

## A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 9

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

### \*\*\* A NEW ERA – cont'd \*\*\*

El presidente, Frank Smith, WA6VKZ, ruled the roost in 1981. The Club decided to sponsor an Explorer Post and Vic, N6AHB; Alfred, WD6DIY; Judy, WA6HEL; and Bill, WD6ESS, volunteered to help. Lloyd Harwood, WB6ULU, was appointed the ARES Liaison to Flotilla 24 of the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary. The OCARC club breakfast moved to Miles Square Country Club. The Club held a picnic at Craig Park in April. We camped at El Toro Marine Air Station for our 24-hour Field Day on June 27-28. The USMC erected some large "base tents" for the club to use at FD. Very memorable was the hibachi grill that Kei-W6NGO set up inside one FD tent for snacks on Saturday night...the tent was full of smoke and wonderful aromas and a little sake. N6AHB, Vic, handled the new Novice Class. The Club also offered a General Class license training course.

Robin Hoff, KA6HappyNewYear, hopped to the presidency in 1982. The monthly Club breakfast and Board meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday mornings moved to the Cookbook Restaurant in Tustin. Frank Smith, VKZ, donated an ICOM-215 for a fund raiser raffle prize at Field Day! Vic Alvey, N6AHB, and Carl Rodgers, N6FYG, handled the Novice Class training for the Club. Alex, W6RE, headed up the Bike-a-thon for the American Cancer Society. Field Day was held on June 26-27, at Centennial Park in Santa Ana. Mayor Gordon Bricken of Santa Ana issued a Proclamation declaring June 26-27 "AMATEUR RADIO WEEKEND" in the City of Santa Ana! The Christmas banquet was held at Black Angus Restaurant in Garden Grove.

Al Watts, W6IBR, lit up the presidency in 1983. One thousand thanks to: Al's XYL, Dotty, W6IBP, and their YL, Jane [later to become KC6TAM], for the baked goodies at Club meetings and for the tireless hours they spent in service to the OCARC! The Club then started planning for the 1983 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention held Sept. 3-4, in Anaheim. Field Day Chmn., Frank, WA6VKZ (an ex-Marine), procured the MCAS(H) in Santa Ana for Field Day. Ernie, WA6FOW, set up and operated W6ZE for

Pony Express Days in the Garden Grove Post Office. The Christmas Banquet was enjoyed at the Tulsa Rib Company on South Bristol in Santa Ana. OCARC's share of proceeds from the ARRL Convention was \$1,268, plus return of \$200 seed money needed to prepare for the Convention.

Marine captain, Chris Breller KA6IMP [now KJ6ZH], marched to the presidency in 1984. The Club sponsored Novice Class training with over 20 students in the class...9 new novices was the result! The Club picnicked at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley on May 20. June 23 & 24 found the OCARC camped again at a site on the USMC Helicopter Base in Santa Ana. Over the years, Ken Konechy, W6HHC, has tirelessly given a program annually on past Field Days...We owe him a debt of gratitude! Al, W6IBR; Dotty, W6IBP; and YL, Jane, arranged the Orange County Council's Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair. Also working at the booth were Chris, IMP; Lloyd, ULU; and Ernie, FOW. The booth was open from July 6 thru the 15<sup>th</sup>...And OCARC won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize!...(It was OCARC's turn to arrange & manage the Booth that year). The Club's Saturday breakfast moved to Mimi's Café in Tustin. Club members gathered at Doheny Beach for fun & games on Aug. 19. Chris Breller, IMP, started a Technician/General Class on Nov. 3. The Christmas Banquet was held in December at Victorian Broiler in Garden Grove.

In 1985, Bob Eckweiler, AF6C, assumed the presidency. Programs featured Fast-Scan ATV, OSCAR Satellite Communications, Remote Base & Cross Band Link Systems, Packet Radio, an ARRL movie "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier", Field Day, Club History, and many others! Jane Watts received the "Good of the Club" Award. 1985 also recorded an increase in the 15m CW & Phone nets: IMP, IBR, EZU, ULU, and IXN were all heard on the CW Net on 21.175 MHz, while the Phone Net included BPX, IXN, IMP, AF6C, HHC, NGO, XO, and KG6OK on 21.375 MHz. Club members got badges once again at a cost of \$3.25 each. W6RE, K6LJA, and IXN were all involved with handling health & welfare traffic for the nuns in St. Francis Home in Santa Ana just after the Mexico City 8.2 magnitude earthquake.

(To be continued next month  
...Bob Evans, WB6IXN, Club Historian)