

Orange County Radio Amateurs

June 1993

"Service Through Communications"

Volume 2, Number 4

Area Hams Busy Again

By Jeff Anderson, KD4JIA

Imagine being at home and suffering a serious injury or facing a major emergency. You pick up the telephone to call for help, and the dial tone you have always taken for granted is not there. Your telephone is dead. Not a good situation.

Last Tuesday, that's exactly what happened to several Chapel Hill residents when 4000 homes in Chapel Hill had a sudden loss of telephone service.

No telephone service equals no 911 emergency communications, so early on, OCRA hams were called out by the Orange County EOC in response to the problem. The outage occurred when a backhoe operator accidentally cut three large telephone trunk lines on East Franklin Street, in the process coining a new phrase among OCRA members - "backhoe fade"

Because there was no loss of life or tangible property, this was not grounds for an ARES callout, so the impetus was on the general membership of OCRA to provide communications. 89 area hams put in 530 man - hours, including several hams from DFMA and RARS, who cheerfully accepted bleak all night assignments at the communications posts. Charlie Durst, WA4WTX further helped out by quickly adjusting the repeater hang time to facilitate the anticipated use of cross band repeaters.

In addition to the net control station at the Orange County 911 Center, three other portable stations operated twenty four hours a day for two and a half days. When things were really busy, the configuration included a separate net control station in addition to the operator at the EOC. The setup was constantly changing

shape to fill the needs of the moment, and make the most of the personnel and resources available. Flexibility was the name of the game here, and before the emergency net went QRT, we came away with some really good ideas in terms of what worked or didn't work. Cross band repeaters were a luxury more than a necessity during this callout, but a little practice with these units is sure to come in handy later.

A lot of hams showed up with their newly assembled "go kits", and this callout proved to be a valuable opportunity to make refinements to those kits.

Using 2 meter, 440 MHz & 800 MHz equipment, along with a little ham ingenuity, the Emergency Net facilitated five emergency 911 calls, and over one thousand routine calls on behalf of Chapel Hill residents.

OCJRA Corner

By Michael Severini, KC4NVS

Field Day is coming up and OCJRA is prepared! At our last meeting we went over everything we needed for Field Day. We still have one more meeting to go over last minute things. So far we have about seven people that are signed up to work the 40/15, and 10 meter stations. If everything turns out the way we think it will, it should be a great success.

On May 1st OCJRA had planned to help out with the walk - a - thon at the DARE celebration in Raleigh. Michael, KC4NVS, Ryan, KD4URA, and Michael Hughes, N0USW drove up to Raleigh only to find out that there was already enough commercial communication. Since the walk - a - thon didn't work out, hopefully we will be able to help out with other upcoming events. If there are any questions about OCJRA, please contact Michael KC4NVS, or Ryan KD4URA.

Minutes of the April 1993 OCRA meeting

Attendance: 47

Secretary's report presented and adopted. Motion made and carried for Secretary's and Treasurer's reports to appear in the newsletter rather than presented at club meetings.

Bill Hutchins, KM4UO has asked to be replaced as Net Manager for the 10 meter net. David Snyder, N2MLU agreed to take his place.

Pete Hallenbeck, WA1YYN gave a status report on battery charger project. The chargers were being distributed as kits, but Pete mentioned that he had rounded up all of the parts and attached them to the circuit board using solder and also tested the parts while in the circuit. (He built it for you)

Harvey Arnold, KC4JR reported on the repeater project, stating that the repeater was in need of 150 feet of coax to be ready for installation. John Hughes, N0RXK & Harvey jointly donated 150 feet of Belden 9913 for the repeater.

Sign ups were being recruited by N0RXK for one hour shifts helping with the DFMA hamfest.

3 new members were introduced. The new members are Roger Boyles, WA2MNN, Paul Leboeuf, N2JBI, and Carl Bradley.

Ryan McGinnis, KD4URA presented the results the Orange County propagation test.

Minutes of the May 1993 OCRA meeting

Attendance: 54

Orange County ARES conducted a meeting at 7 PM, and the ARES Emergency Plan was presented by Steve Jackson, KZ1X, Orange County EC.

The Membership voted to set aside \$700.00 for a Decibel Products antenna for the 440 MHz repeater.

Harvey Arnold, KC4JR presented an update on the proposed repeater site, reiterating the fact that the installation needs to be of top notch quality.

