

## A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 15

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

### \*\*\* THE MODERN ERA – cont'd \*\*\*

#### 1996

President Bob Eckweiler, AF6C, picked up the gavel for the January 1996 Club meeting. John KD6PZF helped with ham radio communications for the Rose Parade on New Years Day.

The Saturday morning Board Meeting Breakfasts were held at the Wildflower Café on Grand Ave in Santa Ana. Some years back, the Activities Chairman would secretly designate a 'Mr(s) RF' prior to each meeting. Mr. RF would keep track of the 3rd person to shake his/her hand, and that person would receive extra raffle tickets...More tickets were awarded if that person was wearing a Club badge! The Club voted to re-instate Mr. RF that year.

The Orange County Amateur Radio Club becomes recognized as a Special Services Club by the ARRL for the first time. Ken-W6HHC, Frank-WA6VKZ, Bud-WA6VPP, Bob-KD6BWH, Tom-WA6PFA, and Phil-KK6QE (now N7PA) helped with communications for the Baker-to-Vegas Race in April for the Orange Police Department running team.

Chris- KJ6ZH volunteered to be Field Day Chairman, and Frank-WA6VKZ was Chief Cook. Field Day was held once again at the MCAS(Helicopter) Base in Tustin. The Club operated Class 4A with 2,609 QSOs for 7,696 points.

The OCARC Annual Auction took place on Oct. 18, 1996. The Club nets +or- \$800 from the Club Auction and K6VDP's sale of a Club tower. Art, KE6WOX, filled in for Activities Chmn. for the remainder of the year for KJ6TK.

The Club Christmas Dinner found the Club at the Chinese China Palace on Dec. 8. A gift exchange was held, and children under 10 received a gift from the Club. The 1996 'Good of the Club Award' was awarded to Art Dillon, KE6WOX. Finally in 1996, AF6C was awarded his 'Good of the Club' Award from 1981, thanks to detective work by Ken-W6HHC.

#### 1997

President Frank Smith, WA6VKZ, was found pounding the gavel at meetings in 1997 for a club-record fifth time. Bob-WB6IXN worked OCARC charter member, Shelley Trotter, W6BAM, who was living in Firebaugh, CA, on 40M CW.

Larry-K6VDP and Larry-K6LDC co-chaired Field Day. Field Day was held June 28-29 at the Marine Corps Helicopter base in Tustin with setup getting started on the 27th. Steve-KE6NAH, Frank-WA6VKZ, and Bob-KM6TL shared cooking duties for Field Day. Raw FD scores were: 2,152 QSOs for 5,024 points.

Kei Yamachika, W6NGO, a long-time OCARC member beginning in the mid-1930's, became a Silent Key in July 1997. The Club voted unanimously to rename the 'Good of the Club Award' to the 'W6NGO Good of the Club Award' in memory of Kei. His widow, Ida, set up the Kei Yamachika Trust Fund from the sale of his station that is still making donations to the club in 2009.

OCARC members were involved with quite a few events during 1997. Several members worked the Baker-to-Vegas relay run in early April. W6ZE held its 1st 'Not-so-DXpedition' April 25-27 at the El Mirage Dry Lake Bed through the efforts of Larry K6LDC. Members from the OCARC staffed the Amateur Radio Booth at the Orange County Fair. Club volunteers provided communications for the California Classic Marathon horse-carriage competition in Palos Verdes that was organized by Bob-KD6XO. A second Not-so-DXpedition to El Mirage Dry Lake Bed was held in October. Tom-WA6PFA performed public service televising the October fire in Orange to the Orange P.D EOC using ATV.

HAMCON '97, the ARRL Southwestern Div. Convention, was held Sept. 12-14 in Riverside. Chris Brelle KJ6ZH produced the Wouff Hong Ceremony at the ARRL Southwestern Convention with the help of many OCARC members. Bud-WA6VPP recorded the Wouff Hong Ceremony, and a CD was placed in the Club Historical Records.

The Club made a profit of \$119.64 at the Annual Club Auction. The Club Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 13 at Country Harvest Buffet in Orange. The "W6NGO Good of the Club" Award was presented to Chris Brelle, KJ6ZH.

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