



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



**Orange County Radio Amateurs (OCRA) Newsletter**  
**December 2009**

**From the Editor**

Well here we are, the end of another year, for your editor and many other out there it has been a year of change and adaptation to the work environment around us. This, will be my last newsletter as your editor in chief as well as your club secretary. I want to thank **all** for the opportunity to have provided this newsletter over most of 2009 and a special thanks to all who provided material for this month.

I will not be seeking re-election for 2010 and offer Woody (K3VSA) my undying support as he endeavors to occupy this position for 2010; I know he will do a fabulous job as Secretary/Editor as he has done as president.

My goals for 2010 are quite simple: **A)** Survive the economy. **B)** Spend more time on HF (the rig has been cleaned of dust and cobwebs). **C)** Come to BoJangles and fellowship with you at least once a month. **D)** Enjoy life to the fullest in spite of changes and things which I cannot change or control. **E)** Get my beam from Steve (this goes with the tower erection project) **F)** Last but not least, getting involved with VE sessions again .

73, and 75,

Adriano - KV7D

**Board Meeting Notes**

No board meeting was held in December 2009.

Adriano - KV7D

**General Meeting Notes**

OCRA Christmas Dinner Called A Success

Nearly fifty people turned out Monday night for the annual OCRA Christmas Dinner, held this year at Kelsey's Occoneechee Steak House in Hillsborough. This restaurant is normally closed on Mondays, but they opened especially for our holiday party. A buffet featuring roast beef, a vegetarian lasagna and several kinds of chicken was served, along with rolls, salad, vegetables and a variety of desserts. Most of the comments heard so far have been favorable, although there was some confusion in the beginning involving the open bar and at the end sorting out the billing.

Door prizes consisting of various small tools and other practical items, mixed in with a few whimsical gadgets, got distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Dave (W4SAR) made up sets of numbered slips of paper, which were pulled from the basket by Michaela, Woody (K3VSA) and Lisa's (KG4PFB) daughter. Dewey (WA4AHR) contributed a couple of more elegant household items which rounded out the "guy" stuff. And of course, Lisa contributed some of her excellent baked goods. Karen (KD4YJZ) chose the "Potato Clock" as her prize and promised to contribute an article about it for an upcoming newsletter. Woody had been the person to choose the items for the drawings, and he remarked that he'd clipped a bunch of coupons from a direct mail advertisement and took them to Northern Tool and Equipment. He was told upon arrival there that the coupons were actually from



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Harbor Freight.

Bruce (N1LN) presented Dewey with a QSL card confirming Dewey's recent return to HF as an OCRA 10 Meter Net check-in. That card appears elsewhere in this edition as the QSL of the Month. Steve (W3AHL) presented The OCRA Cup to Ken (KR4FM) in recognition of Ken's recent efforts to help perfect the OCRA HSMM project.

Woody mentioned that he would not be standing for reelection as OCRA President for 2010 and announced that he was starting a new OCRA tradition of the outgoing OCRA President recognizing outstanding individuals in the club. He produced OCRA President's Award certificates, which he gave out to about a dozen people, especially honoring Laurie (N1YXU) for her work as OCRA Secretary and, more recently, as Orange County ARES EC and proclaiming her "OCRA Ham of the Year" for 2009.

Others honored included Bruce (N1LN) for his jovial manner as Net Control for the OCRA 10 Meter Net, Andy (W4KIL) for his perfect attendance on the OCRA 10 Meter Net; Ken (KR4FM) for his wise and patient counsel as OCRA Vice President, Steve (W3AHL) for technical excellence and training in ARES; Patrick (KJ4EWX) for his persistence in getting the OCRA 2 Meter repeater enabled on IRLP; Dave (W4SAR) for his continuing achievements as our Field Day Captain; Karen (KD4YJZ) for "biting the bullet" and getting on HF; Gerald (KI4MXP) for serving as Net Control for the Central Carolina D-STAR Net, Dewey (WA4AHR) for his contributions of batteries to the club, getting back on HF and his all around gentlemanly behavior; Dee (KU4GC) for always being there for Field Day and hamfests; Dan (KR4UB) for years and years of faithful service as Treasurer and Repeater Manager; Steve (KZ1X) for his technical mentoring; Adriano (KV7D) for giving above and beyond his means, getting the President up and running on HF, and keeping him safe on various roofs; Gerry (KD4YJV) for his many acts of benevolence, both known and unknown, "hidden behind a false curmudgeonly veneer," and Lisa (KG4PFB) for supporting the President such that he could not possibly have been successful otherwise.

