Prez Sez
by Frank Smith, WA6VKZ

I hope all those who participated in the "Camp-In" April 24, 25, & 26, 1992 survived without lasting or permanent damage. I think that all who participated enjoyed themselves. Three morse code tests were administered and passed. Congratulations to Anita, KD6BWQ, now a General; to Bob, KD6BWH, now a Tech Plus and Skipper; KC6WJJ, now a Tech Plus! I, personally, enjoyed myself very much. I removed my wristwatch about 3 P.M. on Friday and did not return it to my wrist until 11 A.M. on Sunday. Entertainment was great - thanks to Alma, KD6AQQ, Lee & John, WA6RND. The campfire discussion Friday evening was very interesting. Several after-shocks were heard and/or felt from Wednesday evening's shaker.

Awhile back I took delivery of a notebook computer that came equipped with DOS 5.0. I am not much for knowing the inner-workings of a computer so I purchased a self-taught book on how to learn DOS 5.0 from CROWN BOOKS in Tustin. I worked my way through about 30% of the book when my computer would not do what the book indicated it should do. Figuring that I made a mistake (hardly) I started working the book again, same result. The third time I worked the book I checked each and every step off with a "Hi-Liter", just in case I might have made a mistake, same result. I returned the book to CROWN BOOKS and explained the problem to the manager, he gave me a receipt and said that a check would be forth coming in about three weeks. Five weeks later I visited the CROWN BOOKS store and was informed that I would not get a refund because I had marked the book. The book was a tutorial workbook that should be marked and CROWN BOOKS spend my money at CROWN BOOKS (for computer related books COMPUSA is less expensive but the book still has the same error). 73's FRANK, WA6VKZ

May Program Notes

Comb your hair, and put on clean clothes before coming to the May meeting. Our own Elmer (Tom) Thomas, WA6PFA, will be talking on an interesting mode being enjoyed by a small group of amateurs: fast scan television. The final details are still being planned, but there will probably be a video on a recent ATV balloon launch and a demo of a typical ATV station. There is a good possibility that club members will be able to talk to, and SEE and BE SEEN by many active ATV hams in the area. Tom is trying to arrange to have some of them "join" our meeting from their home ATV stations. There will be no commercial station breaks during this live demonstration. Amateur Television is a fascinating aspect of the hobby, and not very expensive to get started in. (Especially if you own a video camcorder). Be sure to attend the May meeting. Maybe you will enter into a whole new area of ham radio.

The June meeting program will be slides, videos, movies and "what have you" of past Field Days. If you have something for the program please let me know at the May meeting. Videos should be edited and short. Please let me know what you have and we'll get it assembled.

-30- Bob, AF6C

May Speaker:
Tom Thomas, WA6PFA, on Amateur TV

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The Innova Power Pack
Power that Gear at a Fraction of the Cost
by John P. Christopher, NG7D

Recently, I became aware of a new product being manufactured, right here in Orange County. That’s right, it’s made in the USA. It’s called the INNOVA POWER PACK.

The Innova Power Pack is a self-contained sealed (maintenance free) 12 volt D.C. Lead Acid Rechargeable battery, and power charger. It measures in size 7.25 inches wide by 10 inches high, by 3.25 inches deep. It’s about the size of an older type 2 meter mobile transceiver. The case is made of A high impact plastic, black in color.

Unlike Ni-Cad batteries, which start to discharge the minute you take it out of the charger, a lead acid battery will retain its charge over a long period of time, thus it is safe to store it on a shelf for months, with only a slight discharge of the original voltage level. The manufacturer rates the battery good for at least 1000 recharges, so even if the battery were used daily and recharged, that’s almost a 3 year usage life. Most Ni-Cad packs last only half as long, at twice the cost! Currently, the Innova Power Pack is available in the Automatic section of Target Department Stores, selling for $39.95 plus tax, as well as in the Oak catalogs, at a higher price, I’m informed.

