



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

VOL. XXXIII NO. 9

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92681

SEPTEMBER, 1992

Prez Sez

by Frank Smith, WA6VKZ

The last two issues of RF did not have a Prez Sez, which was probably a big relief to many of you. July's Prez Sez was absent because of my cross country driving vacation.

Some observations on hamming and cross country driving. An elaborate VHF/UHF setup is not a necessity. Prior to the vacation, I marked the open repeaters for 2 meters and 440 along my route on road maps. I should have not wasted my time. Once out of the L.A. Basin until I reached north-eastern Ohio (about 2500 miles of driving.) While in southwest-ern Michigan, I located a listed open repeater, but received no response. I have an idea that the owner/trustee might have been the only permanent occupant of that repeater (monitored for several days.) Repeater activity picked up as I headed farther east.

It appears that the inhabitants of repeaters don't respond to out of area hams (travelers, tourists, etc.) for any number of reasons, some of which might be: can't be bothered, don't want to start a QSO that might end abruptly (losing repeater by traveler, starting work or chores, etc. by the local.) If I hear any calls by what appears to be out of area hams, I hope I can respond.

Had quite a few QSOs on 20 which provided a lot of fun and enjoyment. Had a schedule with Nancy, N6XQR, which was kept about 50% of the time.

After my four week vacation, I returned to my desk at work and lo and

behold, the paperwork hadn't disappeared, but in reality got deeper and didn't make time for a Prez Sez in August.

Skipper, KC6WJJ, is attempting to put together an Amateur Awareness Day on September 19th. Hopefully two set-ups -- one at the City Mall and one at the Orange Mall. The one single factor that

SPEAKER NOTES

Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, another first for amateur radio? Radio amateurs may be the first to detect signals from other civilizations. The program will explore the basic technical and philosophical issues and will discuss how amateurs can (and are) participating in SETI. Art is a candidate for Vice Director of the ARRL Southwest Division.

September 18th Program: Art Goddard, W6XD

will make this event a success is your participation -- Call Skipper. 73, Frank

CLUB NOTES

The Annual Auction is coming next month. The rules will be the same as last year.

Sellers: Register, receive Seller's tags, indicate/confirm minimum bid for each item. 10% of the selling price goes to OCARC. Please bring items related to ham radio and electronics. Lowest minimum bid is \$1.00. You may make a grabbag of several items. If a Seller wishes to describe an item in detail, do so on a card and tape the card to the item. Mark each item with its minimum bid.

Buyers: Register, receive a bidder's card, show your card when you have won a bid.

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COMING SOON!

October Meeting ANNUAL AUCTION

November Meeting ELECTIONS

December No Meeting HOLIDAY BANQUET

QRP HF - Fun and Educational

by Clark Turner, WA3JPG

QRP has been defined as operation with output power below 5 watts, or 10 watts P.E.P (SSB) by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International. Traditionally, it refers to HF operation below 30 Mhz, or wherever skywave propagation is relied upon. However, the true spirit of QRP operation is to use the lowest power possible to communicate, and to maximize efficiency of antennas, feedlines, and operating procedures. As the QRP club states, "power is no substitute for skill."

QRP stories abound, and some of them are probably true. When 10 meters is "hot" (at the peak of the 11 year sunspot cycle) sometimes 1 watt into a coat hanger antenna will get a good signal report from the other side of the world. It doesn't happen all that often, but it does happen. But what about the other HF bands? How about 20 meter CW with 1 watt output into a dipole. How about 40

or 75 meter SSB with 5 watts output into a mobile whip antenna about 6 feet high? During the right conditions, these combinations can work surprisingly well. I am surprised over and over (but, then, I am easily amused....I've been in ham radio for almost 25 years now).

QRP is NOT pushbutton, armchair communication. It takes skill and lots of patience. But sometimes, with a reasonable antenna and decent conditions, you will do just as well as many other high powered stations within a few db (not much difference!) In fact, a 5 watt signal will get only a little over 2 "S" units below a 150 watt signal (all other things being equal). If conditions are reasonable, and the 100 watt radios are all stronger than "S9", say, you can come up with your little 2 watt QRP station and figure you might be nearly "S7", and much better if you have been really efficient in your antenna design! The only thing that is disconcerting about this is that some other hams get really annoyed when they have given you a good signal report, you return a similar report, and then you tell them you are operating QRP. (I have

actually been called a liar on more than one occasion!) For a few hams, buying some really expensive radio and antenna is supposed to mean a big signal. In many cases, it just doesn't equate to big signals, and an efficient QRP signal can do a comparable job.

