The Story of the OCARC

The Beginnings
and
Our Club in the Community

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Overview of the OCARC Chronology

Beginning 1: The Radio Shops
• September 1932: Harry A. Moore licensed W6FUU.
• 1933: “Moore Bros” radio repair shop opens and Harry Moore co-owner of “Radio Den.”
• August 1933: Moore Bros’ display in window of Montgomery Ward.
• Thursday, November 16th, 1933: First OCARC Meeting
• March 15th, 1934: OCARC is ARRL affiliate.
• September 1934: Earl K. Moore is licensed W6IGO.
• 1935: Earl Moore moves to L.A.?
• April 1935: Moore Bros and Radio Den are closed.

Ending 1: Disbanded

Pre-War Club: Beginning 2:
• January 15th, 1936: Meeting, Norol Evans W6LYM, elected president.

Activity:
• 1936-1937: The Santa Ana Floods
• 1938: The L.A. and Orange County Flood

Ending 2: Suspended
• 1942: Suspended for World War II

Post-War Club: Beginning 3:
• 1945: Roy Maxson elected president.
• July 17-23rd, 1953: Third National Jamboree

Ending 3: Activities Slow

The Two Clubs, Beginning 4: “The Dog Patch”
• November 27th, 1953: “Orange County Radio Club” first record.

Beginning 5:
• October 22nd, 1958: Ken Kessel W6BVI, president.

The W6ZE Club, Ending 4: Relicensing
• February 9th, 1959: The Orange County Radio Club ends, and
• The Orange County Amateur Radio Club is granted “W6ZE,”
• Spring 1959: Last record of “The Orange County Radio Club”
• August 4th, 1960: The OCARC is incorporated.
• March 1st, 1965: Orange Section forms
• Sunday, March 3rd, 1968: Heart Fund Drive.
• 1980: Red Cross O’Neill Park fire operations.
• 1985: Health and welfare traffic after the Mexico City 8.2 magnitude earthquake.
• September 9th, 1987, 6:00pm: Santiago Canyon Fire
• 1992: Earthquakes
  - April 22nd, 1992: A 6.1 magnitude earthquake
  - June 28th, 1992: Landers 7.4 and Big Bear 6+ magnitude earthquakes
• October 1997: The Orange Fire.
Rather than covering Field Day and other ARRL/OCARC activities, this presentation will be focusing on the beginnings of the OCARC, and its service to the community. New discoveries will be underlined.

Be forewarned, it’s going to be a bumpy ride...
There were many beginnings, and some less-defined endings...
Beginning 1: The Radio Shops
One question that comes to mind is...

• How is the start of the Moore brothers’ radio shop connected with the start of the Orange County Amateur Radio Club in the Winter to Spring of 1933?

• Our club history goes beyond the name. It is a continuity of members, officers, and eyewitnesses back to 1933, with Earl K. Moore W6IGO, as our first president. The opening of the “Moore Bros” radio repair shop (by Earl K. and Harry A. Moore) at 206 W. 1st St., from January 1933 or later, to their closing by April 1935, sets their location in Santa Ana at this time.

• There are also signposts.

• There is an account by an employee (Eleanor Walden) of Montgomery Ward of the club display of an amateur radio station in the store window which opens in August 1933, on the corner of Fourth and Main, in Santa Ana. So the OCARC must have begun between January and August of 1933.

• According to the ARRL, The Orange County Amateur Radio Club becomes an affiliate on March 15th, 1934, while the Moore Bros. radio shop is in business.
Sunday, November 16th, 1933:
First OCARC Meeting, with Earl K. Moore W6IGO as president, and Tom Jentges W6BXI as secretary. The twenty charter members voted to join the A.R.R.L. and the Federation of Radio Clubs of Southern California. (Santa Ana Register, Sat, Nov 18th, 1933.)

• May 1934:
The “Moore Bros” radio repair shop is recorded in business.

• September 1934:
Earl K. Moore is licensed W6IGO by this time.
Another question that arises is...

- Were we named “The Orange County Amateur Radio Club” from the start?
- According to the ARRL records and the Santa Ana Register, yes.

However, in the days of the Civil Defense, from Fall 1954 to Spring 1959 the title in the Radio Amateur Callbook is “The Orange County Radio Club.” More on this later.

• The Founders

Harry A. Moore W6FUU was licensed some time between June 1931 and September 1932, about two years before Earl. However, it was Earl who became president of the OCARC. Were there hard feelings between Harry and Earl, or was Earl reaching out to Harry, who at the time, partnered with Edward Knapp to run “Radio Den,” a well-established radio store in Santa Ana?