Laurie (N1YXU), as Orange County ARES Emergency Coordinator, presented her own group of certificates to all of those who'd been actively involved in the ARES training exercises held of late. Dan (KR4UB) was kept busy doing bookkeeping with people renewing their memberships but did have time to announce that the new 2 Meter repeater had arrived and would be getting a bench checkout just as soon as it could be coordinated with his helpers. It was after 9:00 PM when the event finally broke up and people went home.

de Woody – K3VSA

**Newsletter format (going forward)**

Newsletter format will start with:

- 1) Secretary's opening remarks
- 2) Board meeting report
- 3) General meeting report
- 4) QSL Card(s) of the month
- 5) Editorial write ups
- 6) Community involvement by our club
- 7) Miscellaneous information

Until next month.....

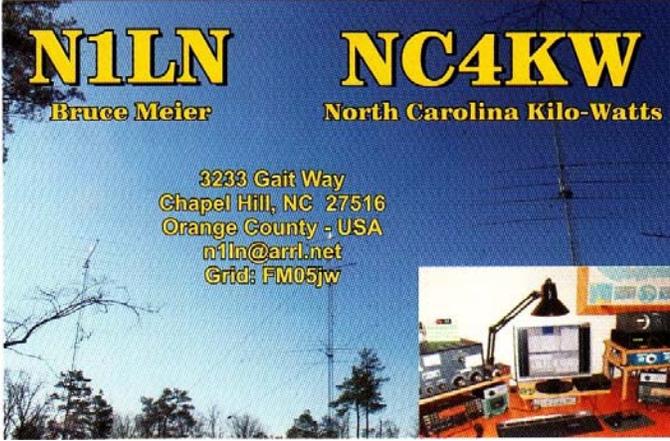
Adriano – KV7D  
[KV7D@ncocra.org](mailto:KV7D@ncocra.org)



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**QSL Cards of the month**



**N1LN** **NC4KW**  
**Bruce Meier** **North Carolina Kilo-Watts**

3233 Gait Way  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
 Orange County - USA  
 n1ln@arrl.net  
 Grid: FM05jw

**NORTH CAROLINA, USA**

**N1LN**     **NC4KW**

TO RADIO: W4AHR

DATE	UTC	MHz	RST	2 WAY
30 Nov 2009	01:15	28.450	59	SSS

*Dewey*  
 Welcome BACK TO  
 PSE TNX QSL HF !!

L21JZ PRINT  
www.L21JZ.com

73, Bruce

One of OCRAS quietest yet most supportive and dearest members, has for several years not been on the air with his awesome equipment.

Recently with the help of his lovely wife (Rose) on a sunny afternoon Dewey Thompson (W4AHR) decided to get beck on HF and installed a G5RV on some trees on his property.

The result (which I'm sorry to have missed) is a 10m net log on Nov. 30, 2009

Way to go Dewey and Rose, look forward hearing you on the air soon as well as spending more time together.

73!



**SP3CFM**

ZBIGNIEW TYCMAN  
 K U N O W O 50/2  
 89-310 LOBZENICA  
 POLAND  
 WAZ-15 : ITU-28  
 LOC : JO83ng : PGA: PH04

**SP3CFM**



TO STATION: W4PAH    VIA: .....

DATE	TIME (UTC)	FREQUENCY	MODE	REPORT				
DAY	MONTH	YEAR		R	S	T		
7	10	2009	18.43	14.070	PSK31	5	9	9

TRX: KENWOOD TS2000

ANT: 2 EL Q9

PWR: 50W

PSE QSL     TNX QSL  
*Zibi*  
VY 73!

And John Shadle (W4PAH) brings us this scenic QSL contact card which he made on PSK31. QRP John?



