



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. XLIII NO. 11

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92861-3454

Nov. 2002

The Prez Sez:

Well, it's that time of year again: Elections! We have various positions available, both appointed and elected, all for a one year duration. If you've never run for office, or held an office, please consider running for one. We have enough bodies in the Membership to see a few new ones on the Board. Also, our current RF editor for this year, Ken, W6HHC, (as well as serving as our webmaster), is asking to "retire for a year" from the editor position. If you are so inclined to this sort of thing....please let us know. We are asking for someone to assume the position of editor for the RF Newsletter for next year. As if all this wasn't enough to get you to the meeting, we have an excellent speaker lined up. Art Goddard-W6XD will share his latest DX travels with us. See you at the mtg!

--Cory-AE6GW

The Annual OCARC

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday December 8th
6:30 PM at Mimi's Café
18461 Brookhurst Ave.
Fountain valley

OCARC SPECIAL RAFFLE for \$250 Gift Certificate

We want to thank our special raffle ticket salesham, WA6VKZ. The last three meetings we sold \$94 worth of raffle tickets! Good job Frank!

We have sold a total of \$179 worth of raffle tickets. Just another \$109 and we can have the much anticipated drawing. If we could accomplish our goal by December the lucky winner would have a gift certificate for \$250 at HRO, AES or their choice of HAM radio stores by Christmas.

Remember the odds are 1 in 288 that you will win the \$250. The more tickets you purchase the higher your probability of winning.

See you at the November general meeting. (You can also purchase at the Board meeting.)

By Phil-N7PA...Activities Chair

November Program:

The November speaker will be Art Goddard - W6XD. Art, a noted photographer and Director for the ARRL SW Division will provide DX presentation entitled::

"Palau - Pearl of Micronesia" ...the T88CC Story..."

The Republic of Palau, with a total population of 18 thousand, offers some of best diving and sport fishing in the world. Its hard to imagine this idyllic island group as the scene of some of WW2's fiercest fighting. Don't miss it. All members and visitors are welcome.

Elections for 2003 OCARC officers will also be held.

The general meeting will be:

Friday, Nov 15th
@ 7:30 PM

We will be meeting in Anaheim Room
in the east Red Cross Bldg.

OCARC WEB SITE Has Over 15,000 Visitors!!

Our WEBmaster, Ken-W6HHC, reported that the OCARC WEB site, reached 15,000 visitors in November! Our club site was first hosted in May of 1998. We reached the 10,000 visitor mark in Sept 2001, only 14 months ago!!

In This Issue: Page

The PREZ SEZ	1
Christmas Dinner.....	1
Special Raffle.....	1
WEB Site Count	1
Nov Meeting - DXpedition PIXs .	1
CLUB INFORMATION	2
TechTalk - Building Kits	3
"Not-So-DXpedition" Report	5
2003 ARRL Convention	6
WHOis - the Member-At-Large?..	7
November Board Minutes	8

**THE ORANGE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB,
INC.**

P.O. Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781



2002 Board of Directors:

President:

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Bob Buss, KD6BWH
(714) 534-2995
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2002 Club Appointments:

W6ZE Club License Trustee:

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(714) 557-7217
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OCCARO Delegate:

Bob Buss, KD6BWH
(714) 534-2995
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Monthly Events:

General Meeting:

Third Friday of the month
at 7:30 PM
American Red Cross
(near Tustin Ave & 4th St)
Santa Ana, CA

Club Breakfast:

First Saturday of the
month at 8:00 AM
CowGirl's Cafe, Too
2610 S. Harbor Blvd
(just south of Warner)
Santa Ana, CA

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE):

Wednesday Evenings

28.375± MHz SSB
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Bob AF6C, Net Control

146.55 MHz Simplex FM
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Bob, WB6IXN, Net Control

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.w6ze.org>

for up-to-the-minute club information, the latest membership rosters, special activities, back issues of RF, links to ham-related sites, vendors and manufacturers, pictures of club events and much much more.

Club Dues:

Regular Members ...\$20
Family Members* ...\$10
Teenage Members ..\$10
Club Badge**\$3

Dues run from January thru Dec and are prorated for new members.

*Additional members in the family of a regular member pay the family rate up to \$30 per family.