When compared to the Quantum power pack, which sells for $129+ dollars around these parts, the Innova is a much better value. The only disadvantages are: the Innova is much larger than the Quantum pack in size and weight (6.8 pounds so it is not suited to mountable. However, the Innova Power Pack will outlast the Quantum 3 to 4 times longer in power usage, and can be used in a back pack type arrangement, if needed for field service of the two legged kind, or shoulder mounted, with the nylon carry strap that comes with the Innova.

Continued on Page 6

1992 CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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RF Editor .................. Nancy Bucher ........ N6XOR .......... 537-8728
RF Printer ............... Jerry Dahlin ........ AA6BU .......... 527-2779
Refreshments ....... Cindy Hughes ........ KC6OPI ........ 971-3448

DUES

Regular Member ............... $12.00
Additional Family Members ........ $6.00 each
Teenage Members (under 20) ....... $6.00
Optional Club Badge .............. $3.00

Good of the Club

WA6BKPX is out of the hospital and back at Orangewood. Blanche said he is doing much better.

The ICOM handheld was raffled. The winner is Paul Stubb, KC6PZC.

Thanks were given to Jim Talcott, N6JSV, for doing the certificate that was given to Catherine Deaton. Fine work Jim!!!

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm

Respectfully submitted
Jane Breller, KC6TAM, Secretary

Minutes
General Meeting
April 17, 1992

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Frank Smith, WA6VKZ. Board member absent was Clark, WA3JPG.

The speaker was Catherine Deaton of the FCC. There was a video tape presenting a general overview of the FCC. There is also a new procedure for TVI - the FCC no longer accepts or investigates complaints from the general public. They now issue a booklet advising how to correct the problem and ask that people work with each other in correcting TVI.

Old Business

Bob, KM6TL, Activities Chairman, reminded all of those who are participating in the Campout on 4/25 & 4/26 that there is still one available space left and that money needs to be paid to the Treasurer.

Field Day - still need a 40M captain. 20M CW will be handled by Phil Monsanto, WA6LDI. Tom, WA6PFA, will be the captain of the 10M station.

There was a correction to the minutes of the 3/20 general meeting - the old coffee pot is too small - not non-working. After correction was made all minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

Checking - $1,291.35
Savings - $1,164.00
Cash on hand - $144.60

RF
May, 1992
On the Nets -- April, 1992
by Bob Evans, WB6iXN

4/1 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in IIXN, QW, RND & YZG. IIXN tells all that Wyatt, BPX, is doing FB recovering from the storm. IIXN alerts RND that Bob, WWP, & Anita, BWQ, may be joining us on the 15m CW net soon! AF6C asks for a volunteer NC for next week. Bob will do badly needed surgery on the rig, & it may not be recovered in time for net next week! Wid the XYL in Big Bear, QW joins other OPs working the WPX contest, picking up some badly needed countries, not to mention successes wid the S. Sandwich Is. & E. Europe on 10 & 20m! RND bicycles wid his Wed. group, only to get caught in the rain storm. Under a store-front overhang, he & the group dodge waves of water thrown at them by passing merciless motorists! John will get rpts. on the new 2m ant., purchased at the TRW Swap Meet, on the 2m net ionote. YZG, still engrossed wid the computer, presently uses the rig only to check into this net! Lu is having problems installing a high speed modem (9600-14400 baud).

