final review and elections complete.

If you need an official SOARA badge replacement, call sign change, or have a question, email

[membership@soara.org](mailto:membership@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)

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

hit the road. Three others, listened at their locations, and offered support via text and simplex radio.

Brian, NJ6N from his Laguna Niguel QTH, and Tom, AE6SH form Mission Viejo, listened and did computer research, based on the hints we heard from the interloper's brief transmissions. Those hints lead us to believe that this was some sort of commercial enterprise, had employees going off on and off breaks, involved food service, and given the background noises, a children's or young adults venue.

A bit of mobile roving by Richard and myself, using some directional antenna and doppler bearings, along with the above clues and research, we were able to pinpoint the signals to a child daycare business in the Lake Forest area. Richard and I made contact with the supervisor in charge at the facility, and he showed us their newly delivered Asian handi-talkies they had just received from "Corporate," preprogrammed with frequencies.

Experience has shown that these radios come from the factory with a handful of frequencies across their intended band(s) that are used by the factory to align the radios. These frequencies are standardized within the same model of radio, and aren't deleted before the radios are shipped. There is minor mention of this in the very fine print of the limited manuals that come with the radios, but little information beyond that. Some sellers of these radios advertised that these radios as "pre-programmed and ready to use."

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**March SOARA Raffle Winner:** Ron, WB6GKK (right), with Ray, AE6H (left)

## Cooperative T-Hunt This Monday (RACES)

Ken Tucker, WF6F, will be the fox this coming Monday, April 16th, on the monthly cooperative T-Hunt. He will hide on paved, publicly accessible property in the North Tustin/Orange foothill area east of the 55 Freeway, south of the 91 Freeway, north of the I-5 Freeway, and west of the 261 Toll Road. He will begin transmitting tones on the input (146.295 MHz) of the OCRA-CES 2-meter repeater immediately after the OCRA-CES net, which should be about 7:20 PM. Hunters will compare bearings on the 448.320 MHz repeater (141.3 Hz PL), and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS during the hunt. This is an enjoyable exercise in working together to quickly find potential interference.

Ken  
 RACES Captain Kenneth M. Bourne, W6HK  
 E-mail: kbourne.ocsd@earthlink.net or w6hk@ocraces.org

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We told the facility supervisor that this was a friendly warning that their operations were illegal, that they were operating within the amateur radio band, and that they had one week to cease using the ham frequencies or we would be reporting them to the FCC, which would likely result in fines, etc.

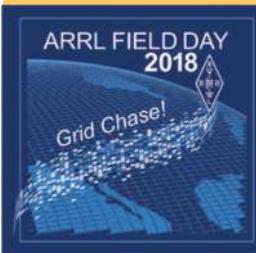
The point of this is three fold. First, I'd like to thank everyone involved: Richard, K6RBS, Gray WA6BJY, Brian NJ6N, and Tom, AE6H each for their contributions. Second, It highlights the cooperation we in the ham fraternity enjoy, and finally, to highlight how we must always be alert for interlopers, often well-intentioned and unaware of what they're doing.

I expect more of these incidents in the future, as the price of these inexpensive Asian made radios drops as they are offered on the market. We found the exact make and model of radio for \$17 each on eBay, and 5 packs for \$80 on Amazon. These are not little FRS bubble-pack radios either, but full-sized, 16 channel, 5 watt UHF radios with several miles of range. I'd like to encourage all to be listening, and if you're so inclined, to join in our T-hunts and hone your T-hunting skills, because this does have practical applications.

Once again thanks to all involved and we believe that this incident is being resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Great work Guys, in the spirit of amateur radio,

73 de Ray, AE6H, SOARA President

SOARA Elections - 96 / 216 ( 44 %) votes cast		
Candidate Name	Call Sign	Votes
<b>President</b>		
Ray Hutchinson	AE6H	95
---- Abstain ----		1
<b>Vice_President</b>		
Erik Wresch	W6INE	95
---- Abstain ----		1
<b>Secretary</b>		
Greg De Hoogh	N6PM	95
---- Abstain ----		1
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Lori Carey	NI6X	95
---- Abstain ----		1



## 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 BIG-GEST event of the year.

Thank you!

Dana Wresch  
KM6LZG -  
SOARA Activities Coordinator

## SOARA Saturday is now SOARA Elmer Saturday (SES)

Dear SOARA Members,

I started messaging the SOARA Elmer Saturday change in last Sunday's SOARA 40 meter net. So, I thought I better message this information to all members sooner than later. I will add more detail in my next SOARA Propagator article.

At my request, the SOARA Board of Directors approved changing SOARA Saturday. Going forward, SOARA Saturday will be called SOARA Elmer Saturday. We already try to help members and non-members at these events. So, this is a change in name, new SOARA Elmer membership badges, and I want to better promote the [elmers@soara.org](mailto:elmers@soara.org) mail list.

If you attended any of these events in the last few years, you know, these Saturday's teach something whither it's HF operation, T-Hunting 101, Soldering, Kit Building, Programming an Arduino, Antenna Analyzers, instrumentation, battery boxes, antennas, emergency power, and many other topics. With our informal format at these events, it's easy to ask questions.

My view of an Elmer is someone that wants to help others to learn and or solve a problem. There is no license requirement. Technician, General, or Extra is okay. An Elmer doesn't have to know everything but they are willing to help others with ham radio. If find in my past experiences the teacher learns too!

The next step of this idea is recognition and identification for Elmers. Any member that wants to be a SOARA Elmer can have a special SOARA Elmer badge. These badges will stand out and have a green background with orange letters with Elmer at the bottom. I plan to make the first batch of badges this weekend. If you want an Elmer badge, please let me know. I already have several members that want one.

Lets make SOARA better, have more fun with ham radio, and help others get the most out of this public service!

73,  
Ed, WA6ED  
SOARA Elmer Saturday Coordinator  
SOARA Membership Director



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	NCG	<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 Cilleran	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 Hamvention</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="#">ARRL DX-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>	
CQWPX RTTY		<a href="#">CQWPX SSB</a>										
Volunteer Events	<a href="#">OC Chili Run</a>	<a href="#">Paws Fur Pink</a>	<a href="#">OC Chili Run</a>	<a href="#">Desert Storm Rally</a>	<a href="#">HD Trails</a>	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day</a>	MV Fireworks		<a href="#">OC Cycle for Life</a>			<a href="#">Run for a Claus</a>
	<a href="#">OC Chili Run</a>	<a href="#">Baker to Vegas</a>	<a href="#">Vision Quest</a>		<a href="#">OC Mara-thon</a>				<a href="#">OC Prep Expo</a>			
					<a href="#">Memorial Day 1/2 Marathon</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
<b>D-STAR 2m — 146.115 + (K6SOA C)</b>	Laguna Beach
220 — 224.100 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
220 — 224.640 — (pvt)	Santiago Peak. (C)
440 — 445.660 — (110.9)	Laguna Beach
<b>D-STAR 440 — 445.705 — (K6SOA B)</b>	Laguna Beach
440 — 447.180 — (pvt)	Santiago Peak. (C)
<b>D-STAR 1.2G 1282.600 — (K6SOA A)</b>	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

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

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#### SOARA DIRECTORS

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