Radio Amateur Callbook
(Archive.org)

• Earl K. Moore W6IGO/W7JZQ/W5SKU
  -1957:
  W7JZQ Earl K Moore Silent Key
  -Winter 1988 to 1996:
  Earl K. Moore.
  W7JZQ General class.
  10401 Cave Crk Rd-#243.
  Phoenix, AZ 85020
  -Winter 1987:
  Earl K Moore
  W6JZQ General class
  301 Carnes Valley.
  Comanche TX 76442
  -Winter 1976 to Winter 1986:
  Earl K. Moore.
  W7JZQ General class.
  10401 Cave Crk Rd-#243.
  Phoenix, AZ 85020
  -Winter 1968 to Winter 1975:
  Earl K Moore
  W7JZQ General class.
  5331 E Pinchot.
  Phoenix, AZ 85018
  -Winter 1968 No W5SKU
  -Fall 1957 to Summer 1968:
  Earl K. Moore
  W5SKU
  5864 Louisville
  New Orleans 24 LA
  -Fall 1952 to Spring 1956:
  Earl K. Moore
  W5SKU
  205 North Broad.
  New Orleans, LA
  -Spring 1951:
  “5” No Earl Moore
  -Fall 1947 to Spring 1951:
  W7JZQ Earl K. Moore
  401 W. Jackson.
  Phoenix, AZ
  -Summer 1948 to Fall 1947:
  “6” no Earl Moore
  “7” W7JZQ E. K. Moore
  401 W. Jackson.
  Phoenix, AZ
  -Winter 1948 No W7JZQ
  -Fall 1940 to Winter 1941:
  W7JZQ Earl K Moore Silent Key
  11537 Pope Av.,
  Lynwood, Calif.
  (just west of Downey)
  -Winter 1938 to Spring 1939:
  703 N. Av 54,
  Los Angeles, Calif.
  -Fall 1937:
  426 Main St,
  Huntington Beach, Calif.
  (Stn.at 312 Jackson.
  (Midway City)
  -Spring 1936:
  6716 Cerritos,
  Long Beach, Calif.
  -Spring 1935:
  162 Savona Wk.,
  Long Beach, Calif.
  -Fall 1934:
  146 Siena Drive.
  Long Beach, Calif.
Ending 1: The OCARC is Disbanded.

The Founders Continued

The witness account states, “...Earl Moore moved to L.A., leaving Harry to run the business.”

However, according to the Radio Amateur Callbook, Earl doesn’t move to L.A. until fall 1937, at the earliest (granted, there is a sizable delay). This is more than two years after “Moore Bros” and “Radio Den” go out of business. Since Harry co-owns the two businesses, did something happen to make him lose both, or did he simply choose to get out of the radio retail business in Santa Ana?

By January 30, 1933, there are two radio repair shops, and eight radio stores in Santa Ana alone.

So the Moore Brothers’ shops had a lot of competition in the community, even before they open, and by April of 1935, Moore Bros and Radio Den are closed.
Other radio shops had difficulty, too. Foster-Barker on Fourth Street closes before Moore Bros, by May of 1934, after eight years in business. In that year, three radio repair shops open in Santa Ana, Howard W K, Moreland Bernard, and Moore Bros. The number of radio stores remains at eight, with four closing, and four opening.

By April 1935, Moore Bros and Radio Den are closed, there are five radio service and repair shops, and nine radio stores in Santa Ana, four more than in 1932. Clearly, radio was becoming very popular at the time.

By the fall of 1947, both Earl and Harry Moore are living in Phoenix, Arizona.

Photo Courtesy The Santa Ana Library History Room

By left edge: “RADIO” Sign: Foster-Barker Music Co.
Orange County Amateur Radio Club

The Orange County Amateur Radio Club was organized in Jan. 15, 1936 with a handful of amateurs. The club has steadily grown among it is one of the outstanding groups in Southern California with a membership of fifty, thirty-one of which are active. Active membership is confined to those amateurs living in Orange County, but any ham may belong. A recent survey including nineteen stations in the club disclosed that we have a total of 3066 watts of power or an average of 160 watts per station. Out of this group there were 160 meters, eight were 80 meter, fifty were 40 meter, fourteen were 20 meter and ten were 10 meter. Most of the stations were capable of going on several or all of the bands at will. This is a pretty fair representation in the amateur spectrum. The CW men were about three to one in numbers against the phone men, a fact that proved CW men are better base ball players than phone men at our picnic last year. We have members actively engaged in all phases of amateur activity including traffic men, experimenters, and DX hounds. Speaking of the latter our club seems to be winning the reputation of being very DX minded group. Your reporter is very sorry but this edition will not include a full survey of the DX situation due to the short time available for the composition of this data, but he promises to get the works by next issue. The club meets every two weeks in the YMCA building in Santa Ana, the last meeting being held the twenty sixth of April. A cordial invitation is extended to all those that can get around to one of our PB meetings, and we are pretty sure you will go home full of groceries, inspirations, and an exhilarating feeling of good will toward fellow hams. The meetings usually start around eight P.M., marks by NSA to the contrary not with standing.