One key to QRP operation is an efficient antenna. Now, operation can be just fine with an "average" antenna. A poor antenna will just not work with QRP though. One real advantage of QRP operation is that you can build antennas with nearly invisible magnet wire, and feed it with cheap TV 300 ohm twin lead that is also not conspicuous (Radio Shack sells it in a translucent color). Antenna tuners can be built using cheap little parts from old cannibalized receivers. Other advantages of QRP operation include small size and power consumption (you can run the radio on flashlight batteries for many hours), lower cost, and homebrew QRP projects abound in ham magazines that are at the level of the casual homebrewer (my speed!) TVI is almost NEVER a problem for the QRP operator since the power levels used are so low!

Commercial QRP HF rigs are out there, fairly inexpensive, and easy to service. There are several new QRP rigs on the market, like the MFJ, but the cost is higher than on the used market. The MFJ 20 meter CW transceiver with antenna tuner and battery pack can cost you over \$300, while the transceiver alone will cost about \$180. This is fine, but a little high for my tastes. I have seen old Ten Tec PM3A's (40/20 meter 5 watt CW transceiver) for well under \$50 at swap meets. These are not quite as sophisticated as the MFJ, but, heck, for the price you can work the world...and I know that for me, when I pay a lower price for a used rig, I am more likely to get in there and fiddle around with the radio and "fix" [well, sometimes "break"] it up to my own specs. I have seen the similar Heathkit HW-7 for under \$50, and the higher quality HW-8 and HW-9 radios going for considerably more.

If you like SSB operation in addition to CW, and you like 5 band HF coverage, the most available QRP rig is the Ten Tec

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1992 CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President.....	Frank Smith.....	WA6VKZ.....	838-3180
Vice President	Bob Eckweiler.....	AF6C.....	639-5074
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CLUB APPOINTMENTS

Club Historian	Bob Evans.....	WB6IXN.....	543-9111
W6ZE Trustee.....	Bob Eckweiler.....	AF6C.....	639-5074
RF Editor	Nancy Bucher.....	N6XQR.....	537-8728
Refreshments.....	Cindy Hughes.....	KC6OPI.....	971-3448

DUES

Regular Member.....	\$12.00	Additional Family Members ..	\$6.00 each
Teenage Members (under 20).....	\$6.00	Optional Club Badge.....	\$5.00

Dues for new members are prorated quarterly from January of each year. Family members must reside at the address of a Regular Member. One RF is sent per household.

On the Nets -- July, 1992

by Bob Evans, WB6IXN

15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in XO, NGO, XTJ, RND, & IXN. XO has plenty of OPs for the upcoming equestrian event in Palos Verdes. Bob prepares the motorhome, but finds time to short sprint his 'bicycleta' up to 23.5 mi/hr.! IXN covers the 3.0 event in the Hollywood/Montrose area & alerts OPs to ongoing & continued seismic activity between Barstow & Ridgecrest. NGO replaces the brushes in the starter motor on the tractor. And voila!..When Kei pushes the button, the motor hops, skips, & jumps!! And Kei will plaster wid friend tomorrow. (note: We didn't say 'get plastered'!) XTJ has weak copy on XO & IXN. Jim's sigs are weak at IXN's QTH, too. RND keeps log of EQ articles from the Register, & John copies all OPs FB tonite, but doesn't bother to tell OPs any 'horse stories on a bicycle'!

