



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. XLIV NO. 1

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92861-3454

Jan. 2003

The Prez Sez:

I wish to thank all of you, for electing (or is that railroad-ing) me, your President. I am looking forward to continue increasing the membership and keeping the club active.

The club will be only as good as the membership PARTICIPATION. When the members are not involved the club will cease to exist. We need to build the membership and people to volunteer, intact I will be looking for volunteers early, to get Field Day and other activities started.

With all of you helping and participating, as you have for the last several years, I am sure we can "Enjoy Ourselves," in 2003.

I also think that we should give thanks to Cory for her leadership in 2002.

See you at the meeting,
73's----**Lowell-KQ6JD**

WANTED: INFORMATION LEADING TO THE RECORDING OF CLUB EQUIPMENT

The Club is putting together a list of the equipment that it owns. We need YOUR input. How good is your memory?

Items identified thus far are:

- 5KW Honda Generator - purchased December 2000 for \$1,217
- 4KW Briggs & Stratton generator - purchased 1988
- FD Power Cables - Purchased ??
- FD guy ropes and stakes (donated)
- Laminating machine - purchased January 2002 for \$54
- 4 ea 10-ft Rohn towers (donated)
- 1 ea 5-ele Hygain 15M beam (donated)
- 1 ea 3-ele Hygain 20M beam (donated)
- 1 ea 3-ele 10M beam (donated)
- Towers (what kind?) - purchased October 1991 \$105 (still have?)
- ARRL Flag - purchased August 2002 for \$53
- OCARC Club Banner - purchased ??
- Coffee pot - purchased??
- Public Address system (donated)
- Wooden President Podium (donated)

Contact Treasurer N7PA with any info.

January Meeting

The guest program speaker will be Dave Buhler - WB6ZGF, a member of Tournament Of Roses Radio Amateurs. Dave's presentation is entitled:

"....planning for ham communications in the Tournament of Roses parade"

Don't miss it. All members and visitors are welcome.

The next general meeting will be:

**Friday, Jan 17th
@ 7:30 PM**

We will be meeting in Anaheim Room in the east **Red Cross** Bldg.

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**THE ORANGE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB,
INC.**

P.O. Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781



2003 Board of Directors:

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2003 Club Appointments:

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Bob Buss, KD6BWH
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Monthly Events:

General Meeting:

Third Friday of the month
at 7:30 PM
American Red Cross
(near Tustin Ave & 4th St)
Santa Ana, CA

Club Breakfast:

First Saturday of the
month at 8:00 AM
CowGirl's Cafe, Too
2610 S. Harbor Blvd
(just south of Warner)
Santa Ana, CA

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE):

Wednesday Evenings

28.375± MHz SSB
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Bob AF6C, Net Control

146.55 MHz Simplex FM
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Bob, WB6IXN, Net Control

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.w6ze.org>

for up-to-the-minute club information, the latest membership rosters, special activities, back issues of RF, links to ham-related sites, vendors and manufacturers, pictures of club events and much much more.

Club Dues:

Regular Members ...\$20
Family Members* ...\$10
Teenage Members ..\$10
Club Badge**\$3

Dues run from January thru Dec and are prorated for new members.

*Additional members in the family of a regular member pay the family rate up to \$30 per family.

**There is a \$1 charge if you'd like to have your badge mailed to you.

Tech Talk #25

So You Want To Be A Builder, Huh.....

By Doug Hendricks - KI6DS

(This month, the Tech Talk is Part 4 of a multi-part series on building kits....specifically building QRP related kits. The author is Doug Hendricks – KI6DS who graciously permitted the OCARC to reprint his series.)

This is part 4 of a series of articles that I am writing on how to become a builder of qrp ham radio gear. I plan on going from a rank beginner to advanced projects and giving suggestions on how to become a good builder. This installment will cover a couple of projects that are very important station accessories, a set of PC Board Paddles, and the NorCal BLT Tuner.

First the paddles. I have a good friend, Dave Gauding, NFØR, who loves to build simple gear. He has messed around with building simple paddles for as long as I have known him. He also has a set of very nice Brown Brothers paddles, yet he continues to experiment because he likes to build, and it gives him pleasure to build a project and have it turn out. When Dave saw the PC Board paddles on the NorCal page, he told me that they were the real deal and worked surprisingly well for such a simple idea. The key to the paddles is that it uses PC Board for the arm of the paddle, nothing new with that, but the unique thing is that the board is given more flexibility by drilling a hole in it. Check out the drawings and pictures on the NorCal page and you will see what I mean. Here is the URL:

<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/paddle/nb6m.htm>

Wayne McFee, NB6M, designed these single lever paddles, and they work brilliantly. The NorCal page has a full set of instructions on how to build them, all that you need is some double sided PC Board and a good iron. I use my soldering station and turn the heat up to 850 degrees and it works fine. You can also use a Weller soldering

gun, which will provide plenty of heat. One of the things that often happens in ham radio is that one guy will come up with a good idea, and someone else will improve it. That happened in this case. Carol Mulder, PAØCMU decided to make a set of iambic paddles using Wayne's method, and he was very successful. Here is the URL to see the double lever iambic paddles.