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**OCRA ARES lid award**

By Woody Woodward, K3VSA

Orange County ARES EC Receives A Special "Lid Award"

-by Woody Woodward K3VSA

Orange County ARES Emergency Coordinator Laurie Meier (N1YXU) was given special recognition at the November 21 training session when Chris Staley (K4CPS) presented her with a custom embroidered baseball cap. The cap, a new style featuring reflective trim, was embroidered on the front, back and both sides and included Laurie's name, callsign and official title in addition to the ARES logo.

Chris spoke for several minutes and cited Laurie's effectiveness in leading the ARES team. She was her usual modest self in dealing with the accolades but visibly pleased to accept the cap (see photos).





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## **Orange County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (OC ARES) 2009 – Year end Review**

By Laurie Meier, N1YXU

Orange County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Orange County ARES has been active for several years. In fact, OCRA was founded with a focus of establishing communications support for emergency situations. The OC ARES EC position has been held by several members of OCRA including Steve Jackson (KZ1X), Dave Snyder (W4SAR), and Skip Fisher (N6LUZ). Each of these ECs has put his signature on specific aspects of the OC ARES organization. OC ARES members have been involved in supporting communications in our local area during ice storms, power outages, and severed telecommunications line issues. OC ARES members have a pride and passion for the work that they do.

As I mentioned at the OCRA Holiday Dinner, when Skip Fisher (N6LUZ) asked me if I would consider taking on the responsibility of the ARES Orange County EC, I truly did not know what I might be getting myself into....

Since I was licensed in 1997, I have had an interest in the emergency communications side of amateur radio. After the terrorist attacks in September 2001, I keenly watched the developments of the relationship between Homeland Security and the ARRL. And, when Bruce (N1LN) and I went to the ARRL National Convention/HamCom in Arlington, Texas in 2003, I made sure that I was able to attend the official signing of the Statement of Affiliation between the ARRL and the Department of Homeland Security. For me, the signing was an affirmation of the importance that amateur radio operators hold as first responders in emergency situations.

Post 2001, ARES training requirements were more stringent due to the alignment with Homeland Security and the need for all responders to be able to have a common framework and terms to work together. Bruce and I became very active members of the ARES organization that was forming in the four quadrants of the greater Houston area. When we had the opportunity to directly help with the communications efforts for the post-Hurricane Katrina survivors who were relocated to Houston, I saw the tangible benefits of the many months of ARES training that we had gone through with our local Houston ARES organization.

....After some reflecting and considering if I had the time necessary to dedicate to ARES, I told Skip that I was interested in taking on the OC ARES EC role. But, I truly still did not know what I might be getting myself into.... Reflecting back on 2009 and the accomplishments of OC ARES, now I know....

In the May timeframe, it became apparent that there were OCRA members who were very interested in being part of the OC ARES Leadership Team. They had a passion for continuing to draw on the experience of OC ARES members and ensure that we are recognized as partners to the local served agencies. Several meetings were held to brainstorm ideas, determine our goals, establish procedures for OC ARES, compile training material, and build a strong relationship with served agencies. We began to meet regularly at the Hillsborough EOC, and we were usually joined by Clint Osborn, Captain of Emergency Management, Orange County Emergency Services. As the Leadership Team met, we strived to continuously provide feedback and status to the greater OC ARES membership.

After a few months of meetings, the first true test of our work was scheduled. On September 12, a joint training session was held at the Hillsborough EOC. The training session included representatives from several agencies within Orange County – the EOC, CERT teams, the Health Department, and OC ARES. Of the approximate fifty people who attended the training, over half were OC ARES members! The EOC leadership was extremely impressed with the OC ARES participation and enthusiasm. As has been said many times, the rest is history.

The second training session in October was equally well attended by OC ARES. And, the SET that we had in November was a true reflection of the work that has been accomplished by OC ARES in 2009. The SET was deemed an outstanding success by the OC ARES membership and the EOC staff. The continued participation of OC ARES members is a testament to the commitment that the membership has to hone communications skills and become part of a trained, effective, recognized team. I am so proud to be associated with OC ARES.



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Most recently on December 18, OC ARES was requested by the Hillsborough EOC staff to activate and prepare to assist if weather conditions warranted. Our activation process worked well, and OC ARES members were on standby to assist. Fortunately, the severe weather did not occur as forecasted.

