



# Orange County Radio Amateurs Newsletter for April, 2010

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

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## Membership Meeting Minutes

The Orange County Radio Amateurs January 2010 Membership Meeting took place as scheduled on Monday, April 12th at 7:30 PM at the Orange County EOC Building in Hillsborough.

Meg (KI4LLL) requested assistance from her fellow OCRA members in getting the Stepp-IR antenna at Central Park School repaired. She said that it has not been operating properly since it was reinstalled following her relocation there. Furthermore, the cabling will have to be extended when Meg moves her classroom to the first floor of the building.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to have OCRA underwrite the costs associated with the new cabling. Dewey (WA4AHR) volunteered to produce a tiltover plate that would permit the antenna tower to be easily lowered for future maintenance.

## RARSFest 2010

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society sponsored their 38th annual RARSFest on Saturday, April 3rd at the Exposition Center of the NC Fairgrounds complex in Raleigh. OCRA was of course represented once again with its own tables.

Included in the event was the ARRL's North Carolina State Convention, which saw OCRA member Bill Morine (N2COP) take over the reins of Section Manager from outgoing SM Tim Slay (N4IB).

## Maker Faire North Carolina

On Sunday, April 25th, the people who bring us the excellent MAKE Magazine hosted a Maker Faire event right here in Durham, North Carolina. Patterned after the well known Maker Faire events held annually in the Bay Area of California, the North Carolina was true in spirit if smaller in size. It was also admission free.

All sorts of creative people exhibited their DIY talents at the faire, showcasing products as diverse as home workshop CNC milling machines and cotton spinning. Hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds attended the event, which was held indoors in the former Loehmanns store off Hillandale Road, just north of I-85.

Several OCRA and DFMA members were spotted among the visitors, but no ham radio displays were in evidence, which ought to be rectified if and when a 2011 Maker Faire takes place here. Amateur Radio already has an inroad with MAKE Magazine, because Diana Eng (KC2UHB), recently appointed to the ARRL's Public Relations Committee, is a regular contributor to MAKE.

-Woody K3VSA

## The Next OCRA Meeting

The next OCRA Meeting will take place on Monday, May 10th 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>

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