Club News, High lights, and Personalities

Our President, Noral Evans, W6LYM has just plunged and procured a couple of the new Gammons that has the grid tricholting out of the side of the bottle instead of the base as the old 354 used to have. He is very enthusiastic about them and has nothing but praise to offer for the excellent way in which these babies can take it. He, on the other hand, has his ups and downs. It seems that when you drag one of these California Kilowatts out of the power line something has to give and what it gave was an abundance of good old 50 cycle QRM in his HRO. Woe is me. The last electric storm that we experienced down this way took a nose dive down one of his Vee beams and tried to make its getaway through the side of his shack, with the consequence that he now has a new black charred effect on the wall about two feet square.

Our Secretary, Roy Compton, W6IBN proves himself to be a very highly diversified personality by the following contributions. His inspiration comes out of one of the least thought of spots that exists in every ham shack.

It is rumored that LXM has taken his second class fone commercial examination and is now waiting to see how he made out. Another good man gone wrong. Plans joining the BCL servers.

Nobody can ever accuse JMA of not being a kind hearted lover of nature. It seems as though a bird has built a nest in his five meter feed line and is very busy raising a family. So, JMA has not been on five meters for a long time and now spends his time looking through the window at that last egg which hasn't hatched yet. Incidentally if you want to see where 913 scope should be built up and you should drop in on him and take a look at the excellent job he has done. At the present time The scope is on display in a radio exhibit at the high school where he teaches.

There has apparently been a rush on 35T tubes lately. JMA, M9F, GIG, LPK, BVX, and LQX all have this tube in use or building up around it.

BAM had his station photo printed in a 1933 Argentine magazine called "Revista Telegrafica." And, speaking of pictures, if you want to see a swell collection of station photos from all over the world, you should see BAM's album. It contains over fifty pictures, dating back as far as 1927.

Who has got the oldest newcomers antenna mast? BAM claims that his has not been down for twelve years!

BVX has his station located on the top floor right under a high water tank. When it rains his tubes are water cooled, he says. He has a BCL receiver on the operating table and listens to music with one ear while he listens to RFA from Europe in the other.

LJI, H3N, LVB, MNV, and INV are inseparable and their shack are eternally being shadowed by weird new sky wires. We wonder where they get their inspirations for all those experimental antennas.
Santa Ana Hams numbering 30 are praised nationally for their service in the 1936-1937 floods. Each ham radio operator was commended by name. (Santa Ana Register, Wednesday, February 10th, 1937.)
February 20th-Mar 1938:
Orange County’s most damaging and tragic flood came in March 1938. A hint of the possible disaster came on March 1, when weather gauges showed that 1.38 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. Flood waters were expected in the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers as a result of a downpour in the mountains. ...
A series of heavy rainstorms in the coastal area, extending from San Diego on the south to San Luis Obispo on the north and inland to parts of the Mojave desert, produced extreme floods. These floods, which appear to have been the greatest within the last 70 years, left 119 people dead and 2,000 homeless. It flowed as fast as 100,000 cubic feet per second, and caused damage estimated at $78,602,000.00.

The OCARC provides the only means of communication during the disaster. The OCARC operates in cooperation with the Naval Reserve.
•The Radio Shops
-Continuity
-Location
-Signposts
-Chronology
-Name
-The Founders

•Chronology
•The Santa Ana Floods
•Chronology Continued
•Orange County Radio Club
•Chronology Continued
•History of OCARC/OCRC
Addresses

•End Credits

Chronology Continued

Ending 2: Suspended

•1942: World War II

Post-War Club, Beginning 3:

•1945:
Roy Maxson W6DEY is elected president.

•July 17-23rd, 1953:
OCARC are gate keepers for the Third National Jamboree at Irvine Ranch, CA.

Ending 3: 1953, Activities Slow
Discovery of “The Orange County Radio Club”
On Saturday, May 5th, 2018, I found a link to the OCARC History in the Radio Amateur Callbook (as on archive.org):

• From Fall 1954 to Spring 1959, the following is listed:
• Orange County Radio Club, K6DKF, 12502 "Placencia," Orange.

