



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. XLIII NO. 12

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

Dec. 2002

The Prez Sez:

Seasons Greetings!

Thank you all for a great year.

Thanks to our board for keeping us together during the trying times and thanks to the membership for it's participation in our activities. Without your hard work and dedication, We, W6ZE, are not possible.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays to all.

Until next year,
73's--**Cory-AE6GW**

OCARC SPECIAL RAFFLE \$250 HRO Gift Certificate Won by ???

Our special raffle saleham WA6VKZ pushed our ticket sales at a uncanny pace. He was able to sell the last \$109 at the November meeting. This enabled us to have the drawing now, so that the lucky winner would have the \$250 certificate from HRO by the Holidays.

The Lucky winner was...none other than "Tom" Thomas - WA6PFA.

The club sold a total of \$288 in tickets enabling it to make the 15% profit that they had anticipated.

Rumor has it that after catching our breath (and how long will that take?), the club will try something totally different in 2003.

Any ideas? Don't keep them to yourselves! Share with us.

Respectfully,
Activities Chairham – Phil-N7PA

Christmas Party Was Held at Mimi's On Dec 8

We had great food at the yearly Holiday dinner, and out going President, Cory - AE6GW, received a "President's Plaque" for a job well done. The dinner is held instead of a general December meeting.

At the dinner, Ken - W6HHC was awarded the "Kei Yamachika W6NGO Good-of-the-Club-Award" for his 2002 efforts as WEBmaster and Editor.

Cory presented the president's gavel to new Vice Prez, Steve - KB1GZ(new Prez is on vacation).

The next general meeting will be:

**Friday, Jan 17th
@ 7:30 PM**

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

Don't forget!!!

**There is No OCARC
General Meeting
In December**

**The next meeting is
Jan 17th, 2003**

**Best Wishes for
Happy Holidays**

from

the staff of RF newsletter

W6HHC W6KFW AF6C W6RWY

In This Issue: Page

The PREZ SEZ	1
Christmas Dinner Report	1
Special Raffle Report	1
CLUB INFORMATION	2
TechTalk – Building Kits	3
November Meeting Minutes	4
"A Ham's Night Before Xmas" ..	5
Field Day Score Summary	6
Past RF Editors	6
New 2003 Board Members	7
WHOis - the Editor?	7
December Board Minutes	8

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

P.O. Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781



2002 Board of Directors:

President:

Cory Terando, AE6GW
(714) 894-3817
corymuzk@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Lowell Burnett, KQ6JD
(714) 997-0999
LBur729028@aol.com

Secretary:

Matt McKenzie, K6LNX
(714) 546-2228
k6lnx@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Steve Brody, KB1GZ
(714) 974-0338
stevebrody@sbcglobal.net

Membership:

Chris Winter, W6KFW
(714) 543-6943
cwinter727@aol.com

Activities:

Phil Andersen, N7PA
(949) 492-1900
n7pa@arrl.net

Publicity:

Frank Smith, WA6VKZ
(714) 356-4695
wa6vkz@msn.com

Technical:

Larry Beilin, K6VDP
(714) 557-7217
k6vdp@aol.com

Members At Large:

Larry Hoffman, K6LDC
(714) 636-4345
k6ldc@earthlink.net

Bob Buss, KD6BWH
(714) 534-2995
kd6bwh@aol.com

2002 Club Appointments:

W6ZE Club License Trustee:

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C
(714) 639-5074
af6c@arrl.net

Club Historian:

Bob Evans, WB6IXN
(714) 543-9111
bobev@netzero.net

RF Editor:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC
(714) 744-0217
kkonechy@pacbell.net

WEB Master:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC
(714) 744-0217
kkonechy@pacbell.net

ARRL Assistant Director:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC
(714) 744-0217
kkonechy@pacbell.net

ARRL Awards Appointees:

Larry Beilin, K6VDP
(714) 557-7217
k6vdp@aol.com

Art Dillon, KE6WOX
(714) 997-2078

OCCARO Delegate:

Bob Buss, KD6BWH
(714) 534-2995
kd6bwh@aol.com

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 #24

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

By Doug Hendricks - K16DS

(This month, the Tech Talk is Part 3 of a multi-part series on building kits....specifically building QRP related kits. The author is Doug Hendricks – K16DS who graciously permitted the OCARC to reprint his series.)

