

A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 14

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

*** THE MODERN ERA – cont'd ***

1994

The OCARC of 1994 ushered in a new Board with Chris Breller, KJ6ZH, wielding the gavel. The 6.6 magnitude Northridge Earthquake shook up club members at 4:30am on Jan 17! The Club voted not to work in the upcoming (1995) ARRL Southwestern Division Convention to be held on the Queen Mary.

With sunspots improving 10M propagation again, the members were reminded that the Club's 10-10 number is 18,000, obtained back in 1975. The Club dues at this time were noted as: regular member: \$12.00, teenage member: \$6.00, and additional family members: \$6.00 each.

Field Day found the Club operating class 4A at the MCAS, Tustin, in the corner of the Marine Corp Helicopter Base nearest Red Hill & Barranca. Past President Jane Breller, KC6TAM, provided the cooking for Field Day. The Club scored 3,102 QSO's for 8,078 points. OCARC was 6th place in the Nation and 1st in CA for Field Day.

Many club members helped to staff the Orange County Fair Ham Radio Booth sponsored by OCCARO. During the summer, Bob Tegel KD6XO recruited about ten club members to provide communications for the California Classic Horse Carriage Event.

The Club Breakfast moved to the Wildflower Restaurant on Grand Ave in Santa Ana (the old Le Grande Café location) The Annual Club Auction took place on Oct. 21. We netted about \$250 from the Auction. At year's end, the OCARC voted to move the meetings from the Anaheim EOC to the Red Cross Center, Golden Circle Drive, off 4th Street in Santa Ana.

The annual Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 10, 1994, at Marie Callenders Restaurant on First St. in Tustin. Gifts were exchanged.

1994

In January 1995, president Jim Roberts, N6XTJ was at the helm as the Club officially moved the meeting location from the Anaheim EOC to the American Red Cross Chapter Headquarters, 601 N. Golden Circle Drive, in Santa Ana. The OCARC badges (engraved round plastic) sold for

\$5.00 at the time.

Alex Alexander W6RE and Bob Buss KD6BWH were taking turns airing Newsline tapes on the club's Wednesday night nets. The Newsline audio report was down loaded by telephone onto a tape recorder...and then the tape recorder was played through the 2M rig for the net broadcast. Bob KD6BWH was learning how to take over the Newsline net duties from Alex W6RE, who had performed the duty for many, many years.

The Club elected Bob Buss, KD6BWH, to replace Alex, W6RE, as Assistant Director for the Orange Section and represent our Club. The Club began selling tickets for raffle of a new Kenwood 2m radio. The 'O.J. Simpson Soap Opera' kept members glued to their TVs! Bob, KD6BWH, began officially airing Newsline for the Club on the 2M Net in April.

Ken Konechy, W6HHC, and Bob Eckweiler, AF6C, were Field Day co-Chairmen. Field Day found the Club once again at the USMC Air Station in Tustin between Warner & Dyer off Red Hill on June 24-25, the same site since 1991. In 1995, the ARRL annual Field Day was 63 years old for amateur radio! Channel 7 ran the OCARC Field Day Announcement on their Weekly Calendar. Frank Smith, WA6VKZ, handled chow chores very successfully for Field Day! The Club amassed 2,597 QSOs for 6,944 points. We were 1st in our Class for California!

As soon as FD was over, the club members turned their attention to assisting with the staffing of the Orange County Fair Amateur Radio Booth. The 2m Kenwood radio was raffled at the June Meeting. HAMCON '95 (ARRL Southwestern Division Convention) was held aboard the Queen Mary on Sept. 3-5, 1995. The duties of all OCARC Officer positions were published in Aug. 1995 'RF' newsletter.

Bob Tegel KD6XO recruited club members to provide communications for the California Classic Horse Carriage Event held near Pacific Palisades in August. The Annual Club Auction took place Oct. 20, 1995, with Club profits equaling \$182.50, with only 7 sellers!

The Club Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 10, 1995, at the Marie Callenders Restaurant, then located on 1st Street, in Tustin.

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