...What did I get myself into? An absolutely great team of people who are truly excited and interested in providing quality communications support in cases of emergencies and other situations in which we are called upon to assist. Without the participation and enthusiasm of each member, the OC ARES organization would not be successful. My sincere thanks goes to all OC ARES members for your work and participation in 2009. I would also like to thank each member of the OC ARES Leadership Team for the countless hours that have been dedicated to meetings, preparing for training sessions, developing documentation, and maintaining membership information.

Can you imagine what we will accomplish together in 2010?

Best regards,  
Laurie – N1YXU

### **The President's QRM (#21)**

(December 2009)

By the time this is published, our OCRA Christmas Dinner will be history. I hope we all enjoyed the meal and the fellowship and are looking forward to doing it again in 2010. This new year will, of course, bring changes. As you'll remember, I have announced that I will not be seeking reelection as OCRA President for 2010. I believe I can best continue to serve the club as Secretary, and that is the office I have announced an interest in for next year. Several people have approached me to say that they were hoping I would continue as President for another term, and I appreciate the confidence they have in me, but two terms in a row are enough. I'm not aware that anybody else has done three terms consecutively, and I am not one to break from tradition, at least not in this matter. There are other OCRA members out there who can and will do an outstanding job as President and Vice-President if we'll just give them encouragement and support, which is what I intend to do if elected as Secretary. The fact that those individuals are not actively seeking the elected positions is, in my mind, one of the strongest reasons why they should be considered qualified to hold those positions.

I sincerely believe that OCRA is in as good a condition as it's ever been, or at least for as long as I've been a member of it. I can look back at what's been accomplished over the two years of my presidency and take a measure of satisfaction because:

After years of limbo, the OCRA Newsletter is alive and well.

The OCRA website is officially funded now and still growing.

We have a healthy, active, growing Monday night 10 Meter net, which will only get better as propagation improves.

Orange County ARES is becoming a well respected member of the emergency response community. The professionalism of our ARES team members continues to increase with no end in sight.

There is a growing OCRA D-STAR community which forms the backbone of the Thursday CC D-STAR Net.

The OCRA Cup has become an honored tradition in our club.

Our repeaters and our meetings have become known for being havens of fellowship and sociability. Sometimes, we even have actual programs at club meetings now.

We're holding more VE sessions now than ever before, with candidates showing up for almost every session.

New members are being welcomed into the club almost every month.

We're reaching out to other clubs in neighboring counties and forming good relationships with them.

OCRA has been recognized so often in local newspapers and national Amateur Radio periodicals that I cannot keep track of all those instances. People around the country are remarking that hams in North Carolina are the equal of



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the best anywhere.

Of course, what I find most satisfying about these achievements is that I had little or nothing to do with most of them! YOU did them! These were YOUR accomplishments, and you should be pleased with what you've managed to do.

But hams, we all know, are never satisfied with the way things are. We always can see room for improvement. Here are some of the bullet points I'd like to see us work on in the coming years:

I'd still like to see an OCRA communications trailer.

Lifetime OCRA memberships.

An improved, state-of-the-art website with more graphic content and a members-only sign-in area. It should include links to live motion promotional content that we've created ourselves.

A microwave backbone or mesh network running throughout the county, maybe S-Band on 2.4GHz HSMM.

More WinLink stations.

More D-STAR stations.

Club construction projects, especially building QRP equipment.

A real program at every club meeting, with coffee and refreshments served. Maybe some club field trips, too.

A slow-speed CW net that will encourage Morse novices (like me!) to develop code proficiency.

Monogrammed safety vests for ARES members.

License upgrade training for anybody who wants it.

A formal special interest group of knowledgeable hams who will assist in getting newbie's stations and antennas up and running.

Now, that's a lot to do! And I'm sure many of you have your own ideas about our future. If I've done anything at all, I hope it's been to encourage a culture where we can consider new ideas. Can we accomplish all this? Well, yes, we could, but we probably won't get them all. Somebody once said, "A clean desk is a sign of a small mind." If you don't have many, many more ideas than you have the time to do them all, then you're just not dreaming enough. Anyway, it's been my privilege to serve you for these past years. I'll say it one more time: The biggest thrill I get is from being able to associate with a club full of winners and achievers like you all!

vy 73 de Woody K3VSA

### ***Use your antenna analyzer to test ferrite-bead chokes***

Repost of Tim (KT8K) article by Adriano – KV7D

Here's a test procedure to test the ferrite-bead chokes you buy at hamfests or Radio Shack.

