



## The OCRA Newsletter—For October 2013

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### From the Secretary's desk

The IRLP new SSD drive has finally arrived, but some more work needs to be accomplished before it can be happily married to the PC. Hopefully it will be a long lasting relationship and will not end-up in an early separation. Will update the club as soon as progress is made. I also have slightly enlarged the font of our newsletter to make it easier for our visually impaired members to see and read.

73,

Adriano (KV7D)

### Board meeting Minutes

1. Board meeting called to order at 6:23pm.
2. Present: Wooward R. (Pres.), Eddleman D. (Tres.), Marcuz A. (Sec.). Ahlbom S. (ARES) Board: Ramm D.,
3. September 2013 Board meeting minutes were not read since it was felt that having them in the newsletter was sufficient,. Minutes were approved and signed.
4. I (KV7D) made a motion that Wayne Estabrooks (KJ4GDW) would be enrolled in our lifetime club membership for all the wonderful work and assistance he provided to OCRA members. Dan Eddleman (KR4UB) second and Woody (K3VSA) third the motion. Motion carried and Wayne is now an OCRA lifetime member. Wayne and Janet as many of you know, are moving to the NC coast to be in near vicinity of their sailboat.
5. IRLP node status: Life got in my way and no progress had been made on restoring the node into function. Current plan is to complete by end of October
6. Dee Ramm (KU4GC) will need the 442.150MHz repeater on 10/26 from 07:00am to 5:00pm to support a Habitat for Humanity bike race.
7. Treasurer report: Dan (KR4UB) reported that for the first time since the founding of OCRA we crossed the \$10K mark with our checking account.
8. A motion to adjourn at 6:35pm, which I seconded and was approved by the board.

De—Adriano (KV7D)

OCRA Secretary

## General Meeting Minutes

1. OCRA General Membership meeting called to order at 7:05pm
2. Members general introductions
3. The evening started with a bang as Ed Best (AK4W) showed off the new OCRA defibrillator donated by Triangle Orthopedic Associates, P.A. to OCRA. Awesome job Ed.
4. Member and guest introductions followed. As with many months prior not much was done for amateur radio (::))))
5. There was a pretty awesome show and tell by our Wilson Lamb (W4BOH) of an HF amp he acquired and is in the process of restoring. He 's show and tell also included a very interesting explanation of how amplifier circuits work.
6. Woody presented the work he's currently doing on the OCRA WEB site. Pretty good work and is already allowing members who had let their membership lapse to pay membership dues. Thank you.
7. Rodney Radford, AK4CH. He is the leader of Black Sky Telemetry, an organization of people who launch near-space balloons. His presentation was on the history and background of his group and a summary of recent launches, up to nearly 100,000 feet in altitude. They often carry ham radio in the form of APRS or television. OCRA members Michael North, KK4EIB and K3VSA, have been involved in some of these. Their website is [www.blackskytelemetry.org](http://www.blackskytelemetry.org)
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

De—Adriano

KV7D

## Notes/Announcements

**The OCRA Membership Meeting for November 2013 will be held on Monday, November 11** 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 1815L (6:15 pm) at the same location.

## The Presidents' QRM

Several weeks ago, two other members of the Triangle Amateur Television Association and I were among the invited guests at an area public elementary school which was hosting selected community members to audit its "STEAM" night, "STEAM" being a variation of the "STEM" initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) with the additional letter "A" being Art. Kids from each classroom were demonstrating their project to the invitees, who were encouraged to ask questions. A project for a junior class might be using hands and feet to make measurements, where a more senior class might be investigating of how roof color affects the cost of utilities.

Touring this school gave me an appreciation of the cost of a new school these days. Just about every classroom had smart boards and computers, among other high-tech devices, and then there were other rooms, perhaps fulfilling the function of what we used to call "study hall," which were nothing but rows of computers. These rooms, of course, were distinct from the "media center," which housed still more computers. Added to the electronics was a group of motivated and enthusiastic teachers and administrators, not to mention happy kids.

I spent some time in one classroom in which the kids were demonstrating their Earth Science studies. A group was explaining how they determined the density of a certain rock by dropping it into a container of water and measuring the the volume of water the rock displaced. So, I asked them if they dropped in a larger piece of the same kind of rock, and it displaced a greater volume of water than the first rock, would that mean the larger piece of the same rock had a greater density? I was hoping to hear a clarification of the meaning of density as a ratio of weight to volume, but I got mixed answers and confusion instead. Perhaps I was expecting too much from elementary school children, even at a state-of-the-art school, but I found this troubling, and it started me thinking.

Maybe it's only my opinion, but I believe we have serious shortcomings in the way we teach science. Here's a hypothetical example of something you might find in the media: "A study published today in the so-and-so journal shows that eating rice husks three times a day lowers cholesterol by 30%," might be a story on the evening news. This study is reported as an established fact when, of course, it is no such thing. It is merely an interesting result that will need to confirmed by additional studies and analyzed to determine the true cause and effect relationship, if any, that exists between these two factors. It's rarely if ever mentioned that there was a statement at the end of the scientific paper calling for the need for independent investigation before meaningful conclusions can be reached.