8/5 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in AF6C, KC6TAM & ZH (on landline), XTJ, HHC, RND, RE, VDP, ONZ, QW, & OPI (on HT). ZH & TAM felt the 3.0 event (above) slightly. And Jane continues to drool over ZH's mountain of QSL cards. And TAM is learning shortcuts at work..She got off at 5 instead of 7 pm! IBR & IBP survived their 7.5 adventure wid no damage in Moreno Valley. XTJ has no movement on the S meter for XO or IXN on 15m tonite. HHC will be helping XO & crew at the equestrian event in Palos Verdes, & Ken & family just completed a backpacking adventure on the Little Kern River near Porterville. Did you see any landslides or feel any EQs, Ken? RND contemplates parking the RV in the Montrose/Hollywood area..Maybe a larger event will follow him! Enuf of that!. John gets bk to the Olympics! RE 'peaks the Perseids' at 15:10 PDT on Aug. 11, airs Newline, 'ducks the heat', & gets sum yard work done. VDP talks wid Rolf on 6m today, & works Colo., Idaho, & Ore. wid 2 new grid squares. Gary is also painting in the QTH & watching the Olympics. W6ZE catches ONZ on the way to pick up OPI, who uses the auto rig after she is car-born. Cindy sees pix of RC Damage Assessment people at a meeting tonite. Aftershocks of 6.5 Big Bear event puts the 'finishing touches' on QW's hot water tank. Rolf installs a new one as he ponders the doors that don't meet at the mountain QTH! And QW gets almost a pound of QSL cards from the Bureau! And Rolf enjoys 6m, working Colo., 3 Ore., Utah & Wash. in abt 1 1/2 hrs.! IXN loses his audio precisely at the end of net!

8/6 40m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXN, JPG, & NT, wid IXN catching KM6KI, Bill, marine mobile, in Sausalito, at net's end. RND says all sigs are better wid the new quakes, baseball, football, & the Olympics activity! And Crystal seismo continues to sing her tones, only warbling when mother Nature shakes her to break the monotony, says IXN! IXN warns OPs of possible impending seismic activity in the area between Barstow & Ridgecrest, & Rnd might go camping in Lone Pine to make use of the earthquake kit he won at Club meeting! No wonder XQR can't copy the net..Nancy found a drooping leg on

her 15m ant.! And JPG, here from Maine, finds CA. heat adjustment a problem! But that doesn't keep Clark from doing a FB job on his new keyer, or hving fun working QRP SSB on 40m! RND has the grandkids from Bishop wid him tonite. And maybe John will give them the EQ kit to take home wid them, wid all the micro-quakes in the White Mts.! NT & IXN hear an off freq. sig, which disappears! And Ray hears all OPs RST 589, wid sum QRN!

8/12 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in RND, XTJ, NGO, XQR, IXN, & XO. XO says there were plenty of OPs on hand for the Palos Verdes Equestrian Event, the only injury being a broken foot suffered by the Event organizer! And Bob trax all Club OPs who helped! RND invites all OPs to join us on the CW net tomorrow eve., and NGO sets a pipe in abt 10 cu. ft. of concrete..Flagpole!?.Naaaa..An antenna mast! AF6C, all sweaty after working outside, turns on the fan, calls the net for check-ins, & contemplates a cool shower after net! IXN repairs the mike cord on the 7400-A, & discusses EQs. XTJ announces an interesting coordinated T-Hunt planned for the Convention, and to be held within the Building on 146.565!..Sounds like fun!! XQR tells AF6C it's too late to get the Alincoblurp in this 'RF'..More abt this at Club meeting! In the meantime, Nancy repairs the drooping leg on her 15m dipole!..See you on CW tomorrow nite, Nancy!

8/12 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in KE, XTJ, AF6C, ZH & TAM, HHC, RE, OPI, RND, VDP & XQR. IXN misses AF6C's turn in the roll call! Bob's shower is delayed! How do things like this happen?!Sorry, Bob! KE amuses himself wid 20m AMTOR, and promises XQR an article on OSCAR for an upcoming 'RF'! XTJ picks up a Super Dfer..Now Jim has to build the antennas!..Problems, problems! ZH & TAM continue to rack up the DX QSLs as Jane battles an annoying gall bladder problem. IXN tells OPs that a research article on Vitamin C says kidney stone & gallstone sufferers shudn't take more than 500 mg of vitamin C per day! Jury duty, the heat, and computer projects keep HHC busy at present. However, Ken enjoyed himself at the equestrian event in Palos Verdes! RE & XYL just got home from the El Toro Marine Band concert in a Tustin park. Alex never did hear H44GC on Guadal Canal, but he did get the tree trimmed to size, read the propagation rpt. to OPs, & aired an interesting Newline! Wid FZE occupied elsewhere, ONZ 'plays computer', and OPI tells OPs abt the upcoming RC VE session on Wed. eves., fer those who can't make weekend sessions! RND joins a musical group..He plays guitar, and the group plays at community centers, etc. John also marks off the Landers, Barstow, Ridgecrest area on his map to see if future EQs occur there. VDP says QW is busy repairing his EQ damaged houses in Big Bear. And Larry talks to the Reno & N. CA. areas yesterday during a 6m opening! Larry has over 100 grids, but needs a few more states for the WAS. XQR transports her dinner dishes to the sink as Nancy wonders if the kitty-cats caused her leg to droop on the 15m dipole. Nancy's VE team will be at the Airporter Inn on Sun., walk-ins at abt 4:30 pm. XTJ gives OPs info on a packet BBS.