If you have been following this series, you have been through the Tuna Tin2, VE3DNL, and the ScQRPion Stinger Singer. Now we are ready for our first commercial kit, the Rock Mite, which is a crystal controlled transceiver that was designed by Dave Benson, K1SWL as a project for the attendees of Lobtercon and Ft. Tuthill. The project turned out so well that Dave decided to make it a commercial product and I am sure glad that he did.

The Rock Mite is on 40 meters, it is a CW Transceiver, and I think it is the easiest to build CW Transceiver in the history of ham radio, grin. The kit is a bargain too, costing \$25 delivered to your door if you are in the US . Please check <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> for info on ordering the Rock Mite, and for cost if you live overseas.

When I built my Rock Mite I used the following procedure. The first thing that I did was to solder the NE612 IC on. It is in a SOIC package, which means it has 50 mil spacing of the pins. Here is how I did it. I placed the IC on the board, making doubly sure that it was oriented correctly. I checked the layout twice to make sure. When I was positive that I had it the right way, I held it with my finger pressing down, and lined up the pins with the pads. Then, tacked one pin on the corner. Checked to make sure the rest of the pins were lined up, and they were, so I soldered the opposite corner pin. I checked alignment again. Everything was fine, so I soldered the rest of the pins. Piece of cake. (Yeah, I know, I've done it many times. But you can do it too!! Just take your time and check and recheck). If it is not lined up after the first pin has been soldered, just touch the first pin with the iron and when the solder flows, adjust the IC until it is lined up, and then proceed.

Next I soldered in the two IC sockets, making sure that they were oriented right, and flat on the board. Then I soldered the transistors, then the diodes. Then the two crystals, making sure to ground both of them using clipped off resistor leads. Next, I separated all of the capacitors. noted that there were several mono caps, the gold ones, and that here were six marked 104, and 1 marked 102, but that they all looked similar. To keep from misplacing a cap

in the wrong place, I decided to solder in the 102 cap first, then all of the 104's. Next, I put in the 103's, then worked down in value until I had all the caps in. When I put the electrolytics in, I double checked the polarity, making sure that the longer lead went into the hole marked with a +. It became easy to find where they went because of the "landmarks" of the IC's and transistors on the board. I was careful to check the silkscreen and parts placement guide in the instructions. Both are accurate as far as I can tell.

After I did the caps, I found the three chokes and installed them. I had 3 to do, 2 of them being the same value and one being different. Again, I installed the odd one first, then the 2 of the same value. That is very important in this kit, as the 1 is a 10 uH and the two that are 1 uH. Easy to confuse and get the wrong value.

I am going to let you in on a secret that I use when sorting resistors. I orient them the same way, (gold band at the same end), and then sort first by the third band. Black, Brown, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green. Then I sort each "band" group by value, high to low. When I finish I have the resistors all in order on the bench top, running from high to low in value. Then I took the board, found where a resistor went on the parts placement guide, then it was a simple task to find that value and solder it in. Another trick. Use the circuit board to act as a lead bender for the resistors. I hold the body of the resistor against the edge of the board and bend the resist over the board 90 degrees. Then, I take the lead and finish the bend making it 180 degrees and making a U-shaped bend. The board edge acts as a gauge to keep every thing the same. I also orient all caps so that I can read the value from the bottom of the board, and from the left side. Resistors are mounted with the gold band against the board. If they are mounted flat, the gold band goes to the right or to the bottom, depending on the orientation of the resistor.

When you finish the resistors, you are done. I always install one part, turn the board over, spread the leads so the part holds itself in, and solder. Then the next part, etc. I mount all parts on the board as close as I can, except for crystals which I mount about 1/32" off the board.

When the board is done, you are ready to inspect. Turn the board over and look at every solder joint. They all should be bright and shiny, and there should be a part in every hole, except the ones for the connector wires. I like to use solid wire to make my connections to the connectors. I use #24 insulated solid wire. (A good source is some twisted pair telephone cable).