Ferrite chokes are widely used to reduce or suppress RFI in electronic and electrical equipment. Many computer cables, in general, have lumps in them which are built-in ferrite beads. Of the many split-bead ferrite choke types, mix 43 is generally accepted as the best choice for stopping RF from getting through your power and audio cables. Other mixes are not much help in amateur radio applications.

The cool thing about this technique, I think, is that now I can pop some batteries into my MFJ259, sling it over my shoulder, and actually evaluate the chokes I consider buying at swaps before I spend my money. In the past I just bought them and installed them and hoped that they were helping. Using this procedure I can be sure of what I'm getting.

The following procedure is adapted from and courtesy of Alan Applegate, K0BG. [Read this article](#) for more details.



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To test ferrite beads, you will need an antenna analyzer, such as the MFJ-259, and enough hookup wire--size 22 is ideal--to make 5 passes through the bead plus enough to connect the ends to the analyzer.

**Test Procedure**

1. Wind 5 turns of 22 ga. hookup wire through the bead to be tested and connect the ends to the center and shield connection on the antenna analyzer.
2. Set the frequency to 2 Mhz, and measure the reactance. If it is mix 43, the inductive reactance will be approximately 500 ohms.
3. Push the mode button three times to bring up the inductance menu. If your bead was made with mix 43, the inductance will be about 40  $\mu$ H. A lower reading may indicate that the ferrite is not mix 43, and it may not work properly. If the reading is higher, that's fine to a point, but double these figures may indicate mix 77 (ui=1800), which is better suited for 160-meter suppression.

Note: the 259B hasn't enough range to check mix 43 at much more than 2.5 Mhz unless you reduce the number of turns.

A note from KB6NU...

I just ran down to the shack, and pulled out my Autek VA1 Vector Analyzer to perform this test. The results were quite interesting. Testing four of the five ferrite bead chokes that Tim KT8K bought for me at a hamfest about a year ago, I got the following results:

Bead	Inductance ( $\mu$ H)	Reactance ( $\Omega$ )
1	34.5	432
2	35.6	448
3	37.1	465
4	34.5	430

These values aren't too far off, so I'd say I got a decent batch.

**Ham anyone?**

By Bill (N2COP)

I took the following picture Saturday inside the Trader Joe's store in Chapel Hill . It expresses my holiday sentiments. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all



73,  
Bill N2COP

### **Unshackling your Mad Scientist**

Reposting eHam.net article by Woody (K3VSA)

Eric P. Nichols (KL7AJ) </user/profile/KL7AJ> on December 12, 2009 <#comments>

I finally figured it out! I know what the main difference between my generation of radio amateurs and the Emcomm weenies. In OUR day, it was our job to CREATE emergencies. The new Emcommers are intent on "fixing" emergencies. It's all so clear now. And the solution is on its way!

How many of the new EMCOMM weenies ever stuck a screwdriver into a wall socket when they were toddlers? Not a one, I'd venture to bet. How many wackers in their youth set the carpet, the ceiling, or the family cat on fire while attempting to build a Tesla coil or Jacob's Ladder in their bedroom? Nary a one, I dare say.

Too much amateur radio "promotion" literature is wasted on trying to portray amateur radio as "civilized" and "safe." I say, let's put the mad scientist back into ham radio where he belongs. Ham radio should sizzle, crackle and bang! Not to mention, SMELL! How many of this new generation of "HAMS" (eeesh!) even know what Ozone smells like?

Come on, people! Let's have some explosions! The EMT's should be racing to OUR doors....not the other way around!

My father wasn't a ham, but he had the right attitude. He was a design engineer for Hiller Helicopters, back when hardly anyone knew what a helicopter was. He used to come back from work with pieces of helicopter rotors that had embedded themselves in the hangar walls, or other such artifacts. "Well, THIS one didn't work," he'd say. I still have some of those parts.

Face it....you have to do some damage to make any progress. Trust me. It's a LOT more fun to create fires than to put them out. Amateur radio is SUPPOSED to be exciting. I can't imagine anything more dull than chasing after SOMEONE ELSE's emergency. And if the truth were told, I bet there's a whole new generation of hams who would like to see some sparks. Sparks they created THEMSELVES.