4/1 2m phone net - W6ZE/IIXN checks in NG7D, ZH & TAM, RE, VPP, HHC, OPI, RND, QW, WTY, VDP, XQR, ESD, FHU, DLA, YKH, PFA, KAA, & ULI. KAA, ESD, & ULI 'fly in & fly out!' NG7D gets ibc frm the doctor in time to miss the rain. And John joins other OPs in working the WPX contest. QW comes bk to John wid adr. of NP21 that John requested of the net. ZH & TAM tax OPs at the Square Dance for the BD cake on Chris' BD. And ZH garners some new countries during the WPX contest! Mother Nature opened her zipper & out it came. commented VPP on the recent rain & thunder storm, as Bud finished watching the astronauts aboard the Shuttle on ATV. HHC & Dian take time off frm arranging the new QTH, to attend the Club square dance. Ken now has the packet station, modern, 440 & 1.2 GHz on line! ONZ, listening to OPI describe the thunder, lightning, square dance, & ONZ, sticks his tongue out at her! And Cindy says the ice cream social at school, for the purpose of gang discussion, was not too successful! RE learns to run JPG's .550 quite well. And Alex rpts more drizzle than rain frm the last storm. RE airs an excellent Newsline! RND gets rave rpts on the new MFJ 5/8 wave 2m ant., he purchased at the Swap Meet. QW continues to garner the rare DX as he plans to add 20m to his WAS list. WTY likes Eddie Arnold songs sung by Lee Evans at the square dance. And Carmine mounts the 'Texas Bug Catcher' ant. on the back fence, & checks wid VDP on performance improvement techniques. VDP stays inside out of the rain & catches Portugal & the Canary Is. on 40 SSB, wid a PY0, CW, at the bottom of 401! XQR prepares for the Club breakfast on Sat., talks abt the upcoming April campout, & tells OPs to be thinking abt Field Day! BWQ passes Gen. theory, & VKZ's harmonic passes Tech & Gen. theory. Congrats, OPs! FHU checks in frm art class, and DLA returning frm New Mexico, spends time learning abt his new dual band 741 toy! We welcome YKH, Bill, bk on freq. Bill announces computer BBs at the following numbers: 730-6790, 962-1857, 730-6743, and 730-5739. PFA, Golden Retriever in lap, watch the cloudburst add 1/4" to the rain guage! And Tom prepares for the Baker to Las Vegas Relay Race, wid 152 organizations entered at 20 runners each, this weekend!

4/2 15m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IIXN, JPG, XQR, NT, & WTY. All OPs welcome Carmine on board for the 1st time! IIXN rpts. a 'slow roller' earthquake registered on Crystal seismometer. (A 6.6 in Indonesia) JPG gets the old TS-520 working. Nice sigs, Clark! And Clark, the straight key fist is FB! XQR updates OPs on Club members studying code, & Carmine tells Nancy his rig is a Knud 850. NT gives OP sig rpts all around & Ray plans to attend the Club breakfast Sat. morning. RND hears all OPs FE, & John asks JFG for an ant. rpt. A couple of long wires, says Clark!

4/8 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in XTJ, IIXN, YZG & RND. XTJ is trying to catch up wid the chores after a bout wid the flu. And Jim talks abt an impending General Dynamics Swap Meet move. IIXN talks wid Blanche, & reports on Wyatt's progress. Wyatt is bk in the hop, after bleeding is discovered in his intestines. YZG reports Ararat is still alive & kicking, so Lu continues the completion of his IRS tax forms! RND talks wid the harmonic up in Bishop, and contemplates another RF choke for the RV5 ant.

4/8 2m phone net - W6ZE/IIXN checks in OPI/M, ONZ & FZE, NG7D, AF6C, RE, TAM & ZH, HHC, FHU/AA, XQR, FPL/KT, RND, QW, FHN, PF/FK, AB6K/ME, & XTI. KE, FPF, & FHN 'fly in & fly out!' OPI enjoys a contact wid the Disney ARC at the Queen Mary, & OPI is out shopping now. ONZ & FZE are holding down the fort in Cindy's absence. NG7D reports on X0's progress, telling us Bob will try to get to next Club meeting! And John enjoys 75-80 deg. temps. on a recent journey to Las Vegas. AF6C attacks the old tube low band receiver over the weekend, replacing an S-meter pot and doing some 'house cleaning' inside. And Bob tells OPs abt our next Club meeting speaker frm the FCC! RE ignores the 'weed patch' long enough to run the 720-A dm to EICOM for repair of an RIT control for telemetry. Alex shares Newsline wid us, wid a QSL adr. for SAREX QSLs: Wid ur return adr on ur SASE, include: STS 45 QSL 2-way, and send the cyclopes to: Sterling Park ARC, PO Box 599, Sterling Park, VA, 22170. And RE says for the latest on the termination, or new location, of the Pomona Swap Meet, tune to the Crestline machine at 146.85 (might be moving to Rancho Cucamonga). TAM & ZH attack the 'bees in the belfry.' er I mean, the rosebush, as the exterminator eradicates app. 100,000 bees, sending a sample off to see if they are killer bees! HHC, home recupping frm minor surgery, gets the station, modern & packet, up and running! And congrats to KE on the new call, and to PPF & FLP & FHU and all OPs who recently upgraded!! RND, getting used to PTD, finds time to copy RTTY wid the computer. QW wants to sell the 940 & jump up to an FT-1000! Rolf finishes the amplifier conversion which occupied his time, along wid filling out

