



# Orange County Radio Amateurs Newsletter for January, 2010

*an ARRL-affiliated club in Orange County, North Carolina*

---

## In This Issue

Membership Meeting Highlights  
President's QRM  
Orange County ARES Update  
Gaynell Collins, NE4T (SK)  
OCRA Member Is The New ARRL SM FOR NC  
The Next OCRA Meeting

## Membership Meeting Minutes

The Orange County Radio Amateurs January 2010 Membership Meeting took place as scheduled on Monday, January 11th at 7:30 PM at the Orange County EOC Building in Hillsborough. The major event of the meeting was the election of OCRA Officers and Board Members for the 2010 term.

Nominating committee chairman Dee Ramm (KU4GC) announced that Ken Kauffmann (KR4FM) had volunteered to run for OCRA President, Dave Snyder (W4SAR) for Vice President, Dan Eddleman (KR4UB) for reelection as Treasurer, and Woody Woodward (K3VSA) as Secretary.

New OCRA Board Members nominated for the 2010 to 2012 term were Steve Ahlbom (W3AHL), Dave Belt (NA4VY), and Bruce Meier (N1LN).

The assembled membership voted unanimously to confirm all the candidates to their respective offices.

-Woody K3VSA

## President's QRM

I want to begin this year by thanking everyone for their kind words as I assume the role of president. Special thanks go to Woody (K3VSA) for his service over the last two years as president. During his tenure, the club has grown both in terms of membership and our impact to the amateur radio community, and the community at large. I will work to maintain the momentum that he has created, and to continue that trajectory. Woody is an extremely hard act to follow and I can make no promises, other than that I will try.

I want to thank the membership of the club for entrusting me with this position. OCRA is a unique club, driven by a common interest in communications technology, with a particularly local flavor. Our individual interests range across the gamut of amateur radio, from public service, through contesting, radio restoration, home-brew, through to cutting-edge innovation. This is combined with a mixture of history/tradition and new blood, a deep reservoir of technical expertise, and a welcoming and sharing nature.

I want to thank our newest members, and welcome them into our club. They represent a mixture of new and experienced hams, and I look forward to learning from them, and sharing with them. Please take time to welcome them, and involve them in your projects and activities. Donald Barnes (KJ4RIC, Technician) from Chapel Hill, Ed Geercken – (W4EJG, Extra, VE) from Durham, Vic Merryman ( K0OUX, General) from Chapel Hill, Mike Schinsky (NOVAT, Extra) from Chapel Hill, and Jim Wallace (WD4KSZ , Extra) from Chapel Hill. To our new members, I say “welcome”, and ask that you take the effort to share your expertise and interests with us. Whatever you want to do, there is probably someone else in the club that is interested in the same thing. Whatever you know, there is probably someone who can benefit from your experience and knowledge.

That's it for now. Thanks again.

73 de Ken KR4FM

## Orange County ARES Update

Last year was a very constructive year for the OC ARES organization. We conducted a series of well-attended training sessions, completed a productive and valuable SET, and solidified our relationship with the Orange County Emergency Management team. As we turn our attention to 2010, the OC ARES Leadership Team has identified the following goals for this year.

1. Training – It is important that ARES members are trained in NIMS (National Incident Management System) terminology to ensure we communicate effectively with other first responders in emergency situations. FEMA offers free, on-line courses focused on the ICS (Incident Command System) structure. Please reference the [ncocra.org](http://ncocra.org)

website and the ARES page for links to these courses. In addition to FEMA courses, a training plan is being put together to ensure that all OC ARES members have common training. A full plan is being discussed and will be communicated to the OC ARES membership.

2. WebEOC Database – It is important that we maintain up-to-date records of the OC ARES members. For example, we need to know which members have completed the ICS courses, which members have participated in training sessions, which members are easily able to deploy to shelter locations, etc. The Orange County EOC has access to a software application called WebEOC. We are working with the OC EOC to gain access to the application to allow to maintain information. We will share the results with the OC ARES membership at an upcoming OCRA meeting.