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Net Notes - Continued from Page 3

8/13 40m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXN, XQR, NT, UF, & KM6KI in Sausalito! IXN tells RND that he QSOed wid KI, Bill, at the end of net last week. XQR, her 'drooping leg' once agn stretched, is heard by all OPs! KI lives on a boat in Sausalito. And RND & OPs get their 'RFs' today! NT hears Bill FB, and RND, stomach sticking to his ribs, awaits the dinner call! Nancy announces the VE session this Sun., & will practice copying her own code test! UF, QRP, loves the DX frm Sausalito. IXN misses name of Bill's radio club, but gets name of his boat, "Perico"! We will be sending Bill a copy of the 'RF'.
8/19 15m phone net - A first! W6ZE/AF6C checks in RND & IXN, all three of us net controls..Our 1st NC Net in OCARC history! IXN runs his papa arnd to Kaiser installations fer various testing. RND enjoys a beautiful sunset this evening as he contemplates flying his model airplanes at Mile Square Park. AF6C finishes the Noise Bridge & does an excellent job of calibrating it. As for spiders, join IXN and get Green Lynxs arnd the QTH! They are hunters, & spin very little web!

8/19 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in AF6C, TAM & ZH, XTJ, RND, RE, VDP, KD6KSP, Mike, NG7D, & XQR. TAM, avoiding that 'yellow look', has painfully produced 57 gallstones in her GB! That must be sum sort of a record!! However, wid Bermuda confirmed, ZH beats that record wid '80 countries on the wall'! Chris & Jane will Club meet on Fri., Convention on Sat., & cruise out of Marina del Rey on Sun.! XTJ eavesdrops on the end of the 15m net, busying himself wid packet, AMTOR, and mucho court work! RND has a wedding Sat., & John has a Convention ticket to give away at Club meeting! RE, armed wid apron & pots & pans, cooks fer a houseful of company, ie: daughters & grandson, as Alex attempts to avoid 'dishpan hands'! RE also announces the successful orbit of OSCAR 23! Alex will Convention Sat., & airs Newsline fer net OPs! VDP will Convention on Fri. eve., having his QSLs confirmed fer DXCC! On Sat., Larry & QW will be there fer the early technical talks! KSP will set this Convention out. Mack just got his license! NG7D & VES will get over to the Convention early to catch the exhibits, then bk Sun. to hear the CETI talk at breakfast! XQR tnx KE, FD, BCH, & XM fer helping wid the VE session last Sun. 50 people tested, & WA3JPG gets his Xtra..Congrats, Clark!!

8/20 40m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXN, NT, XQR, KI, & KE! Wow!..Who says everyone hates CW?!! Even wid heavy QRN, we had a great time! XQR's sigs evidently can't be heard by KE, & when NC goes over to XQR, bk booms KE! Or else, Carmine likes your call, Nancy! (AB6KE does flow easily off your paddle, Nancy!) IXN busied himself moving books in a school library. KI sends cards to W6ZE fer net OPs. We'll see if they are picked up in the Club mail! NT, like many of us, has seen enuf of the Repub. Conv., & joins us on the net. And Ray says, "Just wait until Nov.!!" And XQR has 'RF' sent to KI as long as Bill continues to ck in to our net. KI is on a boat

in Sausalito. Wid the weak sigs & QRN, RND does a masterful job as NC!