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papers for the 3 band WAS! XTIJ, word processing a paper due by month’s end, manages a little AMTOR last week.

4/9 15m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXX, NT, QXR, HYL, & KE. Biggest check-in ever! And gud sgs & gud cp on our newest check-in, Carmine! NT provids ggs rpts on all OPs. RND asks QXR abt the roster, & Nancy says BWH has included it wid Apr. ’RF’. HYL can barely copy all OPs. Larry hear NT better than anyone else. XQR doesn’t cp HYL. And Nancy tells OPs that our CW net is her only CW practice! RND closes net to go watch the Dodgers on TV. And IXXN can copy all OPs quite well!

4/15 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in YZG, XO, IXXN, & RND. AF6C ‘hobobs’ wid Fri night’s Club YL speaker frm the FCC! And XO checks in while completing a QSO on 2m wid an OP near Lake Matthews. And YZG appendix ‘Dr. Dotes’ to AF6C, but Bob says the new version is Apple GSOS 6.0 for his computer. XO’s ant. is working FB now that recent rains gave it a gud washing! And RND tells OPs of his recent visit to the LA Maritime Museum, Berth 84, San Pedro Harbor, and of A6AA, the ARS there. And John bought a book, “QTC”, all abt the history of radio aboard ships!

4/15 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXXN checks in RE, XTIJ, NG7D, FHN, RND, HHC, HPK, QXR, OPI, FHH, FZE, ONZ, ZH, TAM, & KE. RE & XYL celebrate 58 yrs of marriage, as Alex is ‘chef cook & bottle washer for the visiting harmonics frm Palo Alto & west Covina. RE also gives FHN, FHH, & FLP another ham motorcycle contact: W6PEQ, ph: 962-1960. VKZ, RE & other OPs work the ‘Ride & Stride’ Diabetes Marathon over the weekend. Then Alex airs ‘Newsline’. XTIJ prepares for upcoming bicycle racing season, and Jim helps OPs track down an insistent jammer! ‘To sneeze, or not to sneeze’ utters John Christopoulos, as NG7D battles a head cold & allergies, works an IT2 & an SM6 on 15 yesterday, & discusses mutual Innova battery problems wid IXXN! IXXN asks John to scan the Riverside dog pound freq. at 151 MHz, if there is an earthquake in the area. FHN, FHH, & FLP continue experiments wid 2m mobile bike ants. IXXN asks one of the trio to report there results in a future issue of ’RF’. FHH continues to wrk on CW fer upgrade. RND checks the ‘electronic unit’ on the RV to find a transistor & a heat sink. He learns how to fix it & prepares fer the April campout at Easter. HHC doesn’t have the 2m ant. roof-side yet, as Ken switches between the shack & attic ants. KD6HPK, a new ham, who works wid HHIC, checks in frm Ken’s shack. HPK, Bill, will be in contact wid his brother in Grass Valley when he sets up his shack! QW thinks abt a squirrel fan to quit dwn the amplifier as Rolf climbs toward completion of the 5-band DXCC, concentration on 20m at present! XQR & BWH hope all received their ‘RF’ wid the new Club roster! And Nancy upgrades her Pagemaker program wid new Windows, too! OPI, wid FZE on the side, mobiles to the postoffice to drop off the taxes! FZE says ham radio program at his school may hve to wait until summer school. ZH & TAM find time to check up on IBB, A1, & IBP, Dotty, as Chris & Jane go after that rare DX wid a 5Z4 frm Kenya, & an H1C card frm Samoa, just fer a couple! AB6KE uses ‘The System’ to contact Leonid, UA3DRB, north of Moscow! Huh! Maybe Carmine & Rolf shud get their heads together to battle their ham-hating neighbors!