<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/paddle/pa0cmu2.htm>

Carol even shows you a simple way to put silver contacts on your paddles. This is a neat one evening project, and when you finish, you have a nice set of paddles to use with your station. Seabury Lyon, who lives in the Northeast, showed me a neat trick at Lobstercon. Seab likes to use something called poster stick, which is also called blue tack, to hold his paddles on his rig. Gives it a nice solid base, it doesn't move around, and is always handy. You can buy it at Staples or any office supply store. And, just in case you are wondering, that is ribbon cable being used as a cord for the paddles. Another "freebie" and a great idea. The neat thing about this project is that it is almost free to build. One hint, be sure to use steel wool to polish your pc board before you solder it. It works a lot better that way. Also, when you have to drill holes in small pieces it is better to drill the holes first, then cut off the piece from the larger piece. No kit is available for this one, so you get to scrounge the parts yourself. Ask around at the next radio meeting for help in finding the parts, or better yet, go to a swap or flea market and look for old relays and double sided pc board pieces. If you live near a PC board fabrication shop, ask them for their waste pieces and they will be glad to give you all that you need.

The next project is the NorCal BLT tuner which is a bargain at \$25 + \$4 shipping and handling from me. Here is the URL on this project:

<http://www.norcalqrp.com/blt/blt.htm>

-- See **TechTalk** cont'd on page 4 --

TechTalk -- cont'd from page 3

This tuner was designed by Charlie Lofgren, W6JJZ, who is the world's leading authority on Z-Match tuners. I asked Charlie to design a simple tuner that would work on 40 meters for a talk that I was going to give in Ft. Smith, Arkansas at Arkiecon, and he came through with the BLT. When it was tested with a 44 ft. doublet, we found that it worked on 40 through 10 meters, not just 40!! What a deal. I designed the case, which comes with the kit, and the case is one of the reasons that I picked this kit to be part of this series. You will learn how to build good, solid cases out of PC board material. The parts come pre-cut, all that you have to do is assemble them. Plus, the kit is not built on a board, it uses Manhattan style construction, which uses small pads glued to the circuit board as tie points for the components and the board itself for the ground plane. You just follow the schematic and build as you go. Very easy to do, and it frees you from having to build only projects that have a board.

The kit goes together easily in one day, and when you finish, you have a QRP tuner that will handle up to 10 watts. The name BLT stands for balanced line tuner. This was designed to be fed with twin lead, ladder line, TV-lead, any balanced line. But you can have a long wire and coax tuner too just by doing a simple mod. Put another BNC connector on the back of the tuner. Place a wire from the center conductor of the new BNC to one of the binding posts on the back (on the inside of the tuner of course). Then mount a SPDT switch with one side going to ground, and the other to the other binding post. Now, when you want to use the coax tuner or a long wire, simply throw the switch and ground the binding posts. Throw the switch back to use as a balanced line tuner.

Plus, the tuner comes with a built in dummy load/SWR Indicator designed by Dan Tayloe, N7VE. The Indicator uses an LED that will go out when the best match is made and SWR is lowest. Pretty neat idea, and it works great.

Also, the kit comes with a very nice Lexan cover which were made by Dennis Foster, KK5PY. They really set off the tuner, and I love the "look" it gives it. You will like to show it off to your friends, and you won't need to take off the top to show it to them. Neat idea, thanks to Dennis for coming up with it, and making all of those covers.

The two projects in part 4 will give you some more building experience, and teach you how to mount connectors, solder wires, do point to point building, and gives you a start on a great, tool, the Manhattan method of building. Hope you enjoy the series, and I encourage you to keep building and learning. Part 5 will be our first serious rig. It is a single band transceiver, and it comes with VFO and is a classic kit. You will enjoy it.

72, Doug, KI6DS

HAM Education and Test Training

There is a very professional software program available from HAM UNIVERSITY that I have used recently. It is designed to help new-comers practice for taking the amateur radio exam or to help upgrade to a higher class license. This program supports all amateur radio license classes.

For theory/regulations...you can select either QUIZ mode or EXAM mode. The QUIZ mode allows you to pick and choose which questions you wish to practice. The EXAM mode allows you to take a set of questions normally found on one of the many real exams.

For Morse Code practice...you can use the TRAINER mode to be introduced the letters in small batches. Or you can use an EXERCISE mode where you copy code on the keyboard. At the end, the program shows you a comparison of your copy vs. what the program actually sent. Or you can just copy to paper.

This program seems best suited for practicing for the real exam. By itself, it is probably not the best way in the world to learn theory. It does not explain the answers...but it does help memorize. I think that theory books or a class are still needed as a supplement there.

