



The OCRA Newsletter—For November 2013

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From the Secretary's desk

Believe it or not your Club Secretary is out of words for this month.

73,

Adriano (KV7D)

Board meeting Minutes

1. Board meeting called to order at 6:30pm.
2. Present: Wooward R. (Pres.), Karen, S. (VP), Eddleman D. (Tres.), Marcuz A. (Sec.). Board: Ramm D., Michael, N. Mike C.
3. October 2013 Board meeting minutes were read but not signed as the secretary had not opportunity to print them out.
4. I (KV7D) presented that the IRLP node Solid state Drive (SSD) had been ordered and needed an adapter to marry it to the older PC board. Adapter has been ordered and work will continue as soon as it arrives.
5. Dee Ramm is updating the Club's Christmas dinner list for Lad who is occupied with family.
6. Treasurer report: Dan (KR4UB) reported that we had \$10,038.11 in our checking account.
7. A motion to adjourn at 6:50pm, 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. Present at the meeting were 36 people.
2. Members general introductions
3. Woody announced Wayne Estabrooks (KJ4GDW) has resigned from the OCRA board due to his move to Washington, NC. Anyone desiring to fill this position should make their desire known to the nominating committee (currently one person Dee Ramm).
4. Treasurer report: OCRA currently has \$10,038.11 in our checking account.
5. ARES report: No ARES report was available for November
6. Lad Carrington (W4ORD) update on OCRA Christmas dinner. The club dinner will be held on 12/09 at the Hillsborough Exchange Club. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, dinner will begin at 7:00pm.
7. Wilson (W4BOH) at the request of your club Secretary (KV7D) did an almost repeat presentation which he did for DFMA on connectors. My humble opinion is that practice makes perfect and; I believe he did a even better job then at DFMA (which was a very fine presentation). Dan Eddleman (KR4UB) and Wilson's trusted helper elf, brought his High Definition camera and connected it to the EOC large monitor so that all could enjoy close-ups of the many connectors.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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.

What “Last Man Standing” Teaches Us About Amateur Radio

On March 15, 2013, the ABC-TV program “Last Man Standing” provided unprecedented national prime-time exposure for Amateur Radio. Fully four minutes of the 21 minute and 35 second episode called "The Fight" featured fictionalizations of ham radio operators communicating wirelessly across the world. According to a February 13th story in the Internet edition of “Entertainment Weekly” (EW.com), the program, which is tied for first place in its time slot in adult viewers ages 18-49, averages an audience of 7.9 million.

That's a lot of free publicity!

To the best of my knowledge, this was the first such major national broadcast media acknowledgment of ham radio since a mention of it was made on a Paul Harvey news program in March of 2003. We have the program's producer, John Amodeo, KK6JA, and his team to thank for this. He and several other hams who work on the show have equipped the set with an actual working station and have created at least three cast members so far with fictional ham tickets, all as a labor of love for Amateur Radio.

The first thing we should consider is that the portrayal of ham radio with absolute accuracy had to be compromised to some extent because of plot and character limitations. For example, operators on the frequency “Mandy” (Molly Ephraim) is using have no qualms about making contacts with her even though she doesn't have a license, which would not happen in real life. And it would sure be great if twenty meter sideband was as quiet in actuality as it was on the show. But these are quibble items when compared to the greater truths that were shared.

What were these truths?

First, you don't have to be an engineer to be a ham radio operator. Another of the program's characters “Kyle” (Christoph Sanders), is so clueless that he doesn't grasp the distinction between the Amazon rain forest and Amazon dot com, but he still holds at least a General ticket and operates competently.

Second, you can “work the world” without infrastructure. Kyle and Mandy in Colorado have no difficulty in talking to “Ed” (Hector Elizondo) in the remote wilderness of Brazil. Mandy is amazed to discover that she is in contact with perhaps hundreds of people, and without a computer. As she says of ham radio, “It's like Twitter, but you don't have to type! This is the greatest thing that's ever happened to me!”

Third, Amateur Radio easily spans the generation gap. Mandy makes friends with World War II veterans who are able to share their experiences with her, and she gains a better understanding of history, not to mention a good grade on her term paper, through getting to know them over the air.

Finally, involvement in ham radio broadens your perspective in subtle ways. In the beginning of the episode, Mandy is so unsure of herself when her laptop and cell phone are taken away that she cannot even decide if the feelings of withdrawal she's having are real if she isn't able to tweet about them. Yes, that's extreme, but the best comedy is a hyperbolic depiction of reality—real life that's been moved one step into the bizarre. I know plenty of kids, and more than a few adults, who seem to be lost in cyberspace. At the conclusion of the show, she has a new confidence in herself. Is Amateur Radio the

What "Last Man Standing" Teaches Us About Amateur Radio

reason for that? Well, yes, to a large extent.

