

RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LVI NO. 09

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454

September 2015

The Prez Sez.....

By Tim N6TMT



Greetings,

Embracing new technology is a quintessential part of our hobby. As we have heard last year in Dennis Kidder W6DQ's presentations on "History of Receivers", amateur radio has seen an ongoing march to improve and enhance the tools of our trade.

Software defined radio (SDR) has been held out as the next big change to how we do radio, with the possibility of improvements in reception and transmission of signals, the ability to offer improvements to functionality within an existing radio through software upgrade and possibly lower cost through the use of components that are not exclusive to the radio world.

So far we have only seen SDR radios from small innovative manufactures but nothing yet from the 3 majors until a surprise introduction at the 2015 Tokyo Ham Fair when ICOM presented the IC-7300.



Photo courtesy Icom America, copyright 2015

Icom is calling it a First in Amateur Radio - an RF Direct Sampling System. What is quickly evident is that while you can still link with a PC it does not require a separate computer to operate since most of the action is handled by the Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) and other components inside the box.

Will this be the radio that really brings SDR to the masses? Hard to say yet but it is very encouraging to see ICOM take this step and I hope others jump on the band wagon also. Perhaps in some future talk about the "History of Receivers" we will be hearing how this radio was part of that ongoing march of innovation.

May all your signals be strong, constant and clear!

de N6TMT - Tim

PS - New Hams please check out past articles of Bob's TechTalk Columns at the following web address -

http://www.w6ze.org/btt/BTT_Index.html



The next General Meeting of the OCARC will be held on: Friday, September 18th, 2015.

The main September program will be a

'SHOW-and-TELL' event

that you won't want to miss!

See Page 4 and also
<http://www.w6ze.org/Events.html>
for more information.

The next General Meeting will be on:

**Friday, Sept 18th, 2015
@ 7:00 PM**

As usual, we will be meeting in the east side entrance of the Red Cross Building, Room 208 (2nd Floor).
See you there!

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2015 Board of Directors:

President:

Tim Millard, N6TMT
(714) 744-8909
N6TMT@w6ze.org

Vice President:

Tom Cowart, W6ETC
(714) 454-0571
W6ETC@w6ze.org

Secretary:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC
(714) 744-0217
W6HHC@w6ze.org

Treasurer:

Greg Bohning, W6ATB
(714) 767-7677
W6ATB@w6ze.org

Membership:

Don Mech, N6XBP
(714) 206-6548
N6XBP@w6ze.org

Activities:

Doug Wood, K6PGH
(714) 501-5527
K6PGH@w6ze.org

Publicity:

Robbie Robinson, KB6CJZ
(714) 478-9713
KB6CJZ@w6ze.org

Technical:

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C
(714) 639-5074
AF6C@w6ze.org

Directors-At-Large:

Nicholas Haban, AF6CF
(714) 693-9778
AF6CF@w6ze.org

Paul Gussow W6GMU
(714) 624-1717
W6GMU@w6ze.org

2015 Club Appointments:

W6ZE Club License Trustee:

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C
(714) 639-5074
AF6C@w6ze.org

Club Historian:

Bob Evans, WB6IXN
(714) 543-9111
WB6IXN@w6ze.org

RF Editor (rotating):

Paul Gussow W6GMU
(714) 624-1717
W6GMU@w6ze.org

WEB Master:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC
(714) 744-0217
W6HHC@w6ze.org

Assistant WEB Master:

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C
(714) 639-5074
AF6C@w6ze.org

ARRL Awards Appointees:

Arnie Shatz, N6HC
(714) 573-2965
N6HC@aol.com

John Schroeder, N6QQ
(West Orange Co.)
(562) 404-1112
N6QQ@msn.com

Contact the Newsletter:

Feedback & Corrections:
RF_feedback@w6ze.org

Submit Articles:

EDITORS@W6ZE.org

Monthly Events:

General Meeting:

Third Friday of the month
at 7:00 PM held at:
American Red Cross
600 Parkcenter Drive
Santa Ana, CA
(Near Tustin Ave. & 4th St.)

Club Breakfast:

First Saturday – Sept 05 at 8:00am
Marie Callender's Restaurant 2525
1821 North Grand Ave
Santa Ana, CA
(North of 17th Street)

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE):

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

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

7.086 ± MHz CW **OCWN**
Sun- 9:00 AM – 10 AM
John WA6RND, Net Control



Club Dues:

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

Dues run from Jan 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 \$1.50 charge if you'd like to have your badge mailed to you.

California QSO Party

50th Running Of The CQP!

1600 UTC October 3, 2015 to 2200 UTC October 4, 2015

Club Competition is encouraged and any points you earn can be credited to OCARC. If you desire to have your points credited to OCARC submit your log by entering the club name in the Cabrillo file 'club' field. You will find the 'club' field in the station set up of your logging program.