John Hughes asked that OCRA members who use the Hillsborough repeater consider supporting the repeater by joining DFMA.

Jeff Anderson indicated that the newsletter would be published every other month from now on and that in the interest of helping further reduce the cost of the newsletter, limited advertising space would be sold in the newsletter. See Jeff for details.

It was decided that OCRA would operate a table at the DFMA Hamfest May 29th.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Skywarn certification class was presented by Rob Gonski of the National Weather Service.

Be sure to see the **Field Day Band Captains** to sign up for an operating shift!

80/10 M Voice & CW	N2MLU	David Snyder
20 M CW	WD4LOO	Ed Lappi
20 M Voice	KM4UO	Bill Hutchins
40/15 Voice & CW	OCJRA	Terry Bubar
10 Meter Novice	OCJRA	Terry Bubar
6/2/440 UHF/VHF	KZ1X/WA1YYN	Steve Jackson/Pete Hallenbeck

June 1993

Orange County Radio Amateurs

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA Net Control N0RXK
6	7 Orange County EOC 7:30 PM OCRA Club Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA Net Control KD4SLD
13	14 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	15	16	17	18	19 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA Net Control KD4YJV
20	21 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	22	23	24	25	26 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA Field Day
27 Field Day	28 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	29	30			

July 1993

Orange County Radio Amateurs

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1	2	3 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA
4	5 Orange County EOC 7:30 PM OCRA Club Meeting	6	7	8	9	10 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA		
11	12 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	13	14	15	16	17 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA Atlanta Hamfest		
18 Atlanta Hamfest	19 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	20	21	22	23	24 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA		
25	26 8 PM 10 Meter Net 28.360 USB	27	28	29	30	31 147.225+ 9:30 AM ARES Net Net Control KD4JIA		

More new OCRA hams on the way. By John Hughes, N0RXK

The OCRA ham class number three finishes up in style. I want to take this opportunity to thank the teaching team members who helped this group of folks perform so well on the tests this past month. Terry, KD4RFW, Dave, N2MLU, Steve, KZ1X, and Bill, KM4UO put in the kind of effort that makes things work.

We had 17 out of 23 hams complete the course. All 17 were took exam elements and all 17 passed !!!! The following is a list of these people and the test they passed:

<u>Novice</u>	<u>Technician</u>	<u>Technician Plus</u>	<u>General</u>
Andre Halverson	Krishna Gadepalli	Craig Burck	Ken Mills
Christina Capo	Liz Lucas	Lynn Cantrell	
Tom Burck	Todd Hennesey	David Hughes	
Cindy Knudsen	Jackie Bubar	Jaime Capo	
Donald Kollisch	Suresh Balu		
Luke Fox	June Foushee		

When your new license arrives, please notify Jeff Anderson, KD4JIA of your call sign so that the OCRA membership roster can be updated. Thank you all for such a fine effort.

- John Hughes, N0RXK

Other elements passed at OCRA's VE exam session

KD4WFS	Mike Campbell	upgraded from General to Advanced
KD4YJY	Jerry Cotten	upgraded from Technician to Technician Plus
WA1YYN	Peter Hallenbeck	passed Extra written exam
N0RXK	John Hughes	passed General written exam
KA0CYR	Lynn Cantrell	upgraded from Novice to Technician Plus
KD4YLT	Kenneth Arnold	upgraded from Technician Plus to General
	Robert Morrison	passed all elements for Advanced licence.
	William Dickenson	passed Technician elements
	George Hughes	passed Tech Plus elements

Orange County Radio Amateurs

P. O. Box 297, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Monthly Meetings: First Monday of each Month at 7:30 PM
Orange County Emergency Operations Center
New Hope Church Road, Hillsborough, NC

Nets:

2 Meter Net: Saturdays 9:30 AM 147.225 + WA4WTX Repeater
Net Manager: Ed Lappi, WD4LOO Autodial *13 on 147.225

10 Meter Net: Mondays 28.360 USB 8 PM (No net on meeting nights)
Net Manager: David Snyder, N2MLU (919) 644 8681

Newsletter: Published bi - monthly for the members of OCRA
Edited by Jeff Anderson, KD4JIA

President:	John Hughes	(919) 732 5020	Vice President:	Steve Jackson	(919) 968 4203
Treasurer:	Terry Bubar	(919) 933 9352	Secretary:	Jeff Anderson	(919) 578 1692