In addition to not mentioning the need to be licensed, nothing was said about the cost of equipping a station, either, but I think that rational viewers could not fail to notice the table full of expensive looking black boxes and not conclude that some financial commitment would be required. Network television exists as an adjunct for marketing, and one of marketing's first principles is that you emphasize the positives first. Once you've created the interest and the excitement, the negatives can be dealt with, having been placed in the proper perspective.

In summary, I believe Mandy was rather astute in how she handled herself. I noticed that she had no trouble at all finding the on/off switch for the linear amplifier when she wasn't being heard!

On November 22nd, 2013, the episode called "Thanksgiving" was aired, which featured the main character, "Mike Baxter" (played by Tim Allen), in his basement shack demonstrating ham radio to his grandson, "Boyd." Mike and Boyd go downstairs to escape the family and regain some peace and sanity. Mike's challenges coping with the sociopolitical mores of modern life are the recurring theme of this series, and this Thanksgiving has been especially trying. Mike puts out a call to see if anybody out there is enjoying the holiday, and receives dead air in response. When he asks if anybody else is trying to get away from the pandemonium, it's like a DX pileup! Then Mike demonstrates to Boyd one of the wonderful features of Amateur Radio that is not necessarily a part of life writ large: The ability to turn down the AF gain control and make it all go away.

Well, I know many of us here are also grateful for that feature.

The ham radio portion of the episode concludes with Mike's video blog, where he reminds listeners that ham radio will be the only way to communicate when the "zombie apocalypse" begins, and that the FCC ought to be more supportive of that fact. Mike says he's thankful on this Thanksgiving, not for turkey, but for ham--ham radio that is. Amen, brother!

-Raymond "Woody" Woodward K3VSA

Lowell Tieszen 2013 Dream

Ham Radio Dreams, December, 2013

by: Lowell Tieszen – KK4PH

Sometime in November, Dee – KU4GC gave out the challenge for DFMA members to bring your “ham resolutions” for 2014, to the December DFMA meeting. In thinking over what I would like to see for ham radio during 2014 in our area, it occurred to me that many of my dreams are tied up with ham activities of others. Then, after four hours of “Lord of the Rings”, my thoughts started flowing in some form of Old English. So here is a copy of what I read December 3, 2013.

I hope to write some articles in 2014 to develop on some of the “dreams” I speak of there.

It is not of my selfish dreams that I speak – of which I have many, but I speak of dreams for the good of all.

I dream of the provisions in the Fort of Emergency Operations in the county of Durham allowing not only voices to be spoken in this county, but to far away lands. With the aid of Sir Stephen who hails from beyond the county of Orange in the County of Chatham, plans are being laid to scale the heights of the Fort of Emergency Operations to establish an areal where not only our voices but also script, typed by our own hands, might be sent to distant places and yea, we might also hear voices from afar and receive script which we might see in images before our very eyes.

I dream of Multimedia of the highest speed. I beg aid from Sir Ken from the house of Kaufman, and other good gentlemen and gentlewomen from the county of Orange to our West. I dream of sending script which is typed by our hands, in the twinkling of an eye, to it's destination whether from the Forts of Emergency Operations, from the Hall of the Scarlet Cross, or from the Wagon of Communications.

I dream of sending not only voices, and written script, but yea, sending our very image as well. Not only our image but images with the motions of our lives - and the letters A-T-V appear in my dream. Lord Woody from the Citadel of Hillsborough in the County of Orange along with other good gentlemen meet with persistence to attempt such things the fourth night of each week. Might we call on the aid and services of good men such as of Sir Wilson of the Land of Magic and Sir Terry of The Meadow mont to assemble an amplifier of great power where these images might be seen for more than a few Furlongs (660 Ft.) and be seen at the Fort of Emergency Operations, the Hall of the Scarlet Cross and in the Wagon of Communications. In these days, these moving images are sent from a beacon North of the city, in the shifting of tones too high for our ears to hear. I dream of these images being sent in a new and different stream of shifting tones that will represent each point on the moving image – I shall call such point a pixel. In this dream the from is of the name DVB-S.

I dream that the thunder will be quieted on the beacon which serves as a meeting place for those who call themselves possums in morn of each workday of the week.

For the Festival of the Field, I dream of beverages. Those provided by Baron Dietolf and the Baroness MK from the house of Ramm which we quaff, but also those beverages as those which lay in the fields of Sir Bruce and Lady Laurie from the house of Meier. With such a beverage laid during the festival of the Field, we might hear the weakest of voices from the

West, from the North and from the South. Because there are not many voices to the East - we need not bother in listening for those voices.

Lowell Tiezen 2013 Dream

For now, my work is not complete. I work with Lord Charles and Sir Adriano to establish a new beacon on the Hill of "TV". Once established we will no longer have need of the beacon which has sent it's signals from atop the infirmary of the Veteran for more than 25 years.

We have great wisdom, as well as strength of mind and spirit in or midst. I beg of ye all that we set our minds on accomplishing great things in the coming year and that all will have a merry time in doing so.

Merry Christmas to all

73,

Lowell (KK4PH)

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.