Eric



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## **A two edged sword?**

By Adriano – KV7D

Changes on radio amateurs procedures, practices and function during an ‘Emergency’ have been seen and felt over the past few years. Our club also has been affected by these changes as is evident by all the efforts and hard work that many members under the leadership of our EC have accomplished and the great amount of very positive exposure we have acquired with our county EOC.

Even after retirement (for those who do not know I recently retired from law enforcement) I have been kept in the communication lists of many government organization, as a result I’m copied on emergency related updates. Following is an update to the ‘commercial entity waiver form to use amateurs and equipment’ in emergency drills and practices:

The FCC has granted several more requests by hospitals and local government agencies to permit hams under their employment to take part in emergency communications preparedness drills. Covered under this latest round of waivers to Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Amateur Service Rules are the Murray County Medical Center in Slayton, Minnesota; the Center for Emergency Response to Terrorism of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in Jefferson City, Missouri; the Culver City Fire Department in Culver City, California; the Draper City Police Department of Draper, Utah and the Town of North Attleboro and its Board of Health of North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

While most of the requests were for single day events, some like the request from the Draper City Police Department and the Murray County Medical Center were for multiple drills spread across several months. Both were given permits use of on staff hams on December 2, 2009 plus January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2 of 2010. The FCC also opened to door to granting further dates and additional hams by filing a separate waiver request.

The FCC issued its first waiver of 97.113(a)(3) back on October 27th to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for a full-scale exercise on October 28th. In granting all of these waivers the FCC stated that it was in the public's interest to do so. (FCC)

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Please note that the original approach taken from the FCC in granting these waivers was: 1) Placed well in advance of drills and practices. 2) All drill information including names and location of amateurs partaking in the exercise was to be provided at the time of waiver submission (see section 97 for info if desired).

The above ‘granting’ is a clear addition to the waiver process in that entities are now granted multiple permissions for multiple dates and the formalized list of who would partake in the exercise is removed/no longer necessary.

So what you say? The what is that hospitals nationwide (and now some police dept.) realize the frailty of our communication infrastructure and are more and more relying on our licensed operators, equipment and frequencies allocations to get the job done when the equipment selected by their experts bought with tax dollars fails. Wearing both hats I can see some interesting but all REAL possibilities on the horizon for US all. This is what it boils down to, if an emergency of say multi city magnitude was to occur in say the western part of the country which would involve a considerable number of emergency responders multiple frequencies on multiple bands would be locked out due to emergency traffic. Once again one would say so what, well due to the magnetic wave propagation depending on sunspots, atmospheric bounce, etc. Amateurs on the east coast could interfere with the rescue efforts, additionally (and you’ll have to trust me on this one unless you have worked for an actual government agency) in almost 30 years of experience I have never been involved in any large rescue efforts where at least a dozen channels were occupied by differing agencies with ‘their own special traffic’ at which point a good portion of the bands as we know them, will be blocked from general ‘amateur’ use for this purpose.

Just something to think about and to ponder.

Adriano – KV7D



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**Bruce (N1LN) Next tower project?**

By Adriano (KV7D)

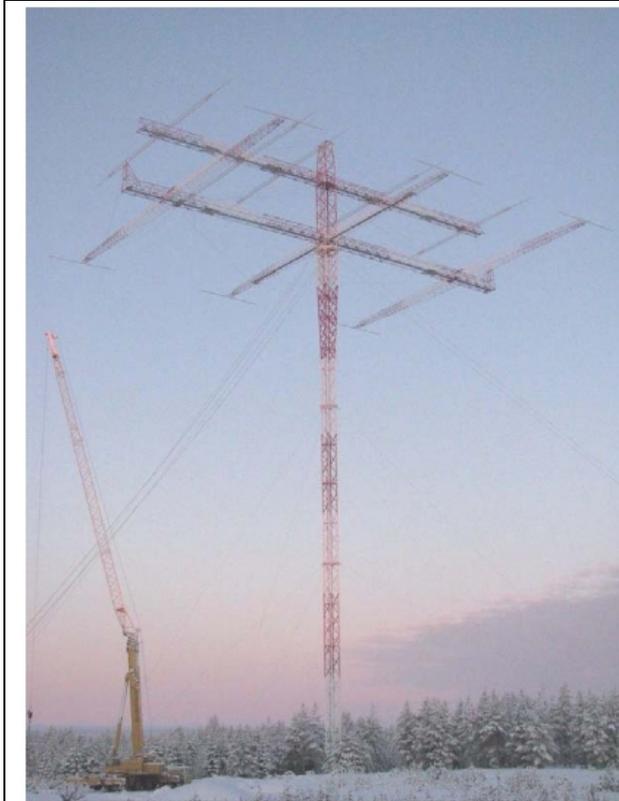
Seen this in a clubs newsletter of a Scandinavian amateur 'super tower' and could not help myself (one last time Bruce ☺ )

