

A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 11

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

*** THE MODERN ERA – cont'd ***

1988

Ken Konechy, W6HHC, was wielding the president's gavel in 1988. FCC was taking up to 10 weeks to issue licenses. WB6IXN was handling the club's 15M Phone Net, and various OPs were NC for the 2M Net. Chris KA6IMP, Bob AF6C, Will Galusha WD1GDZ, Ken W6HHC, Frank WA6VKZ, and Mark Stanford N6QMW were all operating PACKET radio! Board Meetings were still being held in Le Grande Café in Santa Ana.

Lu Hurlbut, W1YZG, told members of his experiences in the 1957 highest solar peak in history! John, NG7D, was awarded a very impressive 1000 miles/watt QRP certificate using a Heathkit HW-8 rig! Frank Smith WA6VKZ, Corky Corcoran W5BYG, Ron Toering KB6EZP, Ken Konechy W6HHC, and Karl Klos all worked the Tustin Relays in April. A thank-you letter from Margaret Ramondetti, the Meet Director and Tustin HS Athletic Director, was sent to the Club!

Field Day was held on June 25-26 at Centennial Park in Santa Ana and OCARC managed to amass over 1500 contacts! Two "N6UC awards" were earned at FD; one by Frank WA6VKZ, who left a feedline off the now erected 40M dipole, and another by Chris KA6IMP, who left the rotor control cable lying on the ground after erection of the 20M beam!

The OCARC provided security duties for the 1988 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention at Disneyland, with 22 Club members and XYLs helping out! The Club received a total of \$1,300 for its participation in the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention!

The 'RF' Newsletter editing was rotated among members. The following were editors of 'RF' during 1988: AF6C (2 issues), W6HHC (2), WA6VKZ (2), N6JSV (2), KA6IMP (2), and Mark Stanford KJ6JC (now W6MCS) (2). It turned out that KA6IMP couldn't do the April 'RF' edition because he was getting married!

*** An OCARC Wedding ***

Chris Breller, KA6IMP (now KJ6ZH), and Jane Watts, NØNE (no call in 1988, later she became KC6TAM), picked April 1988 to resonate on the same frequency! The shack (church) was highly decorated for the occa-

sion. (see pix in Club's historical records) Al W6IBR's (father of the bride) bald head reflected high SWR while Chris and Jane's low SWR drew the attention of OPs, guests and harmonics alike. The marriage vows on closely coupled circuits concluded a very successful QSO! Immediately after the ceremony, Chris & Jane cut the QRN, with Jane shoving a piece of cake into Chris' mouth to complete the transfer of energy. Later, with rigs loaded, close coupling, and antennas in resonance, Jane & Chris retired to experience closer QSOs!

The Christmas Party was held at the Temple Gardens in Garden Grove on Dec. 16. Alex, W6RE, had been confirmed as Asst. Director to the ARRL for the Club.

1989

Frank Smith, WA6VKZ, was gaveled in as the 1989 president with a program on Earthquakes that followed. This was Frank's second time as club president. Frank WA6VKZ would eventually go on to hold the position of President a record five times. Past president, Ralph "Alex" Alexander W6RE was airing the Westlink Tapes for the Club weekly nets.

The Club thanked Bob, KI6UL, for undertaking the copying (aka "publishing") duties of the 'RF' newsletter. Ken Konechy W6HHC included a county-wide summary of 1988 Field Day results in Jan. 'RF' Newsletter. In Feb. 'RF', WB6IXN published an article on the Mercalli Scale vs. the Richter Scale.

In March, the Club's monthly Breakfast switched locations to Denny's Restaurant on E. 17th St in Santa Ana. The Club held a Pizza Party at the Chicago Pizza Factory in Santa Ana, on March 18. Alex W6RE, was appointed ARRL Asst. Director to Fried WA6WZO, the ARRL SW Dir. The Club Nets in 1989 were 2m FM, 15m SSB, 15m CW, and 2m Packet.

NO CODE radio license ideas were now creeping into amateur radio...an OCARC straw vote in March showed 18 members were in favor of NO CODE, 9 were against!

Field Day found the Club once again at Centennial Park in Santa Ana. The ARRL HAMCON 1989 Convention was held at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel on August 25, 26, & 27. Vic Leonard, WA6RNA won a Veterans Administration Award for his dedication and work with veterans in amateur radio.

(To be continued next month

...Bob Evans, WB6IXN, Club Historian)