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

TechTalk -- cont'd from page 3

Now set the board aside as it is time to prepare the case. I made my case out of pc board, but you can use anything that you wish. Drill the holes for all the connectors and make sure that they fit. Then hook up the connectors to the board using the hookup wire. Since I used a metal case, I did not run a ground wire to any of the connectors, but used the common ground of the case. I did ground the board to the case though.

Why is the Rock Mite recommended as a first transceiver kit? Because it is easy to build, it is cheap, the directions are very clear, the board is first quality and easy to solder, the parts are easy to identify, and it is very hard to screw this one up. It is gonna work. Plus, you get to work with several different types of parts now, and because you have some experience and confidence from successfully building the first three kits, this one is a "snap". Believe me you will be proud of it and yourself when you finish.

Let me go back to the board. Dave Benson is among the best in the business at laying out boards. Nothing makes me more irritated than to buy a commercial kit, and find out that the parts don't fit!! I hate it when I have to bend capacitor leads to fit holes. I have never had to bend a lead to make any part fit on a Dave Benson designed kit. That is important to newcomers, because if you have to bend the leads to fit, you got the wrong part in the wrong place. Dave pays attention to small details like that, and it shows in the quality of his kit. His kit is also silk-screened and solder masked. Why anyone, anywhere would use a board in a kit that was not silk screened and solder-masked is beyond me. The cost is pennies per board, and the problems that it saves are huge.

Another reason for picking the Rock Mite is that there are NO adjustments to make when you finish building. You don't have to peak any circuits, adjust any trimmers, wind any toroids, nothing, nada. It is truly a plug and play radio. Perfect for the beginner. This concludes Part 3.

Next month in part 4, we will look at a couple of station accessories that give you even more experience home-brewing, and give you a couple of pieces of gear that you will need to get on the air.

See you next time. 72, Doug, KI6DS

General Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2002

The featured program started at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross building. The business meeting was called to order at 9:10pm, with all officers present.

Meeting Program The speaker was Art Goddard - W6XD, who provided an outstanding DX slide show on: "**Palau - Pearl of Micronesia...the T88CC Story...**".

Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity, Technical: Nothing new to report.

Membership: 58 on roster

Activities: Grand prize raffle will be held tonight, \$109 worth of tickets sold. Tom WA6PFA won the grand prize \$250 gift certificate for HRO with Ticket Number 319254. Tom is requested to bring his purchased prize to the January General meeting to show off!

New Business: Election of officers tonight. Looking for a new editor for the RF Newsletter in 2003. Ken W6HHC said he would be willing to be editor again in 2004 after a year of rest.

Old Business: Annual Christmas dinner will be on Sunday, Dec 8th, 6:30pm at Mimi's Cafe in Fountain Valley.

Possibility to use Cowgirls Cafe Too for next year's Christmas dinner, discussion tabled.

Not-so-DXpedition pics are available on our website.

Newly Elected 2003 officers:

Motion by Frank WA6VKZ, 2nd by Steve KB1GZ, that the slate of officers presented by the Nomination Committee be elected by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

President:	Lowell Burnett - KQ6JD
V. President:	Steve Brody - KB1GZ
Treasurer:	Phil Andersen - N7PA
Secretary:	David Mofford - W7KTS
Activities:	Matt McKenzie - K6LNK
Membership:	Bob Buss - KD6BWH

- - See Gen'l Minutes cont'd on pg 6 - -

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

Special Thanks to Larry - K6VDP
For Forwarding This

T'was the night before Christmas,
and all through two-meters,
not a signal was keying up
any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
from the tower, quite high,
to catch the weak signals
that bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
took their HT's to bed,
and dreamed of the day
they'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
and we tuned 40 meters
for that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode, and,
I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
and with all she could muster
logged a spot of the signal
on the DX Packet Cluster.

While I ran to the window
and peered up at the sky,
to see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
but the moon made it gleam
-a flying sleigh,
with an eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
that it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
the Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
to clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
then stopped in his track,
and slid down the coax
right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
behind stacks of CQ,
this Santa of hamming
knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
of paper and parts,
and filled out all my late QSL's
for a start,

He ran copper braid,
took a steel rod and pounded
it into the earth,
till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
resoldered connections,
cranked down modulation,
installed lighting protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp .
..(Never worked right before.
--Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter
cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
that would not compute,
He backed up the hard drive
and got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
and he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? And an Icom?
And a Yaesu for me?!"