The (Windows only) program costs \$40. You can order it from the WEB site below or download a demo version.

www.HamUniversity.com

OCARC - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements with Cash Balances				
For the Year ended December 31, 2002				
Receipts				
Auction In	\$102.00			
Badge Income	55.50			
BADGE MAILING	5.00			
Donation - W6NGO Trust Fund	400.00			
Donations - Misc	37.59			
Dues, Family	120.00			
Dues, Membership	880.00			
Laminating Lic	7.00			Approved -- Jan-04-2003
Raffle Reg Income	476.00			
Raffle Special Income	222.00			
Refresh. Income	6.62			
Total Receipts		\$2,311.71		
Disbursements				
ARRL Flag	\$53.00			Phil Andersen
Auction Expense	90.57			Phil Andersen
Badges Expense	104.50			
Bank Service Charge	10.00			
Donation - News Line Exp	100.00			Ken Konechy
Donation - Other	50.00			Ken Konechy
Donation - OC Fair	50.00			
Field Day Food	150.00			
Field Day Other	15.20			
Flowers Expense	62.50			
Insurance Expense	329.00			
Plaques	51.94			
PO Box Rental	38.00			
Raffle Expense	530.40			
Raffle Special Exp	250.00			
Refreshments Expense	13.97			
RF Postage Expense	108.21			
RF Printing Expense	132.10			
Speaker Expense	15.52			
Supplies	16.00			
Theft	36.00			
Web Hosting	269.30			
World Radio	65.00			
Total Disbursements		2,541.21		
NET		(\$229.50)		
Cash Beginning Balance - January 1, 2002				
Cash Box	\$0.00			
Checking Account	2,349.58			
Cash - Beginning Balance		2,349.58		
Cash Ending Balance - December 31, 2002				
Cash Box	\$0.00			
Checking Account	2,095.08			
Savings	25.00			
Cash - Ending Balance		\$2,120.08		

Why are Radio Amateurs called "HAMS"?

From Florida Skip Magazine – 1959
Many thanks to Ham University

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy

be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM".

OCARC Board Meeting Minutes

Jan 4, 2003

The board meeting was held at CowGirl Too Café and called to order at 8:34AM. All officers were present except Secretary David W7KTS and Technical Chair Bob AF6C. Matt K6LNX acted as secretary. There were 14 members and visitors present.

No officer reports.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Annual Audit: financial report (profit & loss & balance) to be published in the January RF.

Phil N7PA prepared a Letter-to-Management report that was distributed to board members and reviewed. Updated job description for Treasurer was also distributed to board.

Suggestion was made by Cory AE6GW to have the out-going Treasurer default to the 2nd Member At Large position after their term as treasurer is done, similar to how the President defaults to Member At Large after their term is done. This is unless the President or Treasurer is elected to another board position or is unable to serve on the board for some reason. The discussion was tabled.

Motion by Larry K6LNC to make Ida Yamachika an honorary member for another 2 years. 2nd by Steve KB1GZ. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Phil N7PA to approve the Orange County Credit Union as the financial institution for OCARC. 2nd by Cory AE6GW, passed unanimously. OCARC has already been using OCCU as our financial institution, this motion makes it officially approved by the board.

Discussion brought up to raise the limit for dual signatures required on club expenditures to \$200. The bylaws currently state that any club expenditures above \$100 must have two board member signatures. Discussion tabled for a later meeting.

Suggestion to have someone in addition to the Secretary to be in charge of keeping the club Constitution and Bylaws, making sure they are updated with any changes, and that they are available for any member to read. Selection for this position tabled for later meeting.

Motion to adjourn by everyone, 2nd by everyone else. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt K6LNX (acting secretary)

Club Nets

December check-ins for Wednesday evening 10M and 2M nets and Sunday morning 40M OCNW CW net:

AF6C	K6LDC
K6CCD	W6NT
WB1CDD	??6OIO
KS6CW	WA6RND
AE6GW	KF6TRA
KB1GZ	KB6TWA
W6HHC	KF6UEB
K6IMW	K6VDP
WB6IXN	WA6VKZ
KQ6JD	
K3JIL	
W6KFW	
KG6KYJ	
KD7KUN	

Check WB6IXN's
NetNews page for monthly reports on

**DXCC Processing Resumes
After Faulty Server Replaced**

(Jan 7, 2003) --

After a two-week hiatus, DXCC application processing resumed January 3. DXCC processing ground to a halt December 23 after a computer server that supported the DXCC software failed. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said he's glad to report that the DXCC system once again seems stable, and DXCC applications from late September are being entered into the system this week.

The Information Services Department (ISD) determined that the old DXCC server had reached the end of its useful life. After replacing a power supply and attempting to resuscitate the aging

hardware, ISD shifted the application to another available server. Mills said system downtime actually was less than two weeks. "With Christmas, New Year's Day and associated vacations, we probably didn't lose a full two weeks, but on the calendar, we lost two weeks," he allowed.

The even better news is that the current DXCC system is slated for an upgrade that will interface with both Logbook of the World (now undergoing beta testing) and the ARRL Web site. Mills says this will allow field checkers to take further advantage of electronic data input and speed processing time by as much as 75 percent.

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First Class Mail

Time Dated Material.

Please Expedite!!