**There is a \$1 charge if you'd like to have your badge mailed to you.

Tech Talk #23

So You Want To Be A Builder, Huh.....

By Doug Hendricks - KI6DS

(This month, the Tech Talk is Part 1 and Part 2 of a multi-part series on building kits....specifically building QRP related kits. The author is Doug Hendricks – KI6DS who graciously permitted the OCARC to reprint his series.)

A few years ago, I wrote a series of articles for a talk that I gave at Hamcom in Dallas. In it, I talked about what kit to build, and why. Got a lot of nice comments on it, and it is probably still on the web somewhere. A lot of time has gone by since then, and the series needs updating, so here it goes. By the way, this is gonna be long, it is gonna be my opinion, but I will support my opinions with reasons, hopefully valid. Now what makes me think that I am qualified to write about this subject? Well, I have built over 100 kits in the last ten years, have managed every NorCal Kit Project (thousands of kits), and have advised several other clubs and companies about kits. I don't know everything, and I am certainly not the world's authority, but I do have some real life experience.

When I was in grade school, I read the library copy of Boy's Life religiously. Every month, I would drool over the ads for the Ham Radio receivers. I even went so far as to write Hallicrafters and ask what a receiver cost. When they told me \$48.00, it might as well have been 48 Million, because there was no way that I had that kind of money as a 10 year old kid growing up in Kansas. I had no idea what the ARRL was, there were no hams in my hometown, and it was just a dream. Then when I was a sophomore in high school, our science teacher took us on a field trip to a ham's house in the next town. Wow, I could not believe all the stuff he had out in his garage. It was piled floor to ceiling with equipment, and it all glowed in the dark in 1964. I asked him how to become a ham, and he was not very friendly, said that you had to take FCC tests from the government, follow all kinds of rules, etc. He did say that he built most of his equipment from old military surplus and TV sets. Hey!! That was my ticket. I would build my own stuff. That night and many nights after, I dreamed of being a ham and building my equipment.

I finally got my ham ticket in 1976, that means that I could officially be a member of QCWA now, grin. But I didn't build any of my equipment, I bought it second hand. I was on the air, made 499 qso's as a novice, but didn't feel like a real ham because I had not built my equipment. I wanted to be like the guy I met in high school and build my own station. I am sure that many of you who have never built anything

and lurk on this list can identify with me. Stay with me, and I may be able to help you.

I have been very lucky to have met and known some wonderful builders in my time as a QRPer. Dave Fifield, Dave Meacham, Derry Spittle, Ed Burke, Vern Wright, Wayne Burdick, Eric Swartz, Jim Kortge, JayBob Bromley, Keith Newman, Chuck Adams, Dave Benson, Dennis Foster, Mike Gipe, Paul Maciel, Dan Tayloe, John Liebenrood, Wayne McFee, Paul Harden, George Heron, Joe Everhart, Mike Fitzsimmon, and many others. They all have one thing in common. Do you know what that is? They all learned how to build by building. None of them was a master builder out of the box. They had to put in their time and make their mistakes. But they did it. They built everything that they could. Some of those guys I mentioned are EE's. Some aren't. One is a dentist, another worked in the auto industry and several are just average Joe type of guys. Anyone who can learn how to solder, read and follow directions, learn how to understand a schematic, and identify parts can become an excellent builder. But it takes practice. Chuck Adams told me once that education costs. You will pay for it one way or another. He is 100% right. I know guys that have never built anything and start with a K2. Do I recommend that?? NO WAY. But it has been done. No, I don't recommend building the K2 or K1 as a first kit, they came quite a way down the road, but they do come. What I do recommend is that you start with a good soldering iron, some good solder, read on the web about good soldering techniques, and practice with some resistors because they are cheap, grin.

My method involves a gradual learning curve. You start with simple projects that don't cost an arm or a leg, and you learn on the inexpensive kits. (That means you will make your first mistakes on them). The next installment of this article will cover a couple of easy kits, that are cheap, fun to build, and they will work!!

This is the second in a series of articles on how to become a successful builder of ham radio equipment. The opinions are my own, and just that. What I say is not gospel, nor the final answer, but it is based on my experience as a builder, teacher, qrper and guy who likes to grin and have fun. I am writing the series to share with my fellow hams. Enjoy.