After doing so, your Cabrillo file should look something like this:

START-OF-LOG: 2.0

ARRL-SECTION: ORG

CALLSIGN: K6PGH

CLUB: Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

CONTEST: CA-QSO-PARTY

CATEGORY: SINGLE-OP-PORTABLE ALL LOW SSB

CLAIMED-SCORE: 2

OPERATORS: K6PGH

NAME: Douglas Wood

ADDRESS: 417 Adlena Dr

ADDRESS: Fullerton, CA 92833

ADDRESS: UNITED STATES

CREATED-BY: N1MM Logger+ 1.0.4738.0

QSO: 28450 PH 2015-09-05 1746 K6PGH 0001 CA N6HC 1745 ORAN

END-OF-LOG:

For more info on the CAQP, go to www.cqp.org/index.html





OCARC 'SHOW & TELL' scheduled for SEPTEMBER 18TH 2015

The Orange County Amateur Radio Club and its Members Present
The 'Good, Bad & the Ugly Amateur Radio Junk Treasure Objects of Interest'

The County Amateur Radio Club September 18th, 2015 membership meeting will be a 'SHOW-and-TELL' event that you won't want to miss! What is a show-and-tell event? It can be defined as a teaching method, and when used properly encourages instruction, good information, great conversations, opportunities for Q&A, and in some cases a sense of what could be or should have been... if you know what I mean. Sometimes it's an opportunity to brag, to show off you skills or, better yet, bring an item that you're not sure what it is or how to use it! Got something new.. bring it. Got something old to share, share it (see requirements below*)! The target audience for this event is both new and old Amateur Radio Operators from within the Orange County, California Amateur Radio community.

The public is welcome and it's absolutely FREE!

It's an excellent opportunity for all our Club members to bring an object with them and share it with your peers. Got something you believe might be interesting, informative, funny or unique? Got an item that you built that, even with the best intentions, resulted in a smoking failure? Have a piece of Ham equipment that you've never figured out how to setup or operate? You might have an item that's just too strange, too weird or unusual that absolutely should be shared at this event.

Don't be afraid to show off your skills, your abilities or, in some instances, your inabilities. Let's be real... not everyone in the Club can build an item right the very first time, every time! It's said that some Hams may not even know which end of the soldering iron to hold!

But I say SO WHAT! All of us can and do benefit from the successes and mistakes of other members. If you built it, designed it or refined it. then come and share it! But beware, some items may cause extreme laughter!

Make sure to put this one on your calendar and plan on being at the next OCARC Membership meeting Friday, September 18th, 2015, held at the American Red Cross building in Santa Ana. Come early to find a good seat. Hope to see you there!

73 de Tom W6ETC

P. S. *Requirements: *Objects must be related to the Amateur Radio hobby. You will have a maximum of 5 minutes to present your item. Only one item per person, please.

OCARC “Panel of Experts”

Here are a couple of photos from our “Panel of Experts” General Meeting:



OCARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2015-08-21

The OCARC General Meeting was held at the Red Cross Complex and was called to order by our President (Tim N6TMT) at 7:03 PM.

First topic brought up was the upcoming Hamcon 2015 convention in Torrance.

The "panel" was moderated by Tim Goeppinger (N6GP). The experts were:

- Greg Bohning (W6ATB) – VHF/UHF meteor scatter
- Nicholas Haban (AF6CF) - portable HF operating
- Arnie Shatz (N6HC) - contesting
- Fred Daniel (W6FNO) - repeaters

Tim Goeppinger (N6GP) was moderator/host who commented that there was a mix of experts in the audience as well.

Announcements:

ARRL hosting an Emergency Communications class. Cost: \$20.

Rollcall:

Board Members:

President : Tim Millard (N6TMT) Present
 Vice President: Tom Cowart (W6ETC) Present
 Secretary: Ken Konechy (W6HHC) Absent
 Treasurer: Greg Bohning (W6ATB) Present
 Activities: Doug Wood (K6PGH) Present
 Membership: Don Mech (N6XBP) Present
 Public Relations: Robbie (KB6CJZ) Present
 Technical: Bob Eckweiler (AF6C) Present
 Director at Large: Paul Gussow (W6GMU) Present
 Director at Large: Nicholas Haban (AF6CF) Present

Panel Began @ 7:10 PM and ended around 8:15 PM, followed by a 15 minute break.

8:30 PM meeting reconvened.

OCRACES Speaker

Director's reports:

The President informed us the question was asked "How did it go at Field Day for Troop 440?"

- Scouts did OK financially
- Scouts had fun
- They look forward to doing it again next year

Discussion about site for next year's field day – we should look into that now.

Paul (W6GMU) is checking into getting alternative site as a backup since we are not sure how much longer we will have the Knott's site.

Next board meeting we will look over the budget.

Treasurer informed us that a 7x10 storage space has been rented on a month-to-month basis for \$71 per month.

Public Relations informed us that new pamphlets had been printed and a few were passed to Membership Director.

Club Shirts - Paul W6GMU asked on how to get club shirts. There was some discussion about the fact that the person who last made them, Embroidery in Motion, may not be doing this anymore? There is also a place in Tustin, the i.initial Embroidery store in Tustin, that will make them and has the OCARC artwork. The phone for i.initial Embroidery is (714) 573-2552.