Instead of a school class comparing the growth of two plants, one with fertilizer and one without, why not grow twenty plants, ten with and ten without, and not let the caretakers know which are which until the end of the experiment? And, of course, use the experiment as a teaching tool on bias and variability in addition to the beneficial effects of botanical mineral supplements? Otherwise, what we purport to teach as "science" is merely rote.

Renown radio engineer and inventor Edwin Howard Armstrong, famed of regeneration, frequency modulation, and the superheterodyne, said it best: "It ain't ignorance that causes all the trouble in this world. It's the things people know that ain't so."

-Raymond "Woody" Woodward K3VSA

ARRL Public Information Coordinator for North Carolina  
(an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer)

## Zombie time at camp Keyauwee

On Saturday October 26, 2013; Woody (K3VSA) and myself loaded up our vehicle with HAM equipment (no not another meal) radios, antennas, coax, crossbow, rope, etc....Oh ! Well yes we did stop by Bo's and fueled up for the trip.

We traveled to the south eastern side of Archdale, Nc to camp Keyauwee to showcase 'Amateur Radio Rapid Deployment' in the event of an emergency ; we were stoked and ready to shine.

Arriving at site, after we checked in at the security office and had them open the gate we were then directed to the demo site.

Woody and I quickly scanned the area for tall trees and selected two suitable TALL candidates that would allow us to talk to TE WORLD on 100W battery powered. I loaded the cross bow, attached the fishing line to the arrow (called bolt in crossbow lingo) while Woody was trying to figure out how to reassemble my "discnone" antenna which was disassembled for storage.

I took aim at a oak that stood at least 70 foot tall, took the safety off and fired. The aim was perfect and I watched the bolt fly through the air swiftly, but then, my attention was taken by the lack of sound coming from the fishing reel storing the pull line.....it was not feeding.



Looked over and two of the scouts looked at me .....there was something strange in their facial expression, like did you really just do that?

Not paying attention and been very excited at the opportunity to showcase our skills I entirely forgot to check and see if the line was clear, well, alas it had tangled on the bow front sights and had snapped. Arrgh! Oh! And to add to the frustration I had only taken one bolt for we would not need a spare just in case.....;)

Some of the other girls scouts offered to assist me, but I wasn't 100% sure, but, it didn't look like as if cake would help, with the set-up that is



## Zombie time at camp Keyauwee

After 30 min of search time and having to admit there was “no plan b” to Woody and being asked by one of the camp leaders (Lisa KG4PFB and Woody’s wife) how soon we would be ready, we finally located the bolt. But wait this was not the end of the frustration fun, for after reloading, ensuring no tangles and taking perfect aim, we managed to wrap the pull cord around a tall limb and could not evenly raise the dipole to the projected 50 plus foot height. We managed to get one side up to about 35’ and the other side to about 25’ for a perfect slope :)

After we fired the radios up (Kenwood TS450S/AT and an Icom 706MKIIG) and being surrounded by inquisitive young ladies, we were faced with a “contest week-end” .....oh! Yeah was not going to even attempt to play with the 1500+ Watt contesters. Bu then I remembered that the night before while checking the equipment, I overheard two lads talking about moving to the WARC bands to stay clear of the contesters.

A quick look at the band plans a little tuning and we were off on 18,181MHz. Listen for a while to a QSO between two gentleman and then Woody broke in the conversation and asked them if they would be so kind to take a few minutes to demo Amateur Radio to the girl scouts. They did a spectacular job and helped us with it. One gentleman was located in Melbourne, FL and the other in Wisconsin.

There were approximately 15-20 girl scout who came by in three small groups, and several of them enjoyed talking on the radio , some of them asked some very good questions regarding the ability to communicate while commercial infrastructure was unavailable (e.g. phone company line capacity filled or lines cut).

There were two scouts from Orange county, who expressed the desire to get their HAM license.