I have 3 favorite kits that I think are super values, fun and easy to build, and the best part is that they are cheap. Before you build, you will need some tools. They include a good 15 - 25 watt soldering iron, with a small, but not tiny tip. It's even better to buy one that can take interchangeable tips. You don't need a \$100 soldering station to learn on!! Just a good quality iron. You will need a good pair of side cutters, needle nose,

-- See **TechTalk** cont'd on page 4 --

TechTalk -- cont'd from page 3

and chain nose pliers. I like to use 2% silver solder with a water soluble resin flux. DO NOT USE ACID CORE SOLDER!!! That stuff is for plumbers. And you will need some solder wick or a desoldering hand pump deal from Radio Shack. When you have all of that stuff, you are ready to get started.

The first kit you should build is the VE3DNL Marker Generator from the Fort Smith QRP Group. You can order one for \$12 postage paid from Jay Bromley, 9505 Bryn Mawr Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72908. The Marker Generator can be seen at: <http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/marker/marker.htm>.

Check it out. The kit is simple, 7 parts to solder and comes with all needed parts, a beautiful silk screened solder masked board, and a comprehensive assembly manual. Don't let the simplicity of this baby fool you. You will be building a quality, useful piece of test gear that you will use many, many times in your future building career. What does a Marker Generator do? Well, as the name implies, it generates markers, so that you can use it to calibrate a dial, use it as a simple signal generator to peak a receiver, and several other uses. Believe me, you will use it. But the best part of this kit as a beginning is that it only has 7 parts. I am a science teacher, and one thing every scientist knows is that if something doesn't work, you look at the parts for causes. Lets say that you build a marker generator, plug it in to a 9V battery and listen for it on your receiver. Nothing. Nada. Now what do you do? Well, you start going through it part by part. My first step would be to check every solder joint. Is everything soldered? If not, you better solder it. But don't worry, you only have 33 solder joints to check. Takes just a few seconds. Make sure every solder joint is bright and shiny. If not, reheat and add a dab more solder, making sure the joint liquifies before you take away the heat. Ok, you do that, check it out and it doesn't work. My next step would be to make sure that I had put every part in the right place. Now this not only involves putting it in the right holes, but the right way. There is a right and a wrong way to mount the chip. And there is a right and a wrong way to mount the diode. The manual will explain how, but each part has a mark that is used to orientate the part, it is an important step, and one that you will need to master to become a successful builder. You only have 7 parts to check, not hundreds that you would have in the K2. The bottom line is that the VE3DNL Marker Generator was chosen because it is useful, cheap, only has 7 parts, and is almost impossible to not build successfully.

Now do you see why we start simple and build up to complex. Lets say the absolute worst case scenario happens. You cannot solder, you cannot build (which I seriously doubt), how much are you out if you bought a

VE3DNL? Just \$12. What if you bought a several hundred dollar kit to find that out??? Not a fun thing to explain to your wife. But I know that you will be successful in building the VE3DNL, it is almost impossible to mess up. But if you can't possibly get it to work, you get on the qrp-l WEB site, swallow ahem your pride, and ask for help. Guess what? Guys like Jim Duffey, Dave Fifield, Mike Gipe and others just like them will step forward and help you. QRPers are a friendly bunch, and they love to help other QRPers.

Ok, we got the VE3DNL working, what next? Well, we're gonna spend \$15 this time and build a piece of ham radio history, the famous Tuna Tin 2, that was designed originally by Doug DeMaw, and updated by Dave Meacham, W6EMD. The Tuna Tin originally used parts that were all available from Radio Shack. But sadly, a couple of those parts are extinct. Mr. Meacham came to the rescue and figured out how to build the kit using modern easily available parts. The Fort Smith QRP Group, Jay Bromley and the boys, also sell this kit. You don't have to chase down any parts, because the kit comes with a board, all board mounted parts, and a manual. All that you have to do is provide an empty tuna can or cat food can, some connectors, and you can build a transmitter!! Whoa, now we are talking real ham radio. Yes, you can build a transmitter with about 300 mW of power for your own shack, and the best part is that it only costs \$15 delivered!!!!!!! Again you order this from Jay Bromley at the address above. Send him \$15 for the kit, US funds, check or money order made out to Jay Bromley, not Fort Smith QRP Group. It helps a bunch if you enclose a self addressed mailing label. When you build the Tuna Tin, you will get to do a couple of new things. One, you will learn how to wind toroids. Don't despair, it is very simple, and two you get to solder parts that are not on the circuit board. Again, very easily done. This may be the most popular QRP rig ever kitted. Thousands have been built. It is easy to build, fun, and will always draw comments from your friends when they see a tuna can with a radio transmitter built in. You can see a Tuna Tin 2 kit at www.norcalqrp.org Just scroll down the page and you will see it.