The pictures say it all: shown are part of a 3 element yagi antenna for 160 meters. The antenna is owned by a contest station located in Finland. The antenna is mounted at the 270 foot level of a 330 foot rotating tower. Above the 160 yagi is a full size 5 element 80 meter beam at the 300 foot level. Camon guys and gals you can be honest and admit you too can see him doing this sometime before .....



**The tower base ☺**

**Tower Rotator ☺**



**Specifications**

Tower height - 330 ft  
 80 m beam - 300 ft  
 160 m beam - 270 ft  
 Total weight - 80 000 lbs

**Turning gear**

Weight - 6000 lbs  
 11 kW motor Inverter driven W softstart/stop

**Boom Dimensions**

160 m length - 215 ft  
 80 m length - 200 ft  
 The triangular 160m boom  
 (7.3 ft) comes with a rail for walking inside it.

**Guy wires (Phyllistran)**

Total length – 6900 ft  
 Element guys – 3450 ft

**Guy ring bearing**

Weight 3300 Kg (7275 lb) 50mm (2") Diam. B. bearings  
 Ring diameter 3.8m or 13 ft



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**Classic Exchange "CX"**

By J.D. MacCauly "Mac" (WQ8U)

**Classic Exchange "CX"**  
**January 31, 2010 – CW**  
**February 14, 2010 – AM - SSB - FM**  
**Operating on**  
**160-80-40-20-15-10-6-2**

The CX is a no-pressure contest celebrating the older commercial and homebrew equipment that was the pride and joy of ham shacks many decades ago. The object is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older "Classic" equipment. However, you need not operate a Classic rig to participate in the CX. **YOU MAY USE ANY RIG** in the contest although new gear is a distinct scoring disadvantage. You can still work the "great ones" with modern equipment.

This Winter CX will again be conducted on two Sundays separated by the Super Bowl. Hopefully these dates will avoid the RTTY, DX and State QSO contests.

Bonus points will be awarded for participants using the same model rigs as they used when a novice. Also bonus points will be awarded to everyone operating a Hammarlund receiver or a Johnson transmitter.

There will be CX recognition for high scores in AM, SSB, FM and CW as well as overall total.

**WHEN - WHERE - WHAT**

The **CW CX** will run from 1400 UTC **January 31** to 0800 UTC February 1, 2010.  
 (9 AM Eastern Time on Sunday to 3 AM Eastern Time Monday)  
 Send "CQ CX"

The **AM, SSB and FM CX** will run from 1400 UTC **February 14** to 0800 UTC February 15, 2010.  
 (9 AM Eastern Time on Sunday to 3 AM Eastern Time Monday)  
 Call "CQ Classic Exchange"

**SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES:**

CW: 1.810 3.545 7.045 14.045 21.135  
 28.050 50.100 144.100 Mc.

AM: 1.890 3.880 7.290 14.286  
 21.420 29.000 50.400 144.300 Mc.

SSB: 1.885 3.870 7.280 14.270 21.370  
 28.390 50.125 144.200 Mc.

FM: 52.525 Mc.

Exchange your name, RST, QTH (state US, province for Canada, country for DX), receiver and transmitter manufacturer/model (homebrew send final amp tube or transistor type) and other interesting conversation.

The same station may be worked with different equipment combinations on each band and in each mode.

Non-participating stations may be worked for score if all required information is exchanged.

**SCORING**

Calculate your score for each mode (AM, SSB, FM, CW) and total those scores for your overall CX score.