4/16 15m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXXN, NT, QXR, & HYL. IXXN copies all OPs, wid Larry the weakest sig. But NT copies HYL a 599, wid the rest of us kinda weak! XQR & RND try in vain to bring Anita, KD6BWQ, on line! But nary a dot or dash is heard frm her silent key! RND tells all he has the RV nearly ready & will report to the April campout on Thursday, a day in advance! Did we hear Larry say that he was experiencing ‘Tennessee Valley Indians’ on his TV!? And who is Krystal, Larry?

4/22 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in RND, RE, IXXN, COI, YZG & QXR. NGO is welcomed bc fer his trip ‘across the pond’ by all OPs. And Kei informs AF6C that his return aircraft was NOT of Douglass vintage! Bob was glad that Kei had a SAFE return trip! KE will call IXXN’s brother, Lee, abt upcoming Club campout at JTN Monument. And Carmine says that 9N1MM, Fr. Moran, Nepal’s most famous amateur, passed away. CO1 saves the Club some money on Club decals & pathces. Tnx, Dave! YZG’s medical status continues to improve. And AF6C offers to take Luto to Club meetings, & Lu gets the new MODEM working properly! IXXN announces the 4.2 mag 19.25 foreshock 9 mi. east of Desert Hot Springs. (Big 6.1 shock occurred at 20:31 hrs.)

4/22 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXXN checks in RE, RND, FHH, HTK, ZH & TAM, NG7D, TL, QXR, HHC, FYW, VDP, BWH, DBY, & QW. RE, after church Easter Sun., catches the Hollywood Bowl services via VCR. Alex’ visiting harmonics depart, & he & XYL get some rest, & RE airs an interesting Newsline! RND works on the RV ‘like mad’ in preparation fer the Club weekend campout. FHH leaves Art class long enuf fer a check-in, & HTK’s new ant. is doing FB! ZH & TAM let up on DX & DXCC chores long enuf to prepare for the Campout, but receive QSLs frm Senegal, Mali, & Macao. NG7D visits wid family on the otherside of the San Fernando Valley over Easter. And John gets molested by the Easter Bunny at Sunday Brunch!! And John gives a freq. of 146.79, PL 136.5 for Yucca Valley Machine, plus a contact on 80m thru the ‘System’, to Canada, VE7HIS. TL tells OPs there’s only one camping spot left! And Bob still has plenty of tickets left for the PK-232 raffle. XQR, leading the 7 VE pack, champs at the bit to be off to the Campout. Don’t forget!! All elements available, says Nancy!! Wid a new version of XQR’s word processor installed, Nancy will give ‘RF’ a new look! HHC gets the old QTH into escrow, so Ken kicks back, enjoys the spring WX, & recovers frm minor surgery. Work keeps VDP away frm the radio last week, but Larry has time to catch a couple of openings on 6m. And DBY concentrates on the 5 wpm code test. QW, after a ‘loss of memory’, recopies log materials back

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Net Notes - Continued from Page 4

into the computer, catching Soviet Georgia & Ubekeistan DX on the side. Next is shielded landline cables for the XYL's telephone! BWH takes the day off, gets computer work done, "and now, the Campout," says Bob!

