



ORANGE COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS
(an ARRL Special Services Club)
Orange County, North Carolina



Orange County Radio Amateurs (OCRA) Newsletter
September 2009

From the Editor

This month has been an extremely active month for your editor and secretary, which resulted in this late edition of our newsletter.

73, Adriano KV7D

Board Meeting Notes

The September OCRA Board Meeting was held at Casa Ibarra on Monday, September 14th. Attending were OCRA officers:

Woody Woodward K3VSA
Ken Kauffmann KR4FM
Dan Eddleman KR4UB

Also attending were Board Members:

Laurie Meier N1YXU
Dave Snyder W4SAR
Karen Snyder KD4YJZ

Dan (KR4UB) mentioned that performing a thorough job on the new 2 Meter repeater will require some weeks after it arrives, so we shouldn't expect it to be installed quickly. He also said that he'd been made aware of a one-time opportunity to purchase 70 CM power amplifiers at a greatly reduced price. About a dozen of these amps had been built for an export sale that ended up being canceled. These amps originally cost over \$1,000 and were being liquidated for \$400 each. The board agreed to recommend at the Membership Meeting that OCRA purchase one for use on either the 443.475MHz machine, or as a backup for the 442.150MHz machine.

Laurie (N1YXU) reported about the successful turnout of ARES members, most from Orange County, but several each from Durham and Alamance Counties, at the training session two days earlier.

de K3VSA

General Meeting Notes

The September OCRA Membership Meeting featured a presentation by Jeff Orrock (KI4KKX) of the Raleigh office of the National Weather Service, who provided an update on the current hurricane season. His talk put this season in its proper perspective compared with historically infamous storm seasons of the past. The verdict, at least so far, was that we've been fortunate and if we can just get through the next bit of time, we'll probably be able to complete this hurricane season without significant incident. Jeff's motto: Hide from the wind, but run from the water!



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DSTAR repeater back on the air with all of the improvements that was made. Great job guys.

73,
Gerald - KI4MXP

10 Meter SSB Net – Alive and well

By Bruce Meier (N1LN)

Laurie and I took a few days off to visit my brother in Ocean Springs, MD so this was a short 10 mtr net month for me. A big THANKS to Woody for taking over net control on Labor Day Monday – September 7th. I don't have any of the stats to report, but I am sure the net was enjoyed by all that attended. We did get back together on Sept 21st after taking Sept 14th off for the OCRA membership meeting and had a good turn out. Conditions were favorable and all stations commented that signal strengths did vary, but everyone was Q5.

The sun spot numbers are starting to slowly come up, with this past week's A index being in the 70s all week, with a high of 76 on Wednesday. That is great, considering the numbers have been in the 60s for months. We just might have Cycle 24 after all. Not only will that be good for propagation in general, but also our Monday night net. It would be interesting to have some real DX start to check-in.

Sept 7: Woody was net control.

Sept 14: No net due to OCRA membership meeting

Sept 21: 12 check-ins

Sept 28: Tomorrow night

If you have not yet given the net a try, find your rig and microphone and get that wire strung through the trees. I bet we will be able to hear you!

See you on the air @ 28.450.

73 till next time,
Bruce - N1LN

REMINDER:

Location for the Monthly OCRA Meeting is: Orange Co EOC, 510 Meadowland Dr. in Hillsborough.
Direction to meeting site:

From Chapel Hill:

1. Take Martin Luther King ("Historic Airport Road") north toward Hillsborough.
2. MLK becomes Highway 86 (north towards Hillsborough)
3. Turn right onto Highway 70 Business at Hillsborough at the "T" intersection
4. Pass Meadowland Drive at the Triangle Sportsplex entrance to Meadowland office park



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5. Turn right onto the second Meadowland Drive (Meadowland Drive is a loop), approximately six tenths of a mile from the intersection of Highway 86 and Highway 70 Business
6. Turn left into second driveway at 510 Meadowland (see radio tower), which is the location of Orange EOC

From Durham:

1. Take Interstate 85 South toward Hillsborough.
2. Exit Interstate 85 at Highway 70.
3. Bear to the left and take Highway 70 Business at Wayside Baptist Church
4. Turn left onto Meadowland Drive
5. Turn left into second driveway at 510