The following document in the Archives links the Orange County Radio Club to the Orange County Amateur Radio Club:

• OCARC Timeline record:
  Within: Binder Large white
  Type of Event: Misc
  Date Begin: Feb 9, 1959
  Date End: Feb 10, 1963
  Description: License: W6ZE formerly K6DKF
  Location: Trustee: Roy W. Morriss
  207 Oak Street, Santa Ana, CA

• OCARC Archives record:
  Item Type: Document
  Description: License: W6ZE formerly K6DKF;
  Trustee: Roy W. Morriss
  207 Oak Street, Santa Ana, CA
  Within: Binder Large white
  Item Date: Feb 9, 1959
  Date Corey Took Possession: Apr 25, 2016
  (Scan of Club License)

In confirmation of this link, I have further discovered, from the IXN History, that the Orange County Radio Club, K6DKF, 12502 "Placencia," Orange, (which is now The City Drive South) is the address of the Orange County Communication Center, in Orange, called the “Dog Patch.” It was used for meetings by the OCRC, as well as a separate OC Civil Defense group.
**Chronology Continued**

*The Two Clubs, Beginning 4: “The Dog Patch”*

- **November 27th, 1953:**
  “Orange County Radio Club” K6DKF, *first record in RF.*

*Beginning 5:*

- **October 22nd, 1958:**
  Ken Kessel W6BVI as president.

*The W6ZE Club, Ending 4: Relicensing*

- **February 9th, 1959:**
  The Orange County Radio Club ends, and
  The Orange County Amateur Radio Club is granted the call letters “W6ZE,” silent key Earl Griffin’s call sign, at Ted Glick K6LJA’s urging. Roy Maxson W6DEY was instrumental in getting this. Roy Morriss K6IQ announces that he is first custodian of the call on February 18th, 1959.

- **Spring 1959 Radio Amateur Callbook:** Last record of “The Orange County Radio Club”

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*OCRC at “The Dog Patch” 1957*
Chronology Continued
• August 4th, 1960:
The OCARC is incorporated.
Lawyer Bob Neeland helps Ted Glick K6LJA and other members incorporate the Club.

• 1963:
Roy Maxson W6DEY begins proceedings to get Orange its own ARRL Section.
• March 1st, 1965:
Orange Section forms, distinguishing it from the San Diego Section, thanks to the hard work of Club member Roy Maxson W6DEY and others. Roy Maxson is the first Orange Section Manager (SCM).

• Sunday, March 3rd, 1968:
OCARC President Dave Hollander W6COJ, other members and hams provide communications for the Heart Fund Drive. The OPs are awarded a plaque.

• 1980:
Alex W6RE and others provide communications for the Red Cross during O’Neill Park fire operations.
• 1981:
The club decides to sponsor an “Explorer Post,” and Lloyd Harwood WB6ULU is appointed the ARES liaison to Flotilla 24, of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.
• 1985:
Ralph “Alex” Alexander W6RE, Ted Glick K6LJA, and Bob Evans WB6IXN are involved in handling health and welfare traffic for the nuns in St. Francis Home, Santa Ana, after the Mexico City 8.2 magnitude earthquake.

• The Radio Shops
  - Continuity
  - Location
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• History of OCARC/OCRC
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• End Credits

Photo Courtesy The Santa Ana Library History Room

Ted Glick K6LJA
Chronology Continued

- September 9th, 1987:
  **Santiago Canyon Fire**
An arsonist set a fire in Santiago Canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains. Our own Ralph Alexander W6RE coordinated the Red Cross communications effort, which began at 6:00pm that night. Hams numbering 39, 6 with the OCARC including Ken Konechy W6HHC, handled communications for family messaging with the 1,100 firefighters, as well as many practical, supply needs, and personnel deployment messages until Monday, September 14th 10:00pm.

- 1992:
  **Earthquakes**
  April 22nd:
  A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck very near the OCARC April 24th, 25th, and 26th “Camp-In” site at Indian Cove Campground in Joshua Tree National Monument.
  June 28th:
  During the June 27th and 28th Field Day, the Landers 7.4 and Big Bear 6+ magnitude earthquakes struck.

- October 1997:
  Elmer “Tom” Thomas WA6PFA provided ATV services to the Orange PD EOC during the Orange fire.

And the rest, is history...

