



Mission Viejo RACES – ARES HANDBOOK



Memorandum of Understanding Between the South Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) And Various Entities in South Orange County

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between the South Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) and various entities in South Orange County. It will serve as a broad framework within which amateur radio operations will take place on SOARA repeaters during emergency operations.

A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio service, as established by Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission's regulations, is the performance of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency when normal communications are not available. SOARA, as a full service amateur radio association serving the South Orange County/Saddleback Valley region, is committed to assisting Emergency Services Agencies and Organizations Within the communities it serves. This commitment is not restricted to, but includes making the Amateur Radio repeater stations which it owns and operates available to these entities for emergencies at any time, and for training exercises and community service events after liaison with the SOARA Communications Director or his designee.

SOARA currently owns and operates five repeater stations:

Two on 2M:	147.645	110.9 'Laguna 2M'
	145.240	110.9 'Trabuco 2M'
Two on 1.25 M:	224.100	110.9 'Laguna 220'
	224.640	123.0 'Santiago 220'
One on 70 cM:	445.660	110.9 'Laguna 440'

SOARA recognizes that in the event of an area-wide emergency, the demand on the most utilized single repeater, the Laguna 2M @ 147.645 (-) may become very high resulting in possible delays and disruptions. It is to the end of minimizing these disruptions, and to accomplish the greatest good for the most citizens of the community, that there be an agreement in place which provides for efficient utilization of SOARA repeater resources.

The general approach for this plan is to:

List initial, secondary, and tertiary frequencies for each entity to use in the event of emergency. No single entity shall have exclusive use of any SOARA repeater.

Rely on each entity to use the SOARA resources in the order of priority stated in the Emergency Repeater Allocation.

Provide a few simple guidelines and expect each entity to follow good practice and implement control of the initial frequency. On-air procedures will be as prescribed by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League).

SOARA will rely on each entity to control the allocated frequency appropriately and will step in to exercise control only as needed.

SOARA will maintain responsibility for and control of its resources, even in the event of emergency. In the event of conflicts in utilization, SOARA will determine usage and priority.

Only if clearly needed will SOARA establish a net control. This will be at the discretion of the SOARA President, Repeater Director, or Communications Director. They, or their designated representatives shall act as SOARA net control if required.

Definitions

Emergency - Any unplanned event requiring high priority on a SOARA repeater. It is declared and announced on the repeater by the appropriate NCS.

Primary Repeater User - Organization with first call on use of a repeater in event of conflict. See EMERGENCY REPEATER ALLOCATION paragraph below.

Secondary Repeater User - Organization with second call on use of a repeater in event of conflict.

Tertiary Repeater User - Organization with tertiary call on use of a repeater in event of conflict.

Other Repeater User - Organization with sub-tertiary call on use of a repeater (this may be needed as we add cities to a fixed number of repeaters).

Net Control Station - Station with authority and responsibility to control traffic on the repeater considering apparent need as well as primary/secondary/tertiary status.

SOARA Oversight - Authority to monitor Net Control Station, offer guidance, and take over if deemed appropriate in support of the emergency.

EMERGENCY REPEATER ALLOCATIONS:

City	Organization	Primary Rptr	Sec Rptr	Ter Rptr
Laguna Beach	ACS/RACES	147.645 Laguna M	445.660 Laguna 440	145.510 (simplex)
Laguna Niguel	ACS	147.645 Laguna 2M	224.100 Laguna 220	445.660 Laguna 440
Mission Viejo	EARC/RACES	445.660 Laguna 440	145.240 Trabuco 2M	224.640 Santiago 220
Rancho Santa Margarita	SMART	145.240 Trabuco 2M	445.660 Laguna 440	224.640 Santiago 220
Laguna Woods	ACS	146.580 (simple)	224.100 Laguna 220	445.660 Laguna 440
San Clemente	BCWS	146.025 (BCWS)	224.640 Santiago 220	445.660 Laguna 440

As additional entities (cities/emergency radio organizations) are added to the above list, the frequencies will become more crowded requiring more mutual understanding and cooperation.

Key SOARA personnel to implement this plan can often be contacted on SOARA repeaters. Also, their phone numbers and email addresses are listed in the SOARA monthly newsletter. By copy of this plan, the Publications Director is requested to add affected Radio Officers to the newsletter distribution list so they will always have monthly updated contact information on key SOARA representatives.

While SOARA will maintain the repeater complex, there is no assurance of a specific level of repeater performance.

SOARA will host periodic meetings of key radio officers to enhance emergency communication and cooperation and to strengthen coordination for the public benefit.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signing by authorized representatives of affected parties and will remain in effect until terminated.

SOARA will periodically review this plan and will coordinate appropriate revisions as needed.

_____ Paul Levey, President SOARA Mission Viejo, CA	Date	_____ Mission Viejo RACES	Date
_____ Laguna Beach ACS/RACES	Date	_____ Laguna Niguel ACS	Date
_____ Rancho Santa Margarita SMART	Date	_____ Laguna Woods ACS	Date
_____ San Clemente/BCWS	Date		