(If he thought I'd been bad,
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
and in record time, quickly
worked 100 countries
...all down on 160.

I should have been happy,
it was my call he sent.
But cards and the postage
will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key: "To
Gary from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
looked me straight in the eye,
punched a code on the pad,
and was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
and the pile-up was big,
but a card from St. Nick
would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late,
for his final came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

Then Ham's Santa exclaimed
what a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
and to all, good DX."



Next **RF** material due Jan 05th

PAST RF EDITORS

By OCARC Historian - Bob Evans - WB6IXN

1955.....Editorial Staff: Rehse Mowry-W6OZO; Roy Maxson-W6DEY; Mildred Maxson-W6PJU; Earl Griffith-W6ZE
 1956.....Same, but add Marinus Conway-W6UPP
 1957.....OZO, K6BIG, KN6YVD, K6KJV, & K6COE
 1958-1959.....Club disbanded
 1960.....Tom Jones-WA6KRW
 1961.....Unknown
 1962.....Zane Sprague-W6ULW
 1963.....Bob Hill-K6COE
 1964.....Dave Yap-WA6TSU
 1965-1968.....Bob Evans-WB6IXN
 1969-1970.....Ken Konechy-W6HHC
 1971.....Bud Barkhurst- WA6VPP; Rich Nelson, WA6OBM
 1972.....Richard Nelson -WA6OBM
 1973.....Don Klos-W6OOH
 1974-1975.....Neil Vадnais-WA6TZA
 1976-1977.....Bob Maller-WB6AJV
 1978.....Rick Pearson-WA6ULV; Joe Leonard-WD6CWU; Jim Kingsbury-WA6LFF; Louis McKee-N6AQB
 1979.....Louis McKee-N6AQB
 1980.....Bob Maller-WB6AJV
 1981.....John Christopher-WD6GXZ/KE6CE; Frank Smith-WA6VKZ
 1982.....?
 1983.....Bob Eckweiler-AF6C; Al-KA6I1J; Al Watts-W6IBR; Keith-WB6LAR; Ken Konechy-W6HHC

1984.....?
 1985.....Bob Eckweiler-AF6C
 1986-1987.....Bob Evans-WB6IXN
 1988-1989..... Bob Eckweiler-AF6C; Bob Tegel-KD6XO; Ken Konechy-W6HHC; Mark Stanford-KJ6JC; Jim Talcott-N6JSV
 1990.....Mark Stanford - KJ6JC; Nancy Bucher - N6XQR
 1991-1992.....Nancy Bucher - N6XQR
 1993-1995.....Cindy Hughes - KC6OPI
 1996-2000.....Bud Barkhurst - WA6VPP
 2001.....Bob Eckweiler - AF6C
 2002.....Ken Konechy - W6HHC

General Meeting Minutes - cont'd form pg4

Publicity: Larry Hoffman - K6LDC
 Technical: Bob Eckweiler - AF6C
 Mem-at-Large: Cory Terando - AE6GW
 Mem-at-Large: Frank Smith WA6VKZ

Good of the Club: Nothing to report.

Motion to adjourn by Bob AF6C, 2nd by Steve KB1GZ.
 The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Matt K6LNX

Field Day Scores Summary (Extracted from the December QST magazine)

Club	Call	Class	Points	Rank in Class in Calif	Rank in Class in USA
OC Hospital Disaster	K6EW	2A	2,050	14	240
South Orange ARA	K6SOA	3A	5,966	3	41
Riverside ARA	W6TJ	3A	3,986	8	71
OCARC	W6ZE	4A	4,928	4	32
Irvine Disaster EC	N6IPD	4A	4,180	5	40
Western ARA	N6ME	5A	11,194	1	4

**Note-- Missing from this years QST FD Report are long-time-FD-competitors:
 Anaheim ARA, Fullerton RC, and the West Coast ARC ???**

New OCARC Officers Elected for 2003

The following new officers were elected to the 2003 OCARC Board at the November General Meeting. Give them your support in order to create another successful year for our club.