**For each mode:**

Multiply the total number of **complete QSO's** (all bands) by your **CX multiplier**

**Complete QSO** requires successful exchange of name, QTH, RST, type of transmitter and type of receiver.



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**CX multiplier** is the total age in years old of all receivers and transmitters you used in that mode.

Each receiver and transmitter must be used in a **minimum of three complete QSO's** to be counted in the multiplier.

If the equipment is homebrew, count it as a minimum of 25 years old unless actual construction date or date of its construction article is older.

Transceivers score as separate receivers and transmitters of equal age.

All QSO's must be direct radio communications – not through repeaters or Internet.

**Novice Rig Bonus** is added to your total earned score. The rig must be the same manufacturer and model that you used as a Novice. One receiver and one transmitter may be counted and are worth 1,000 points each. Please note this in your score summary.

**Hammarlund and Johnson Bonus** is for operating a Hammarlund receiver or a Johnson transmitter. One receiver and one transmitter may be counted and are worth 1,000 points each which is added to your total earned score. Please note this in your score summary.

Certificates and appropriate memorabilia are awarded every now and then for the highest score, the longest DX, exotic equipment, best excuses and other unusual achievements.

Send logs, comments, anecdotes, pictures, etc. **no later than April 15, 2010** to J.D. "Mac" Mac Aulay, WQ8U at  
WQ8U@NC.RR.COM

Or by mail to:

WQ8U

104 W Queen St. Hillsborough, NC 27278

The CX Newsletter and announcement of next CX will be posted on the CX web site:

<http://qsl.asti.com/CX>

Questions about CX, its origin, history, and idiosyncrasies, as well as accolades for being such a great event, should be sent to:

[Al Stephens, N5AIT](#)

or

[Jim Hanlon, W8KGI](#)

or

[Marty Reynolds, AA4RM](#)

73,

Mac - WQ8U

### **10 Meter SSB Net – Alive and well**

By Bruce Meier (N1LN)

As the sun spots conditions and propagation improve every week, many of the OCRA members continue to meet every Monday night on the OCRA 10 meter SSB net. As you know, the frequency for the net is 28.450 and USB. We have not had many out of state check-ins lately, but you never know – could be this week.

Here are the statistics for weekly check-ins.

Nov 30: 9 check-ins and a welcome back to HF to Dewey, WA4AHR



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Dec 7: 11 check-ins

Dec 14: OCRA Holiday Party – no net

Dec 21: 9 check-ins

Dec 28: You could be in this count next month !!

Did you want to test out your HF rig that has been powered off for some time? Well, hook up your antenna, tune to 28.450 at 20:00 local time, check in to the net and have a very enjoyable time talking to some of your fellow OCRA club members.

See you on the air @ 28.450.

73 till next time,  
Bruce - N1LN

### **OCRA Holiday Party**

By Bruce Meier (N1LN)

Did you come to the OCRA Holiday Party? It was held on Monday night, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 18:00 to 21:00.

Well, if you didn't, you missed a great evening of conversation, outstanding food, and – you might even have won one of the door prizes.

This year the OCRA Holiday Party was held at the Occoneechee Steak House in Hillsborough. Kelsey's, as it is also known, is usually closed on Monday's, but the owners, Kelly and Roland, were nice enough to open it up especially for us. That is not where the excellent service stopped. Their kitchen team and the wait staff did an excellent job with food preparation as well as setup of the dining room. The menu consisted of roast beef, fried chicken, baked chicken, vegetarian lasagna, green beans, stir fry vegetables, new potatoes, potato casserole, tossed salad, pecan pie, peach cobbler, lemon pie, as well as coffee, tea or ice tea. Roland left his cooking duties to do double duty as the bar tender for those of us that wanted a glass of wine, mixed drink or perhaps a cold beer with dinner. In true HAM fashion, no one left the table hungry.

When dinner was just about finished Woody kicked off the meeting portion of the evening. As is customary, we all went around the table and introduced ourselves. That took a while as there were 39 people around the large U shape table and 9 more at a couple of round tables. What a great crowd !!! Then it was time for Michaela to pick the numbers of the prize winners from a bowl. There were prizes ranging from the now famous "Potato Clock" to a selection of handy pocket tools.

The evening finally came to an end at about 21:00 and once again Kelsey's was quite. OCRA has left the building.

73 till next time,  
Bruce - N1LN



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**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
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