So our club has been around for many events. We have also been around Orange County at many official and trustee addresses...
History of OCARC/OCRC Addresses

• On Sunday, April 8th, 2018, I was doing an internet search for John Angel at “205 Oak St.”, to verify his information in the Historical Roster, and while on Archive.org, I was searching for his address, “Oak St.” While there is no “205 Oak St.” in Santa Ana, there was a “207 Oak St.” It came up with our club QTH in the Radio Amateur Callbook from the early 60's. This is what was found:

• In the Orange County Business Directory, January 1933 (radio store), May 1934, and April 1935 (at the earliest): 207 Oak, was the location of “Hall F C” radio service and repairing.

• In the OCARC Archives, and the Radio Amateur Callbook: February 9th, 1959 to Fall 1961: 207 Oak, Santa Ana, was the location of the OCARC and OCRC.

• In the Orange County Directory 1956-1963: 207 Oak, Santa Ana: Between E. Walnut and E. Pine:
  - 1956: 207 Oak; Electronic Supply Corp
  - 1959: 207 Oak; QTH of OCARC
  - 1963: 207 Oak; Vacant

And the following addresses…
M•The OCARC’s first unofficial address was the Moore Bros radio shop at 206 West First Street in Santa Ana in 1933 and 1934.

In the Radio Amateur Callbook:
1•Meeting Place: The Orange County Radio Club K6DKF (club call Trustee Mailing Address).
2•Trustee Home Address (OCARC, W6ZE): Roy W. Morriss K6IQ.
3•Trustee Mailing Address: PO BOX 95, Orange, (West Chapman).
4•Trustee Home Address: Roy R. Maxson W6DEY.
5•Trustee Home Address: Jack E. Shaw W6YWN.
6•Trustee Mailing Address: Alex Alexander W6WRE, PO BOX 95, Orange, (West Chapman).
7•Trustee Home Address: Ken Konechy W6HHC.
8•Trustee Home Address: Robert Eckweiler AF6C.
Beginning with:

M • The OCARC’s First Unofficial Address: The Moore Bros radio shop at
- 206 West First Street in Santa Ana.
- From 1933 to May 1934.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

1•Our Meeting Place/
Trustee Mailing
Address: The Orange
County Radio Club
K6DKF, our first official
address was:

-12502 Placentia in Orange,
CA, (now The City Drive
South).

-First record November
27th, 1953, to February
8th, 1959.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

2 Trustee Home Address:

Our second official address was after we changed back to the OCARC in Nov 1954 RF; the address of W6ZE Trustee: Roy W. Morriss K6IQ, was

- 207 Oak Street, Santa Ana, CA

- That was from February 9th, 1959, to the fall of 1961.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

3 • Mailing Address:
- PO BOX 95, Orange, CA (located on West Chapman):
- Fall 1962 to February 10th, 1963.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

4•Trustee Home Address:
Roy R. Maxson W6DEY
-1434 S. Olive, Santa Ana, CA,
-From the summer of 1963 to the spring of 1968.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

5•Trustee Home Address:

Jack E. Shaw W6YWN

-676 N. James St., Orange, CA:

-During the summer and winter of 1968.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:
6•Trustee Mailing Address: Alex Alexander W6WRE
-PO BOX 95, Orange, CA 92668 (back to West Chapman):
-For Summer 1969
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

7•Trustee Home Address: Ken Konechy W6HHC, -2201 Eastwood St., Santa Ana, CA: -From the fall of 1969 to the winter of 1978.
In the Radio Amateur Callbook:

Then finally,

8•Trustee Home Address: Robert Eckweiler,
-667 Coate Rd., Orange, CA,
-From June 6th, 1978 to present day.
The OCARC's first unofficial address was the Moore Bros radio shop at 206 West First Street in Santa Ana in 1933 and 1934.

In the Radio Amateur Callbook:
1. Meeting Place: The Orange County Radio Club K6DKF (club call Trustee Mailing Address).
2. Trustee Home Address (OCARC, W6ZE): Roy W. Morriss K6IQ.
3. Trustee Mailing Address: PO BOX 95, Orange, (West Chapman).
4. Trustee Home Address: Roy R. Maxson W6DEY.
5. Trustee Home Address: Jack E. Shaw W6YWN.
6. Trustee Mailing Address: Alex Alexander W6WRE, PO BOX 95, Orange, (West Chapman).
7. Trustee Home Address: Ken Konechy W6HHC.
8. Trustee Home Address: Robert Eckweiler AF6C.
In closing, I would like to thank Bob Blankman, Dylan Almendral, and Susan Berumen, the archivists who provided their expert services in the research for this presentation.