3. Field Operating Guide – Each of us should have a Go-Kit ready and easily accessible in case we are called to assist in an emergency or other situation. An invaluable tool that will be part of our Go-Kit will be the Field Operating Guide. The guide will include summary information from training sessions, frequency tables for use in the local area, procedural overviews and reminders. It is not meant to replace training. It is meant to assist OC ARES members in field operations. We are striving to have the guide completed in the next few months and make it available to the OC ARES membership.

4. Drills and SETs – As we did in 2009, we will have drills and (at least one) SET in 2010. We are working with the OC EOC to continue to broaden the scope and complexity of the drills to include additional served agencies in Orange County and to simulate true emergency situations.

5. EOC Radio Room – We have provided radio equipment and antenna requirements to the OC EOC management team. Due to the strong participation, enthusiasm of the OC ARES membership, and our demonstrated communications skills, the OC EOC management team is impressed by our capabilities and truly lobbying for funding of the radio room at the EOC. It is likely that the equipment and antennas will be phased in over a series of months. OC ARES members will need to be familiar with the radio equipment and antenna configuration at the EOC. As the radio room comes together, we will have “show and tell” opportunities at ARES training sessions and OCRA membership meetings.

6. Monthly Ready Rally – The last Saturday of each month in 2010 has been booked at the EOC for our use in hands-on activities, training sessions, drills, and other events. We are calling these sessions the monthly Ready Rally. The first Ready Rally will be held on Saturday, January 30, and will be a hands-on j-pole antenna building party. Those who participate will take home fully tested j-pole antennas which will be able to be used in upcoming ARES drills and other communications purposes. Sincere thanks to Steve (W3AHL) for his work in pulling together this event. The second Ready Rally will likely be a “field trip” to the OC Red Cross building to access the communications set-up. More information will be coming on the February Ready Rally. Please reserve the last Saturday of each month for the Ready Rallies.

All OC ARES members have a standing invitation to attend any/all Leadership Team meetings. The team meets every other Sunday evening at 6:00 at the OC EOC in Hillsborough. Your comments, suggestions, and participation are sincerely welcome. We certainly have quite a lot planned for 2010! It is going to be another great year for OC ARES. Thank you for your continued participation. OC ARES is only successful

because of you.

Best regards, Laurie N1YXU  
Orange County ARES EC

## Gaynell Collins, NE4T (SK)

It was with great sadness that we learned that Gaynell Collins (NE4T) of Ramseur NC, longtime and greatly loved Net Control operator of the popular Possum Trot Net, passed away on Tuesday, January 12th after a brief illness. Gaynell held an Amateur Extra ticket and was originally a Wake County native. Her husband, Floyd, had preceded her in death several years earlier, and her mobility had recently deteriorated. She was a visible fixture at area hamfests for many years, representing the Possum Trot Net.

-Woody K3VSA

## OCRA Member Is The New ARRL SM FOR NC

OCRA member Bill Morine (N2COP) of Wilmington NC will be our new ARRL North Carolina Section Manager according to the current SM, Tim Slay (N4IB). Bill ran unopposed for the position which Tim is vacating and thus will be inducted by default. The leadership changeover will officially take place at this year's RARSFest, scheduled for early April of this year.

Although Bill calls Wilmington his home, one of his sons, Grant (W4GHM), resides here in Orange County as a Naval ROTC student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. (Bill's other son, Reid, holds the callsign of W4RSM.) Bill signed up for a family membership in OCRA when Grant began his studies at UNC-CH.

-Woody K3VSA

## The Next OCRA Meeting

The next OCRA Meeting will take place on Monday, February 8th at 1930L (7:30PM), as usual at the Orange County EOC Building in Hillsborough. In the meantime, join many of us for Saturday morning breakfasts at the Hillsborough Bojangles on South Churton Street beginning about 0930L (9:30AM). See these and other upcoming events on the calendar portion of the OCRA website:

<http://www.ncocra.org>

vy 73 de Woody (K3VSA)