Simple kit #3 is another piece of test gear, and it comes from the Arizona ScQRPions and Bob Hightower. It is the ScQRPion Stinger Singer, and is a Frequency Counter for \$20!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Yes, you read it right, Twenty Bucks!! Dan Tayloe, N7VE, designed this little jewel that fits in an Altoids tin, and the secret is a small chip called a PIC that is programmed to read a frequency and then give the output in audio via Morse Code.

-- See TechTalk cont'd on page 5 --

TechTalk -- cont'd from page 4

This kit again, has all the parts included, and has 17 parts, plus a beautiful circuit board that was layed out by Dave Fifield for the ScQRPions. The Arizona group of QRPers are great people, and they are very similar to the Ft. Smith group in size and both groups host an outstanding QRP Forum that you will want to attend. In fact, when you buy the kits that I am talking about you will be supporting those forums. It is a good cause. You can see a picture and get ordering details on the ScQRPion Stinger at: <http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m/cwafc.htm> and you can also specify whether you want slow or fast speed chips. The slow chip runs at 10 - 15 wpm, the fast 18 - 27. What do you do with the Stinger Singer after it is built. You use it as a frequency readout for that rig that doesn't have a readout on it. You check oscilators to see how stable they are and where they are oscilating, use it to determine what frequency crystals are, use it to match crystals, in short, you use it for anything that you would use any other frequency counter for, and the best part is that it doesn't cost \$100 plus. It is \$20 and you get the fun, pleasure and satisfaction of building it yourself.

Do you have to build all three kits? No but I strongly suggest that you do. You will be building separate skills with each kit, and you will be gaining some confidence in your abilities as you go. Get out the checkbook, order the kits and get that solder flowing. As my good friend, Steve Weber, KD1JV likes to say, Melt Solder. The next installment will cover our first transceiver kit.

72, Doug Hendricks – KI6DS



Some of the Not-so DX-pedition Crew

Standing L-R: Frank--WA6VKZ, Phil-N7PA, Larry-K6LDC, Art-KE6WOX, Charmaine-KF6YOL, and Bob-AF6C

Front: Ollie-K9DOG, Rich Pizzini, Larry-K6VDP, and Ken-W6HHC

The 2002 Fall sometimes semi-annual "Not-so DX-pedition"

by Larry - K6LDC

Expedition morning went off as usual with Larry & Larry (K6LDC & K6VDP) and their cohort Daryl—Art, (KE6WOX) all set to get on the trail. All the gear is loaded in the motorhome and it's off to the grocery to load up on all of the health food we would need for the weekend.

As was the plan, we met Charmaine, (KF6YOL) at the grocery store, and after stocking our larders, we were off for the 100 miles approximately to Aguanga and the private property of Kevin Carrol, our host. The travel to the site is quite nice as soon as one is off of highway 15 and onto route 79 East. The weather was good and the scenery had just enough uniqueness to hold our attention.

Now at the site, it was time to set-up. Out came the verticals, a multi-band HF and a 6-meter Ringo on the LDC rig as well as another multi-band HF vertical on the YOL rig. During the set-up of these antennas, in came the voices of Phil, N7PA and Frank, WA6VKZ, on 146.55 MHz, who were on their way to the location.

Once they arrived, pulling Frank's "RADIO TRAILER" behind the pick-up truck, we noticed their friend Rich, who is a neighbor of Frank's and of course K9DOG, Ollie the Spaniel, were along for the fun. I think Ollie had more fun than anyone, digging after critters (and fortunately not catching any).

