



The OCRA Newsletter—For January 2010

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Greetings from the Secretary

Hello and Welcome to OCRA 2013! It is wonderful to be a part of this club, which has grown from 35 members in 2005 to the current total of 91 active and involved members--Wow! Moving forward for this year, I would like to invite each and every one of you to participate in the monthly newsletter articles and club presentations. Articles submitted to the OCRA Newsletter can be about Amateur Radio or related to a technology that can benefit the ever-inquisitive ham spirit.

- Adriano KV7D

January 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

- 1) The Orange County Radio Amateurs held its required annual Board Meeting on January 14th, 2013 at the Orange Co. EOC.
- 2) It was agreed that we need better documentation of officers' duties.
- 3) The OCRA website needs to allow improved visibility and an easier way of finding needed information by both members and visitors alike.
- 4) We need to find a means to store club documentation, both historic and legally required, to allow for retrieval as needed
- 5) We need better membership tracking and documentation. A process needs to be developed on how this ought to be accomplished.
- 6) Creation of an OCRA group list for emailing between officers and board members. It was mentioned that board members serve a two-year term with no limit on re-election.
- 7) Email needs to be sent with the next meeting's proposed agenda.

January 2013 Membership Meeting Highlights

- 1) Member introductions
- 2) Efland Cheek Elementary will have a Efland-Cheeks Elementary School will have its annual "Math and Science Night" on Thursday, February 7th between 1800L – 2000L (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm). Kristin Bedell (KI4LLO) asked for OCRA's involvement as in last year. Adriano Marcuz (KV7D) acquired use of a Buddipole antenna so that the school HF station can be temporarily activated to demonstrate HF to attendants. The school's permanent antenna installation will not be completed by that time.
- 3) OCRA Treasurer Dan Eddleman (KR4UB) reported our current bank balance of \$8,608.00.
- 4) Orange County ARES EC Steve Ahlbom (W3AHL) is looking to have a "Ready Rally" set up for the last Saturday of the month.
- 5) Last year, OCRA agreed to allot \$50 toward sponsorship of Maker Faire NC. This money was never actually remitted, as the hoped-for MFNC sponsorship did not take place. Hopefully, we will be able to sponsor for MFNC 2013.
- 6) Announcement was made to the group the membership list did not transfer from the old WEB site to the new one and that it will be corrected.
- 7) Several board members term were expiring , with some not seeking re-election. Dave (NA4VY), Dee(KU4GC), were re-elected as well as Wayne (KJ4GDW) and Mike (KK4BPH) been added as new board members.
- 8) Adriano (KV7D) was unanimously voted in as the new club secretary.

Virginia Enzor did an excellent presentation on SkyWarn and asked for additional involvement from the OCRA community.

Notes/Announcements

The OCRA Membership Meeting for February will be held on Monday, February 11th starting at 1900L (7:00 pm) at the Orange County Emergency Services Building, 510 Meadowlands Drive in Hillsborough. The Officers and Board Members will meet starting at 1800L (6:00 pm) at the same location.

The program for the February Membership Meeting, titled "Exploring the Stratosphere," will be presented by Woody K3VSA.

As always, all licensed Amateur Radio operators and other interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Presidents's QRM

Once again, for the year 2013, I've been given the great privilege and the serious responsibility of being the President of the Orange County Radio Amateurs. Our organization enters this new year with a position of strength, but we have some challenges, too.

Our membership has been increasing steadily. This increase is in part because of our policy of giving a free year's membership to newly licensed hams, and also in part because of KR4UB's work in making it easier to renew paid memberships. However, the biggest and best reason for our growth is because we are known as being a friendly, outgoing, supporting group of people.

We have a whole cadre of OCRA members who are more than willing to help other hams put up antennas and become radio active. We have a dedicated team of Volunteer Examiners, led by W4SAR, who conduct regularly scheduled exam sessions. Dave is also the one who masterfully orchestrates our Field Day efforts and has helped us move into the top ten.

In W3AHL, we're blessed with a highly motivated and professional-level ARES Emergency Coordinator who brings a wealth of experience to the table and has moved our Orange County ARES organization ever forward.

N1LN and N1YXU are the kingpins for our very popular Monday night 10 Meter net, which has been attracting national attention thanks to the upswing in HF propagation.

We're outgoing in the sense that many of us are reaching out to our ham neighbors in adjacent counties. KJ4GDW's efforts in building up a Saturday morning breakfast meeting in Pittsboro with the Chatham County group comes to mind. I've joined the Alamance County club (I'm their webmaster!) and as a result of that, several of their members have joined OCRA. I intend to forge a relationship with the Falls Lake club through Orange County ARES' association with KG4EDY up in Granville County. And, of course, we enjoy an excellent rapport with the Durham FM Association.

I'd like to be able to say that I deserve the credit for making all of this happen, but, in all honesty, I had little to do with it other than providing coffee, arranging programs, and perhaps trying (at times) to set a positive and progressive example for the rest of us OCRA folks.

One of the difficulties in building inter-club relationships is the fact that some of our meetings are held on the same night. We have our meeting on the same evening that Alamance has theirs. DFMA has their meeting the same night as RARS. At one of our OCRA membership meetings late in 2012, it was agreed in principle to try to come up with an alternative meeting night that would free OCRA and AARC members to attend each other's events. Finding a night that won't exclude people who attend at present will be a challenge.

Used to be, I knew every OCRA member and his or her callsign, but now, it seems as though half the names on the membership roll are new to me. It's good that we're growing but regrettable to me that my feeling of a personal touch is diminishing. We're approaching the limit as far as accommodating everybody who attends our meetings, too. The conference room at the Orange County Emergency Services Building is almost at the point of being "standing room only." This means that we may need to consider looking for another, larger home for our monthly meetings, perhaps at a location more centrally located within Orange County.

W4DTB did yeoman service in revamping the OCRA website, but other activities have been keeping him busy over the past four months. Therefore, we need to find a way for the website to be maintained without Derek having to do it all by himself.

The maintenance of our paper records is another area where improvements need to be made. We need to develop a process for handling membership applications where all the club's officers can receive information they need to perform their missions on a timely basis. And we have a wealth of historical documents that we need to archive and make accessible.

Well, we have our work cut out for us, and it's obvious that all of this won't be taken care of overnight, or even easily. But, with your support, we will make the improvements because OCRA, and you, are worth it!

-73 de Woody K3VSA