President: Lowell Burnett - KQ6JD
V. President: Steve Brody - KB1GZ
Treasurer: Phil Andersen - N7PA
Secretary: David Mofford - W7KTS
Activities: Matt McKenzie - K6LNX
Membership: Bob Buss - KD6BWH
Publicity: Larry Hoffman - K6LDC
Technical: Bob Eckweiler - AF6C
Mem-at-Large: Cory Terando - AE6GW
Mem-at-Large: Frank Smith - WA6VKZ



**Ken Konechy - W6HHC at his shack in
the City of Orange**

WHOis ... the Editor? by Ken - W6HHC

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

The editor of the OCARC newsletter, RF, for the past year is Ken Konechy - W6HHC. Ken's interest in HAM radio started while he was in junior high school near Pittsburgh, PA. He got his Novice license in 1957 as WN3MHI. After two failed attempts to master CW, he finally earned his General class ticket as W3MHI. Going to college at the University of Pittsburgh to become an Electrical Engineer caused HAM radio to go on the back burner for a while. Right after graduation in 1967, Ken moved out to Orange, California to work at an Anaheim aerospace company and immediately picked up his new call as W6HHC. Ken first got involved with the OCARC through Field Day in 1967. (He proudly points out that he has only missed one OCARC FD since 1967.) He has served as OCARC President three times and has served as OCARC WEBmaster since 1999.

Ken and his wife, Diane, live in Orange. His low-band station is a Yaesu FT-757 feeding a Cushcraft R6000 vertical antenna (20M-thru-10M). The base high-band station is a Kenwood TM-741A for 144/440/1.2Ghz. The high-band antenna system is a homebrew 2M collinear antenna (see Oct-2002 issue of RF) and a Comet 400/1200 MHz base antenna. For mobile operations, he has a Kenwood TM-G707 for 144/440 MHz in the car.

Ken's favorite HAM radio activities include Field Day, chasing DX, rag-chewing on OCARC nets, learning new HAM technologies (such as digital communications), learning how to create WEB sites (to be a WEBmaster), and emergency communications.

Ken was born outside of Pittsburgh. He moved straight to Orange County in 1967 and has stayed put ever since. (He asks: "who really wants to live in cold winters and shovel snow from driveways before going to work?") He is currently the VP and co-founder of a small engineering company that specializes in designing cryptography and internet security applications.

His favorite non-HAM activities include reading books, backpacking in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains, taking cruises with his wife to far-away places, taking technology classes, and sail-boating.

If you get a chance to talk to Ken at a meeting...ask him about the sun-spot-cycle of 1957.

**OCARC Board Meeting
Minutes
12/7/2002**

The meeting was called to order at 8:49am, with: VP Lowell KQ6JD, Treasurer Steve KB1GZ, and Members at Large Larry K6LDC and Bob KD6BWH absent, all other officers present.

No officer reports.

Old Business: Christmas Dinner will be held tomorrow night, December 8th, at Mimi's Cafe in Westminster.

New Business: Discussion brought up by Phil N7PA, to create a 2-3 person committee (with 1 Board member and 2 others from the club general membership) to review the club's Constitution, Bylaws, and Board Officer job descriptions, and make recommendations back to the Board. Their main task would be to specify in detail each Board Officer's job description, beyond the terse description given in the bylaws. The committee's

recommendations would be taken by the Board, and a separate document would be created so that incoming Board Officers each year will have a better idea of what their duties are. Motion by Frank WA6VKZ to create this committee, Motion was 2nd by Bob AF6C, and passed unanimously. Phil volunteered to lead the committee with other members selected at the January general meeting.

Topic for future discussion brought up by Frank WA6VKZ- start a monthly hands-on program to garner more interest in our club from hams in the community, especially younger hams. This program would take place on the same day as the Board meetings, and would consist of a single topic. Discussion would take place from around 9:30am (after Board meeting) until around 11:30am, at which time there would be a lunch break. During this break, supplies would be gathered for the

project, and after the break the program would resume and the project would be built.

Audit committee appointed by the Board to assist Treasurer Steve KB1GZ in the annual audit of the club's finances. Committee members are: Phil N7PA and Ken W6HHC.

President Cory AE6GW would like a "get-well" gift plant to be sent to Tom WA6PFA, he just recently returned home from a hospital visit.

Cory would also like specific guidelines laid out in writing for the annual Good of the Club Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17am.

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!!***