4/23 15m CW net - Acting NC, W6ZE/I1XN, checks in HYL, NT, XQR, AB6KE, & RND. NC RND & XYL are already at the JTN Monument Blackrock Campground, near the 6.1 epicenter of last night's quake! NT hears all OPs 599, & when we QSY to 7.150 MHz, NT, HYL, & RND hear all OPs 569 to 599! Next week, we meet on 7.140 MHz for further evaluation of 40m. as the Net freq. RND & XYL get 'shakin' at the Campsite near 4 pm, & sign at 8:30 pm. Bring bk memories of those 'Rock n Roll' days of the 40s, John?! XQR pushes too many buttons on the "bells & whistles" rig, & forgets to release them in the QSY change frm 15 to 40m. Nancy moves up .8 KHz to eliminate broadcast carrier QRN, releases her buttons, & all is fine!

4/29 15m phone net - Watts Riot II! RND, XQR, COJ & XO check in quickly, & then bk to the 'boob' tube to watch the lootin' & burning!

4/29 2m phone net - I1XN refuses to watch the media-spread riots & checks in XQR, NG7D, FHU/AA, RE, RND, FHN, ESD, & VDP. Wyatt, BFX, shud be coming home from the convalescent center by the weekend. I1XN's dad has a heart attack on Monday & is resting comfortably in the Kaiser Hosp. in Anaheim. NG7D will operate the new class, Class BB, fer FD! FHU, out of class tonite, watches LA burn frm the QTH! RE plays Newsline, does home chores, reads ARRL bulletin #37 on FCC enforcement actions & fines! FIIN spends all day wid the motorcycle, installing a Knud 741 wid 2, 220, & 440 bands, fer the upcoming cross-country trip! VDP is sorry to hear of Fr. Moran's death in Nepal, & work keeps Larry frm the radio! ESD watches the LA fiasco, wiks an OP visiting Bangladesh, HASBUS/S2, on 20m CW, & talks to Rolf & Larry on 2m.

Minutes
Board Meeting
May 2, 1992

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Frank Smith, WA6VKZ. Board members absent were Cindy, KC6OPI, Ken Kotecky, W6HIC, and Mike Abreu, K6KAA.

Old Business

Field Day - OCARC has received written permission from the base commander of Tustin Air Base to use the base on Field Day. It was moved by Jane, KC6TAM, that no more than $600.00 be spent for expenses. Motion was seconded by Bob, AF6C. Motion was approved by the Board.

Dave Hollander, W6COJ, has 275 sew on patches with the OCARC. The original amount was to be 300, but OCARC did receive rebate for the 25 that could not be made. Motion was made by Dave, W6COJ, the cost be lowered from $2.00 to $1.00 for the patch. Motion was seconded by Carmine, AB6KE. Motion was approved by the Board.

New Business

The copier that was being used by OCARC to print the RF has become non-functional. It was brought up that we need members to volunteer to run copies each month or pay for printing. Bob, AF6C, suggested that OCARC use the copy facilities at Staples as cost is only 1 cent per copy. Discussion was tabled and will be discussed at a later date.

Activities Raffle - Next item to be raffled will be a PK232 and Packet Gold. Tickets are already being sold. There will be a maximum of 400 tickets to be sold.

Campout - This was a success. Lee Evans and Alma, KD6AQO, provided entertainment and 3 people upgraded during the weekend.

Treasurer's Report

Checking .................................. $1,476.62
Savings ..................................... $1,174.80

Good of the Club

Wyatt, WA6BPX, will be coming home on 5/8/92. Hope to see you soon!!

W6BIXN's father was taken to the hospital last week. Hope everything is going better.

It was mentioned by Nancy, N6XQR, that the EOC has brought up the fact that there are extremely concerned about children at the meeting due to safety issues. Children must be supervised at all times by an adult as there are trucks going in and out and they are not looking for children to be running around the parking lot. Should this situation continue, OCARC is in jeopardy of losing both the meeting place and the liability insurance that we carry.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM. Respectfully submitted, Jane Breller, KC6TAM, Secretary

Editor's Note
by Nancy Bucher, N6XQR

Your RF this month has a somewhat different look. I have upgraded to a later version of the desktop publishing software that I use to publish it. In addition, I have substituted graphics for our letterhead to facilitate copying. I, too, will miss the color, but the letterhead was a quarter of an inch longer than regular paper and a heavier weight than copier paper and caused more wear and tear on copiers.