PA and VKZ set-up an antenna for 80 meters, about six feet off of the ground. It didn't work too well. They could receive OK but transmission was a problem. Later in the weekend they figured out that they had a short in a short coax jumper. This was after they had changed to a 40-meter antenna. Friday was somewhat uneventful, as most hams were gearing-up for the coming DX contest that started on Saturday. Contact was made with Samuel Adams, Johnny Walker, Jack Daniels, Jose Cuerva, and Bud Weiser.

Saturday morning ushered in a great day with loads of DX. During the weekend, every continent was worked at least once, with some of the stations being rare. During the morning on Saturday, new arrivals included the Pres., Cory, (AE6GW) and Jim, (AE6UC). Following close behind was Ken, (W6HHC) and Bob, (AF6C).

-- See **N-S-DX** cont'd on page 7 --



2003 ARRL Southwestern Division Amateur Radio Convention, Long Beach, CA

Save these dates: September 5, 6 & 7, 2003
"Focus Back on the Volunteer"

VE Testing	Technical Forums	Many PRIZE Drawings
Vendor Exhibits	Wouff Hong	Demonstrations
Saturday Luncheon	Sunday Breakfast	Grand Banquet

Again, we will be in beautiful downtown Long Beach. This year's Convention Headquarter is the:
Hilton Long Beach, 701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90831-3102

Early Bird Registration
Registrations post marked by
May 1, 2003
\$10.00 Per Registrant
Which INCLUDES
One Logo Pin
Send Registrations to Hamcon
address below.

Pre-Registrations
Registration Post Marked from
May 1 to August 1, 2003
\$12.00 Per Registrant
Which INCLUDES
One Logo Pin
While quantities last

Last Minute and
Walk-In Registrations
Registrations received after
August 1, 2003, and Fri., Sat., &
Sun. Sept. 5, 6 & 7, 2003
\$15.00 Per Registrant
INCLUDES One Logo Pin
While quantities last

Location: Hilton Long Beach
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90831-3102. For Reservations call 800-445-8667
Mention "HAMCON" for a fantastic rate of \$89 per night double occupancy.

-----Mail-In Convention Registration Form-----

Call Sign: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ ZIP /Postcode _____
Your E-Mail Address: _____

Please List additional Attendees

No Charge for Children 16 years old or younger. They Must be accompanied by a registered adult.

KIDS ADULT Call SignName *(Please Print Clearly)*

Note: Every attendee must be registered, including the kids

_____ Registrations	at \$ _____	ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Extra Pins	at \$ 3.00	ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Kids under 16		= Free	
_____ Banquet Tickets	at \$ 35.00	ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Saturday Luncheon	at \$ 20.00	ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Sunday Breakfast	at \$ 17.00	ea. = \$ _____	
	Total Due	= \$ _____	

Staff Use Only

Registration _____
Date _____
Finan. _____
Date _____
Notes:

Make convention registration checks payable to: **HAMCON Inc.**
Mail this form to: **HAMCON Registration, P. O. Box 333, Pomona, CA. 91769-0333**

Not-so DX -- cont'd from page 5

Ken and Bob set up a sloping dipole for 15-meters and worked some good DX on all six continents.

Saturday morning, Kevin (our host) came up with his tractor and brought us a load of firewood in its bucket. With him was a very nice teenager named Chuck. They hadn't planned on it but both sort of got interested in Ham Radio and were able to spend most of the day observing and operating the LDC rig, an FT-920 into the vertical, (with licensed supervision of course). We may have a new Ham or two.

When everyone had temporarily had their fill of playing radio, LDC brought out his washer game, a game of skill that had nearly everyone participating and having a lot of fun. Any of you who would like to make your own game boards, contact Larry, K6LDC and get the plans. The rules make the board dimension requirements exacting, so get the plans.

When it became dark, it was time for the evening repast. The camp grouped into two sections, the LDC kitchen and the VKZ kitchen. Again as usual, the LDC group, showing more class than the VKZ group, had lobster thermadore, Caesar salad, stuffed baked potato, a separate wine for each course, freshly baked French bread and baked Alaska for dessert.

-- See **Not-so-DX** cont'd on page 8 --



Bob Buss - KD6BWH spends many hours running Red Cross Nets from his mobile position.

