

A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 13

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

*** THE MODERN ERA – cont'd ***

1992

In 1992, for the fourth time Frank Smith WA6VKZ once again picked up the president's gavel. Then the club again lost its meeting place when the Republic Federal Savings bank on 17th Street was sold. The OCARC moved meeting locations to the Anaheim EOC., 909 E. Vermont, Anaheim, for February meeting! Bob WB6IXN and Nancy N6XQR were handling the CW Net on 21.175 MHz on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm local time. An information page on the local WA6TWF "Super System" appeared in Jan. 'RF' newsletter.

The Club scheduled a square dance for Fri., March 27, and a 'Camp-In' April 24, 25, & 26 at Indian Cove Campground, in Joshua Tree National Monument. WB6IXN, Bob, calls the square dances, and brother, Lee, with Don & Carol Thompson, provide the music, at the Orange Police/Fire Substation at 8525 Fort Road. Then on April 22, just before the club campout, there was a 6.1 mag. Earthquake centered very near the 'Camp-In' site to be held on April 24-26. Most Ops felt at least two aftershocks!

Field Day was held June 27-28, at the USMC Air Base in Tustin. The Club operated 5A, with Don Hughes, KC6ONZ, cooking food for the operators and visitors. The Club amassed 2,983 QSOs for 7,530 points. During Field Day on Sunday morning, the Landers 7.4 magnitude and the Big Bear 6+ magnitude earthquakes struck! Tents, trailers and equipment rattled and rolled, giving FD Ops a chance to work under real emergency conditions, since commercial power in various parts of Southern CA was knocked out from several minutes to days depending on you location. John Dawson, WA6RND, decided to operate Field Day on his own in Joshua Tree National Monument. His trailer was parked not more than 10 miles from the epicenter! WA6RND was operating CW at the time, and he was literally thrown up in the air and was unable to stand up during the initial shock! Luckily, John was not injured. Rolf Franzke, KK6QW...now KK7LX, suffered major damage to his Big Bear chalet from the Big Bear quake.

In June, the 15m CW Net moved to 40m at 7.140 MHz with John, WA6RND, as Net Control signing as W6ZE.

Jim, N6XTJ, and Chris, KJ6ZH, were auctioneers for the Oct. Club Auction. The Club netted \$277 on the auction. The Christmas Banquet was held at the Officers Club Dec.20, 1992 at the USMCAS in Tustin. There was a gift exchange. Don, KC6ONZ, was awarded the 1992 'Good of the Club' plaque.

1993

La Presidente Jane Breller, KC6TAM, took up the gavel in 1993. W6RE, Alex, was airing NewsLine Tapes as part of the club Wednesday evening nets. In Feb, "Tom" Thomas – WA6PFA was featured in an ATV article in the OC Register titled, "Do-It-Yourself TV". The article showed a picture of WA6PFA in his shack, talking with, and watching Bud Barkhurst, WA6VPP, (a past president) on his ATV monitor. WA6PFA also installed ATV at the Orange PD station for emergency use. Tom-WA6PFA was one of the founding members of the COAR (City of Orange Amateur Radio) RACES group that was always populated with many hams from OCARC. Although not mentioned in previous OCARC history articles, the Club continues to work many public service events, every year! The Club always supplies operators to help provide communications during the 120-mile-long Law Enforcement "Baker-to-Vegas" running race and to help run the Amateur Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair. The booth is sponsored by the OCCARO (Orange Council of Amateur Radio Organizations) and is supported by all the local radio clubs.

The Club Lake Hemet Campout was held May 14, 15, and 16. The Club campout at Lake Hemet got rained out! In May or June, Jim Rafferty N6RJ, a past member and the manager at the HRO "candy store", became a Silent Key.

1993 Field Day found Larry, VDP, as Band Coordinator and Don KC6ONZ handled cooking chores. Larry Beilin K6VDP announced that the Club would be operating 4A at Field Day. Field Day was held once again at the USMC's Lighter-Than-Air Base in Tustin. The Club garnered 3,063 QSOs for 8,136 points. OCARC took 1st place in California for Class 4A at Field Day!

The Club Annual Christmas Banquet was held Dec. 12 at the Country Harvest, Katella & Euclid, Anaheim.

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