No-Code Technician

Weekend Classes
Fountain Valley

Bob Gregg, AB6CH
Instructor

May 15, 16, 17
June 26, 27, 28
July 24, 25, 26
August 28, 29, 30
CALL
(714) 375-0387
The Innova Power Pack Continued from Page 2

The Innova Power Pack has a current rating of 6.5 amp hours; the Quantum has a rating of 2 amp hours. The Innova can accept up to 10 amps at 12 volts DC in recharging the pack safely, and the manufacturer claims the battery cannot be overcharged. An automotive plug-in fuse is used to protect the charging, and DC output circuit. Since the claim of not being able to overcharge this battery is stated by Innova, it is suspected by this author that a smart charger circuit is being used to recharge the battery, with a current limiting sensor as part of the recharging circuit. The Innova Power Pack uses a standard cigarette lighter socket as the power receptacle for your devices (negative ground) just like in your car. I'm not sure the Quantum pack works the same way.

The recharger uses a cigarette lighter plug for the power source for the charger. There are several ways that this battery can be recharged. Through the alternator of your car while the engine is running, through a photovoltaic solar panel, or with the optional AC/DC adapter that Innova puts out, and which at the time of purchase I could not find, and through the use of a home DC power supply. I use a Heathkit SK-101 3 amp power supply with a cigarette lighter socket wired to the + terminals, and just plug the Innova in when I need a recharge, and I am all set. My unit seems to recharge in less than 3 hours on a 3 ampere rate. The manufacturer states that the battery will recharge in 1 to 3 hours when charged through, the car’s cigarette lighter system. And when charged at 12 volts DC at 1000 ma, an 8 to 10 hours recharge cycle period should be expected. Using the home power supply, seems to be about the same effect as charging from the car, if the optional AC/DC adapter is unavailable, and you don’t have three hours to run around in your car in drive time.

Since a cigarette lighter socket is used for the DC output on the battery pack, it is a good idea to make up a power cord with a cigarette lighter plug at one end, and two alligator clips on the other. This way the power pack can be used with a variety of 12 volt DC devices, or experimentation. Most devices that are run out of an automobile have the cigarette lighter plug on their power cords already, and all you do is just plug it in. However, be cautious, and check the voltage polarity of the plug first. Some devices are wired in reverse. Be sure to use a heavy duty type cord for your power plug, unless you’re consuming very low currents, otherwise your wires could get hot as well as burn through the insulation creating a fire hazard. Yes, even a DC source can create a fire hazard! Lamp zip cord makes good cable for such use.

At the time of this writing, I am aware that some of the members of the OCARC have purchased this battery pack and are quite happy with the results, as I have been. However, at least 3 of us, including the author, have found some strange quirks in operation with the Innova Power Pack, none of them
The Innova Power Pack Continued from Page 6

detrimental to the radio gear itself, but leading to a false indication of the state of the battery charge. The Innova uses three different LED type lights to tell the user what is going on with the pack during use. It also has an on and off switch on the case. A green light indicated that the battery has at least 60% to 100% charge in it when powered up. If the battery is lower than 60%, then a red LED will light up, indicating a low battery rate, and recharge is necessary. If the RED LED starts blinking, that indicated that the fuse has blown, or there is a system failure, do not use the battery. When charging the battery, a yellow LED will glow; when the battery is fully charged, the yellow LED will go out. However, I have found, as has WB6IXN, that a steady red LED does not mean the battery is about to go dead, and the fact being, a very false representation of the state of the battery. When I first experienced this effect, a DC voltmeter was placed across the power leads, while the battery was in use on my Ten Tec Argonaut 509. I had been using the 509 for about 6 hours on the pack, when the red light came on. However, the radio was still functioning fine, and putting 4 watts RF output on transmit. I continued to use the battery for another 12 hours straight, before the voltage level had dropped to 8 volts DC, and my RF output to 1.5 watts. Conclusion: A red LED is a poor indicator for the state of charge on this battery. A small voltmeter circuit could very easily be built into this pack I think, as a better indicator. Another quirk found was that the red LED will activate if RF is in the near vicinity of the battery pack. My Yaesu FT-470 with the Comet CH600MX antenna will trigger the red LED on. WA6YES and WB6IXN report the same effects. Conclusion: poor shielding of the charger circuit inside of case.