WHO is the Member-At-Large? by

Ken W6HHC

(This is the ninth in a series of articles to inform you about the background of the officers and leaders of the OCARC.)

One of the two Members-At-Large on the OCARC Board of Directors this year is Bob Buss, KD6BWH. Bob's interest in HAM radio started while he was in high school, but the Morse code was a barrier. As Bob explains: "...there were no 'elmers' around in North Dakota to help". Bob first got his license soon after he saw the HAM Booth at the O.C. Fair about 11 years ago. The Fair HAM Booth explained where HAM classes were being held. Bob took the class and members of the OCARC (Frank-WA6VKZ, Cindy-KC6OPI, and ex-prez Nancy-N6XQR) held a code class at a Joshua Tree campout. The VEC instructor (Cindy-KC6OPI) told students about OCARC and Bob joined in 1990. Bob has since been President of the OCARC twice. He is currently Chairman of OCCARO (Org Cnty Council of Am Radio Organizations) and also District 2^d-Alternate Team Communications Leader for Red Cross.

He and wife, Linda (KD6HQP), live in Garden Grove. Bob's low-bands base station at home is a Yaesu FT-940 rig to a 10M dipole and a 10M vertical antenna. The base station for the high-bands is a Kenwood TM-742 on 144/220/440 MHz using a Comet tri-bander base antenna at 20 ft. Bob likes to operate mobile from his trusty pickup truck using a Kenwood TM-731 on 144/440/1,200 MHz using a Comet tri-band mobile antenna.

Bob's favorite HAM interests involve public service including Baker-2-Vegas communications, Red Cross events, MS (Multiple Sclerosis) events, Anaheim RACES, the HDSCS Hospital-Disaster communications group, communications of OC-High-School-band-reviews, and providing the weekly broadcast of NewsLine tapes for the OCARC net. Bob always enjoys participating in Field Day.

Bob was born in Indiana and raised in the town of Sheldon, North Dakota (population 200). He was with the US Army, including 3 years stationed in Germany. He finally reached California in 1979. Bob is currently in sales and estimating in the HVAC industry

His favorite non-HAM activities include gardening and camping.

If you get a chance to talk to Bob at a meeting, ask him how you can help with Public Service, too.

Not-so DX -- cont'd from page 7

It was amazing how much it tasted like BBQ'd pork chops, mashed potatoes, and oatmeal cookies. In the meanwhile, the VKZ group had Hot Dogs or some other bourgeois delight.

Saturday evening was filled with a few of us on-the-air and the rest of us at the campfire. On weak AM radio signals we heard the Angeles beat the Giants in game 6 of the World Series. That evening, those that weren't planning to stay the night left and we went to bed for a night with an extra hour of sleep (the end of PDT).

Sunday morning after breakfast, saw some ham activity and then it was time to tear it all down. With an uneventful trip back, the weekend was great. Look to Phil, N7PA, who plans on organizing another Not-so DX-pedition to El Mirage about April.

73, Larry, K6LDC

OCARC Board Meeting Minutes 11/2/2002

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 AM. All officers were present.

Vice President: Nov. 15th program will be Art Goddard W6XD, DXpedition to South Pacific.

Treasurer: Balance sheet distributed, bill for insurance received and will be paid.

Secretary: No communications

Membership: 58 members on roster

Publicity, Technical: No Report

New Business: Nov. meeting will be election for new club officers. Election committee tentatively set as Bud WA6VPP and Tom

WA6PFA. Bob AF6C is available if Bud or Tom are not.

Ken W6HHC (who is also the WEB-master) wants to "retire for a year" from the position of RF Editor. We are looking for someone who would like to be new editor for a year.

Good of Club: Possibility to hold 2003 Christmas dinner at Cowgirls Too Cafe, where Board meetings are held currently. Discussion tabled.

Motion made to donate \$50 to ARRL in the memory of Al Watts - W6IBR, SK and past-prez of OCARC. Motion by Larry K6LDC, 2nd by Lowell KQ6JD, passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Bob AF6C, 2nd by Frank WA6VKZ, meeting adjourned at 8:39AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt K6LNX

ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
P.O. BOX 3454
TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454

First Class Mail

***Time Dated Material.
Please Expedite!!***

November 2002 - RF Page 8