8/26 15m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in NGO, IXN, & XQR. Kei's dog has a bladder infection, & AF6C is involved wid building sum more projects at the shack. And Bob says HHC won't be on 15 until he gets the antenna up, finishes jury duty, & gets bk frm a trip out of town! IXN keeps one ear on the net & the other on a nervous Crystal seismometer! IXN can't hear XQR too well. Nancy's sigs are weak tonite, wid 'white noise' on the side.

8/26 2m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in NG7D, OPI, RE, VDP, XQR, TL, BWH, TCQ, & KE. Andy Jurima, TCQ, a Newsline announcer, pleases the net wid a check-in! Glad to have you aboard, Andy! NG7D has a Century 21 up fer grabs..Any takers?? John attends the Convention last weekend wid VES, Gary. Both OPs get 'rejuvenated' at the Tesla coil demonstration! And both found the CETI presentation uninteresting. OPI tells OPs that the Red Cross gives tests fer license upgrades on Wed. eves. at 6:30pm fer those who cannot make weekend VE sessions. For their testing sched., call 714-835-5381. Tnx, Cindy. Cindy also tells us that Chris, ZH, upgrades to Xtra at the Convention, and, TAM buys him a new TS-850!! Next time Chris needs a new rig, is there a higher license he can go for?! Congrats, Chris! RE 'puts one foot in front of the other' after finding free parking in a residential area near the Convention. Alex has 877 on the hourly door prize, & you guessed it!..878 won! Closeness only counts in horseshoes! VDP & QW don't fare as well as Alex on the parking, but Larry gets his QSL cards verified fer DXCC Fri. eve. OPs, including Larry, said rooms fer talks were too small. VFC upgrades to General. Congrats, Dennis! KE drills holes in the Volvo fer a Hustler mount, makes a 40m contact in Chico, and works N2CJG in New York on AMTOR. And XQR talks wid one of her 1st 40m CW contacts at the Convention, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ! BWH & TL gets their heads together at TL's QTH getting a computer on line! RE airs Newsline tape.

8/27 40m CW net - W6ZE/RND checks in IXN, NG7D/ QRP, NT, KE, XQR, KI, KJ6ZH/AE, & KM6ZM. Great check-in, OPs! IXN eavesdrops on KM6UF's QSO wid KB7PDN just before net. And KE enjoys the great check-in tonite! NG7D gets the Tentec Argonaut up & running, & now, for a TS-850..Then the shack will be complete! ZH/AE 'flies in & flies out'. NT confirms that Nancy is a lil high in freq., & XQR then call XM, Anita, to see if she is on freq. XM comes bk to us as she fulfills the purpose of the net ..practice.. fer the Xtra ticket! NG7D enjoys IXN's description of the Kruchev shoe pounding episode a few yrs bk in the U.N. IXN & Carmine were talking on the System bfore net! KI tells Club OPs in Sausalito abt our CW net, & Bill will get the CW OPs to listen & hopefully join in on our roundtable! Tnx Bill, fer all the QSL cards! RND tells XQR she sounds QRP tonite, & promises an antenna party in Nancy's future! John can't find Anita's call on the roster. XQR explains Anita was BWQ on the old roster, but upgraded to XM since then!

Minutes General Meeting

August 21, 1992

The August meeting was called to order by the President, Frank WA6VKZ at 7:33 pm on August 21, 1992.

The following board members were absent: Carmine AB6KE, Bob S. KM6TL, and Cindy KC6OPI.

Melinda Morgan of Morgan Marketing gave a presentation on the INNOVA DC Power Pack and charger. Club members provided feedback on the design of this useful product. At N6XQR's request, Melinda graciously donated her demonstration Power Pack to the club raffle.

OLD BUSINESS

Skipper KC6WJJ is looking into holding Ham Radio Awareness Day at the Orange County Street Fair but is having problems obtaining a booth. He will talk to the City of Orange about setting up displays at the Orange Mall and the City Shopping Center on September 19th. In October he will submit an application for a booth in next year's Street Fair.

The annual Club Auction will be held at the October meeting. The rules will be published in the September "RF".