73,

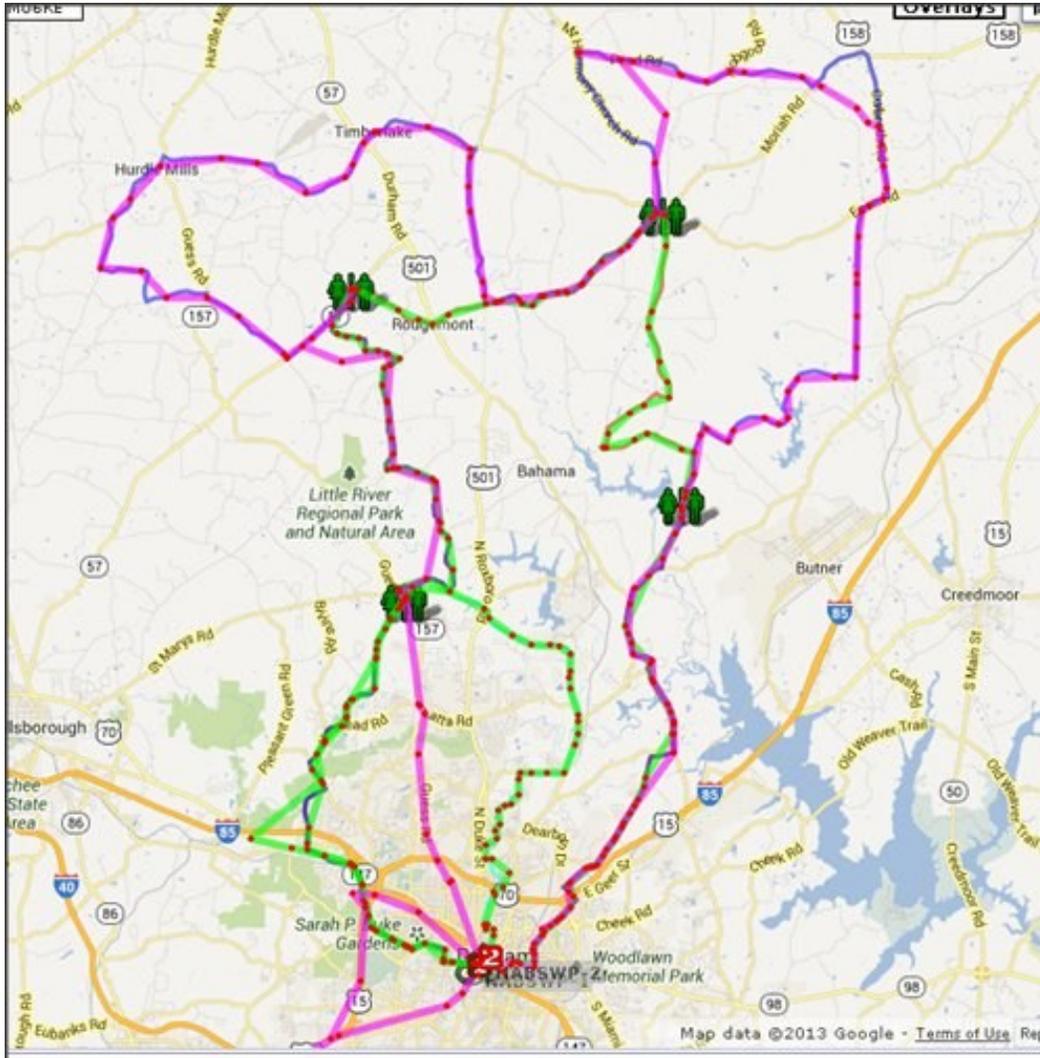
Adriano (KV7D)

## Habitat For Humanity Bike ride coverage

On Saturday October 26, OCRA and DFMA joined forces to provide communications coverage for the Habitat for Humanity annual bike ride.

Our illustrious AEC Steve Ahlbom (W3AHL) was joined by many OCRA and DFMA members to provide amateur communication coverage: Before, during and after the event.

I have heard that many of our members got up very early in the am to prepare and travel to the event location.



The 3 APRS trackers generated 620 position reports that made it successfully to the APRS Internet Servers during the event. The apparent dead spot on the course in the northeastern corner of the 100 mile route at Moriah Rd. & Rte. 158, was due to a change in the course apparently to shorten it to 100 miles. The pink track does match the latest cue sheets. The blue route overlay downloaded from the event map link is in error.

For comparison, last year's event with 7 trackers only had 373 position reports.

## Amazing Body: Your body can do amazing things

The Amazing Body: Your body can do amazing things

Did you know that over the next thirty minutes your body will generate enough heat to boil a half-gallon of water? Or that right now millions of dead skin cells are falling off your body and being replaced with new ones?

We may live in the computer age but the human body is still the world's most amazing machine. According to a 2011 article in Wired Magazine, all the personal computers in the world can process about 6.4 quintillion instructions per second combined -- that's the number 64 followed by 17 zeros.

That's equal to the number of nerve impulses sent out by a single human brain every second -- meaning it would take almost every computer in the world to process the data your brain releases each second. The human heart is equally as impressive. The amount of energy it produces in an hour of beating is the same amount of energy needed to lift a one-ton object three feet off the ground. There are some limitations to our bodies, though.

Humans are the only mammals that can't swallow and breathe at the same time. Our larynx sits lower in our throat compared with other mammals, which allows us to make the wide range of sounds needed for speech -- but it also means if we try and breathe when we swallow, we'll choke.

So maybe our bodies aren't 100% perfect. Even with 6.4 quadrillion brain impulses a second...it's still nice to have a computer to help you out.

## QSL Cards of the month

No QSL's were provided for October 2013.....perhaps next month some will arrive in my mailbox and I'll share them here.