I made a call to Innova and talked to a tech there. They are aware of this problem, but until the unit actually fails during use, they don’t seem interested in pursuing the issue, but they are very interested in what the customer thinks and says about the product.

So far, in my own personal use, I have had better than 36 hours continuous running time, using a Regency MX-7000 scanner on this battery pack. 28 hours using a Ten Tec Argonaut 509 in TX and RX operation. 5.5+ hours of continuous use with a Canon E538 mm camcorder. I have not yet determined how many hours of straight use I can get out of it using a Yaesu FT-470 Dual Band HT transceiver, nor with a standard 9 volt type transistor radio with the voltage cut down to 9 volts from the battery. Since these type radios use a low milliamper type circuit, it would not be surprising to see the Innova Power Pack run the radio for 3 or 4 days straight easily. The same would be true with an HT just the receive mode only, you could expect many days of use from the battery, if only a few hours of use were used each day. I’m sure Southern California Edison will appreciate that — HI. Your wallet might though, if you catch my drift.

So there you have it. My personal opinion of the Power Pack is that it is a good value for the money, and if used wisely will give you years of trouble free operation in your home, car, or out in the field. A larger amp hour rating battery will provide even better service and hours but may not be as convenient or easily transported as the Innova Power Pack is.

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Welcome! New Members of OCARC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Sign</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WT6A</td>
<td>Bob Malier</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA6ENI</td>
<td>Jeff Glassman</td>
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<tr>
<td>KD6FYW</td>
<td>Jim Ralls</td>
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<td>KD6HQP</td>
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<td>KD6HVR</td>
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<td>AB6KQ</td>
<td>David Davis</td>
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<td>KI6LC</td>
<td>J.P. Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA6LDI</td>
<td>Phil Lonzello</td>
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<td>KC6W2Q</td>
<td>Leslie Karp</td>
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<tr>
<td>WD6X</td>
<td>Richard Hammerslag</td>
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<tr>
<td>KK6YO</td>
<td>Jerry Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>N6ZWZ</td>
<td>Joe Oliver</td>
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<td>N6ZXBP</td>
<td>Peggy Robertson</td>
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<tr>
<td>W6ZXI</td>
<td>Reg Thatcher</td>
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<td>CALL SIGN CHANGES:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4013 E. 15th Street</td>
<td>Long Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>8451 Carnage</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
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<tr>
<td>11662 John Ave.</td>
<td>Garden Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 8011</td>
<td>Newport Beach</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lomita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Loma</td>
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<tr>
<td>5151 Dua Bar # B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1027 W. Trinity Lane</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>611 Lido Park Drive, 4F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Schnabel from KC6WWP to KM6TL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Davis from KC6VHY to AB6KQ</td>
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Gordon West Radio School, Inc. presents

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Dan Fort, AA6LM, Instructor
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CLUB MEETINGS

General Meeting is the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM
Anaheim Emergency Operations Center
909 East Vermont  Anaheim, CA
West of 2nd set of railroad tracks.
A big antenna is in front with a red light on top.
Vermont runs east and west between Harbor and State College
Vermont is north of Ball and South of Lincoln

Board Meeting is the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM
Denny's -- Members and Visitors are welcome
2314 E. Seventeenth Street  Santa Ana, CA (714) 543-0872
2nd building west of the 55 Freeway

BOARD MEETING
May 15th
June 19th
July 17th

BOARD BREAKFAST
June 6th
July 4th

CLUB NETS

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<tr>
<th>BAND</th>
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<th>FREQ. MHz</th>
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<td>Thur</td>
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<td>21.175*</td>
<td>WA6RND</td>
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(Listen for W6ZE, Net Control)  *Plus or minus QRM

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