N6XTJ announced that he mailed in some petitions for the "Clean Air Act." He also had additional petitions available for those desiring to sign it.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Hall, N6EDY, proposed that the club obtain a travel trailer, remove the interior and use it to store the club's antennas, towers, generator and miscellaneous equipment. He stated that a drawback to this idea is getting a trailer donated. To this end, he prepared a letter to send out to local RV dealers to solicit the donation of a used trailer. N6EDY moved with a second by W6HHC that the club solicit a travel trailer for the aforementioned purpose. Discussion of the motion proceeded with AB6KE wanting to know the costs involved for storage and licensing. WA6VKZ stated that license fees varied with the age of the trailer. N6XTJ stated that the club is supposed to be prepared for emergencies and that the trailer was

a good idea. W6HHC brought up the fact that it now takes a minimum of 4 people several hours to load up club equipment on a truck prior to movement. N6XQR stated that this was not a good idea and that she could arrange transportation of towers and antennas on short notice. The President tabled the motion and formed a committee consisting of AB6KE, KM6BT, W6HHC, N6EDY, and N6XTJ to come up with ideas on this motion and to report back to the membership at the September 1992 meeting with a study on the cost, type, feasibility, and logistics of this motion.

The club received a letter reporting the passing of club member James Moe, N6ZOB, and containing a list of equipment being sold by the estate. The President directed that the list be published in the September 1992 "RF".

The club historian WB6LXN reported that the club history book is current and available for the members to view at the meeting.

WA6PFA reported that he made a video tape of the California Classic Carriage event which was shown on the monitors prior to the start of the meeting. KD6XO thanked all the members who helped out on this event.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The treasurer reported that the club was solvent with \$569.01 in checking and \$1173.54 in savings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - The Membership Chairman reported that the club has 122 paid members.

GOOD OF THE CLUB

W6RE provided copies of the latest ARRL bulletins and gave the frequencies for the new OSCAR 23 satellite (uplink 145.850 - 145.900 downlink 435.175). He reminded the club that hams are requested not to use this satellite for about a month to allow controllers to properly check it out.

The International Fire Chiefs Convention needs radio operators from 9/9/92 through 9/17/92. Contact Bob Berg or Bill Erickson to volunteer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. Respectfully submitted,

Jane Breller - KC6TAM, Secretary

Minutes Board Meeting

September 5, 1992

Meeting was called to order at 8:55 am by Frank, WA6VKZ.

Members absent were Bob E., AF6C, Bob S., KM6TL and Bob B., KD6BWH.

Treasurer's Report - Checking \$641.05, Savings - \$1,173.54

OLD BUSINESS

Ham Radio Awareness Day - Skipper reported that he is trying to set up a booth at the Orange Mall and the City Shopping Center on 9/19/92.

Auction - Rules will be published in the September and October 1992 "RF". The auctioneers will be Jim, N6XTJ and Chris, KJ6ZH. Mike, K6KAA will also help with bringing items to the auctioneers. The team to handle collecting money will be Carmine, AB6KE, Jane KC6TAM and Bud, WA6VPP.

Christmas Dinner - Jane, KC6TAM will contact Dave Hollander, W6COJ to clarify the date.

Trailer Committee - W6HHC announced that the first meeting will be held on 9/11/92. Ken has also gotten the locations of the club assets. He will make a list of these assets and give to The Board. It was suggested that the Vice President be in charge of the PA System. Motion was made and passed by the Board. Motion will be brought before the General Membership at the September meeting.

Election Committee - Cindy, KC6OPI reported that the slate is filling up and she has volunteers for all positions. Slate will be ready for publication in the October 1992 "RF".

Programs - The speaker for the September will be S.E.T.I. (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence). October will be the Auction, November will be the Elections and there is no general meeting in December.

NEW BUSINESS

Field Day Articles - Carmine, AB6KE, Chris, KJ6ZH, Ken, W6HHC, Mike, K6KAA and Larry, N6VDP have agreed

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QRP HF

Continued from Page 2

Argonaut. These little beauties can be found for \$150 - \$300 (the higher prices for the later models), and the all new Ten Tec Argonaut II goes for over \$1000 new right now. (I can't even dream of having a rig that expensive right now!!) The older Argonauts, the 505 and the 509 are commonly found at swap meets, and generally make fine radios. They have analog tuning, decent receivers, instant break in CW, and nice audio on SSB. They are small and light, and can be run from any 12 volt 1 amp source. I use one of these radios, and had one of the first ones made back in 1973. I like them a lot, and several other OCARC club members have them and love them. Yaesu made an FT-7 which was a similar radio but ran about 15 or 20 watts output. Atlas and Kenwood have also made QRP transceivers, but the Yaesu, Atlas and Kenwoods are not often seen on the market. There were not many made.

The keys to successful QRP HF operation include:

- LISTEN a lot. KNOW the band conditions
- OPTIMIZE your antenna the best you can. Average antennas work, but the more efficient antenna will really help!
- TIME your calls strategically. Break in when there is a lull, and use phonetics. Use a "QRP" after your call when appropriate.
- USE a good microphone when on SSB. Modulate your voice well. Watch a wattmeter or output meter to assure you drive your transmitter to full output on the average.

Often, you will not need to observe the above keys, because conditions will be such that you (and no one else) can really tell you are running QRP power. However, when trying to work DX or under marginal conditions, the above can make the difference between working the station and not. I have seen identically equipped stations where one station consistently works out well and the other does not, and it seems to be entirely due to operating procedures.

QRP down on 40 and 75 meters is

my personal favorite and can be quite a challenge - especially this summer with the high noise levels. However, when the band quiets down a bit or conditions are good enough to bring me up over the noise level, I work out quite well with my simple wire antennas hung up in nearby trees. (I have no beams. I have built my antennas from Radio Shack insulated speaker wire, some coax, and some TV twin lead. They are supported by monofilament fish line or nylon string. I use no commercial insulators, just tape. I use no baluns.)

I have worked all states on 40 meters SSB with my 100 foot dipole in about 3 months. I have also worked Australia and many South American countries, with good signal reports (late at night). I have been able to ragchew around the country comfortably with my 5 watts output on many occasions, generally when conditions are good (but not necessarily great). I have a 130 foot dipole running between two different trees that I use on 75 meters. On 75 I have worked about 30 states in about 2 months, but due to summer static, I have not been on that band for a couple of months. I have also worked QRP SSB MOBILE using a \$15 "ham stick" antenna on 40 meters. It has worked out far beyond my wildest dreams! I connect the Argonaut into my lighter plug and plug in the coax to the antenna and a mike. I am on the air, and people can hear me. It's amazing that 5 watts into a 6 foot whip on 40 meters can be heard at all, but I have had ragchews (a QSO over 30 minutes) with the east coast while driving from Sacramento to Irvine on several occasions.

On 15 meters, I use my 130 foot dipole. At such a high frequency, this "long" antenna radiates off the ends more than broadside, and this ends up sending my RF out to the South Pacific and the North East. I regularly work ZL's and VK's in New Zealand and Australia with "58" and "59" reports using my little Argonaut on SSB. This is an unexpected benefit of the particular direction that my dipole is oriented.

Overall, I want to emphasize that QRP, far from being some special, inaccessible facet of our hobby, is open to

most all of us who have some space to put up an invisible wire antenna. You can homebrew without special skills or equipment. You can ragchew or you can chase DX....or, like me, just work towards 5 band WAS using less than 5 watts phone. Wish me luck.

I know I have been very general here. If there is any more interest in this topic, I would be happy to pursue some of the more technical aspects in another article or have a QRP demo at my shack at some point. Let me know.

Minutes Board Meeting September 5, 1992 Continued from Page 5

to write and submit articles for the December "RF".

Club Call Sign - Trustee is to look up expiration date and report back to Board as to the date of license expiring.

Newsline Donation - Moved by Jane, KC6TAM and seconded by Ken, W6HHC that OCARC make a \$ 50.00 donation to Newsline for 1992. Motion was passed by the Board. Motion will be presented to general membership at the September 1992 meeting.

GOOD OF THE CLUB

International Fire Chiefs Convention - They still need clerical and communication people from 9/12/92 through 9/16/92.

Red Cross Test Sessions - Cindy, KC6OPI announced that the next test session will be on 9/9/92. Test sessions are held the second Wednesday of each month. People interested in taking test should contact Cindy for details.

Clark, WA3JPG announces that U.C.I. is forming a ham radio club. Anyone who is interested should contact Clark for more detailed information. The club call sign will be WB6KGN.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.
Respectfully submitted,
Jane Breller - KC6TAM, Secretary

Editor's Note: The N6ZOB Estate Sale List will appear in the October issue.

2-METER DX NOT SPREAD THIN

by Gordon West, WB6NOA

It has been a fun summer for 2-meter SSB DX. Some openings came by surprise--that 2-hour West Coast opening between Southern California and British Columbia, and then 2 hours later from Southern California to the Midwest. There was some great excitement for those avid 2-meter SSBers that regularly monitor 144.200, the calling frequency.

The several VHF contests during the summer also brought some good tropo DX to the 2-meter gang, too. The California/Hawaii beacon also came in, loud and clear, providing good tropospheric ducting over record-breaking distances on 2 meters.

The August Perseids meteor storm also gave 2-meter SSB operators a couple of great days and nights of brief DX contacts up to 1,000 miles away.

Yes, I would say that this past summer was a great one for 2-meter SSB DX opportunities. But I will also say it was a lousy summer for getting the best use from our hallowed spectrum between 144.100 to 144.300 MHz. There is NO WONDER why FM activity is beginning to encroach down in our region. The reason is simple. Everyone is camped out on 144.200, and even when the DX is in, they don't budge an inch, up or down the band.

Except for the well-planned, pre-arranged, Perseids meteor storm schedules, the majority of activity for random contacts was nailed down to 144.200, +/- NOTHING. When a long-lasting meteor trail would light up the band, you would hear hundreds of stations zero beat on 200, and nothing off to either side but wide-open band space. Instantly, there would be 100 replies to these stations, all on top of each other--and just when you were trying to pick out a call sign from the mess, the guy down the street started calling CQ meteor.

Same problem with many of last summer's VHF contests--a big mountain-top station would set up on 200, and would grab and wipe out any potential DX that might be coming down the line.

Hey, 2-meter SSB operators, LET'S SPREAD OUT to pre-determined limits before our next season of 2-meter SSB band openings. LET'S GET ORGANIZED! The only reason we are all bunched up, smack dab on 200, is because there may not be anyone else brave enough to try calling CQ down on 180, 190, 210, or 220.

If we can get the word out that there are WINDOWS of weak signal operation, we can make better use of all of our free band space that we may ultimately lose if we don't start using it.

Since 2-meter band conditions normally favor specific directions, how about a north/south window from 144.110 to 144.190? An east/west path might tune 144.210 to 144.275, the bottom edge of the propagation beacon window.

Once a few stations start using frequencies other than the calling frequency, other operators will move left or right and begin piggybacking on the brief QSO's just finishing up. This will attract other operators to go up or down, off of 200, and in no time, DX operation will be spread throughout the band with plenty of elbow room for everyone.

"Band spreading" should be an agenda item at all upcoming VHF conferences. We now have enough on-air weak signal operators to make it work. There will be some operators that will never budge from 200, but there are many of us tired of the consistent pile up, frayed nerves, and hot tempers that result when everyone is trying to talk and listen right on top of each other, and there are thousands of Hertz on either side just sitting there, vacant, just waiting to get used. . . or maybe, just waiting to get "loosed" if we don't manage our spectrum efficiently.

If YOU are tired of the problem on 144.200, input some suggestions on how we might all spread out and have a lot more fun when the 2-meter band next opens.

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Dec. 4, 5, 6 -- Irvine

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Sept. 26, 27 -- Los Angeles
Oct. 10, 11 -- Irvine
Nov. 14, 15 -- Los Angeles
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CLUB MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

BOARD BREAKFAST

October 3rd

November 7th

General Meeting is the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM
Anaheim Emergency Operations Center

909 East Vermont Anaheim, CA

West of 2nd set of railroad tracks.

A big antenna is in front with a red light on top.

Vermont runs east and west between Harbor and State College

Vermont is north of Ball and South of Lincoln

Board Meeting is the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM

Ricky's Restaurant-- Members and Visitors are welcome

10911 Westminster Ave. Garden Grove, CA (714) 539-7538

Northwest corner of Westminster and Euclid. South of 22 Fwy.

CLUB NETS

<u>BAND</u>	<u>MODE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LOCAL TIME</u>	<u>FREQ. MHz</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
15 Meters	SSB	Wed	8:00 PM	21.375*	AF6C
2 Meters	FM	Wed	8:30 PM	146.550 simplex	WB6IXN
40 Meters	CW	Thur	8:00 PM	7.140*	WA6RND

(Listen for W6ZE, Net Control) *Plus or minus QRM

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