It was announced that the Election Committee has been formed

Tom (W6ETC) mentioned the Christmas party would be on December 4th and it would be held at same location as 2014

General discussion:

Don (N6XBP) got accredited as a General Class VE.

Discussion about getting a new VE team up and running and how many VEs the club already has. Tom (W6ETC) commented on interest in offering classes for Technician license and anyone interested should email him.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Don N6XBP – acting as secretary

OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2015-09-05

The OCARC Board meeting was held at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Grand Ave in Santa Ana on September 5th, 2015. There were a total of 11 directors and members attending. There was a quorum of Directors present with ALL directors in attendance.

Director Reports:

- **Secretary** – Ken W6HHC reported that he has a conflict for the September 18 General meeting. Bob AF6C will act as secretary at the September meeting.
- **Membership** – Don N6XBP has completed a YTD OCARC membership roster. OCARC has 97 paid and honorary members. Ken W6HHC will mail it out to the membership.
- **Publicity** – Robbie KB6CJZ reported that club flyers had been replenished at HRO. Ken will prepare a club Radio Auction flyer for Robbie to distribute.

OLD BIZ:

- **Newsletter Editors**
 - Sept - Paul W6GMU;
 - Oct - Corey - KE6YHX;
 - Nov - Greg W6ATB
 - Dec - Bob AF6C
 - Jan - Ken W6HHC
 - Feb - Tom W6ETC
- **Program Speakers for Club Meetings**
 - Sep - Show-and-Tell
 - Oct - Radio Auction
 - Nov - (pending program) & also elections
 - Dec - Club Christmas Party (Dec 04)
- **Storage Unit for Club Equipment**

Greg W6ATB reported he has paid for a storage unit in Placentia, 5'x6' with 12 ft ceilings for \$71/mo. The larger 5'x10' unit was already taken. Nicholas AF6CF organized a work party with Tim N6TMT and Tom W6ETC after the Board meeting to move some club equipment into the new storage unit.
- **Increase in Club Dues for 2016**

The Board reaffirmed that the extra cost of the storage rental unit will require the club membership Dues to increase to \$30/year

beginning with 2016 dues. The board motion for this dues increase for 2016 was approved at the July Board of Directors meeting.

- **Trying Again for Membership PayPal button**

The following committee has been formed and will work out the PayPal list details and also create a new PayPal account: Tom-W6ETC, Greg-W6ATB, Ken-W6HHC, and Nicholas-AF6CF.

- **Disposition of WA6RUS (SK) Estate Radio Gear**

Tim N6TMT will provide list of equipment that the wife of WA6RUS (SK) had donated to the club to be placed in RF Newsletter for the October Radio Auction advertisement.

- **Los Alamitos JFTB Base for next Field Day?**

Paul W6GMU reported he expects to be able to report back to the board during September of feed-back concerning use of Los Alamitos base for FD.

- **2016 Election Committee**

An election committee to find nominations for the 2016 Board of Directors consists of Tim N6TMT, Tom W6ETC, Nicholas AF6CF, and Ken W6HHC. The following board members said they were willing to be nominated for the Board in 2016: AF6C, AF6CF, N6TMT, N6XBP, W6ATB, W6GMU, and W6HHC.

NEW BIZ:

- **Possibility of License classes** – After much discussion, the Board agreed that the club is not yet prepared to teach any classes for obtaining a license. However, the club will prepare a list of “Elmers” and their areas of expertise...to help new-comer hams get started. Tom W6ETC will head up the effort to identify Elmers within the club.
- **OCARC VE Testing Plans** - The following club members already have their VE Testing credentials:
 - Arnie N6HC - Paul W6GMU
 - Don N6XBP (pending) - Tom W6ETC (pending)
 - Greg W6ATB - Jack KK6VNB (pending)
 - Ken W6KOS
- **BandPass Filters for Field Day** – Bob AF6C will research the current cost of BP Filters for use at FD. OCARC should have two for 20M (CW and SSB), etc.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ken W6HHC – secretary

Try Out Radio Contesting – Dan Violette, KI6X

At the August OCARC meeting, Arnie Shatz (N6HC) was on the panel and gave a very brief introduction to radio contesting along with DXing. I would like to expand on the contesting information to give you the incentive to try it out. In addition to having fun, it will help you determine where your station can make contact since many people from the contest designated area are going to be on.

The best place to start is with the domestic contests from various state and other local QSO parties. Check out Bruce's (WA7BNM) contest calendar for when the contests are coming up or what contest might be next weekend with a summary and links to each of their rules: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

If, for example, the Ohio QSO party is on (which just passed), you will get a good chance to see how well you are able to contact stations in Ohio. Many Ohio operators will be on looking for people everywhere outside of Ohio. For this contest the Ohio stations give you RS(T) and their county while you would give them your signal report and state, California (CA). Go ahead and use 59 (599) for your contacts. 59 is not required; it's just the norm in contests.

You can also try the other side of the contest and operate in the California QSO Party (CQP) October 3/4. Here those in CA are the sought-after stations. The rules for this contest state you give a serial number (1, 2, 3, etc.) and your county (e.g., Orange (ORAN)). The CQP uses four letter abbreviations for each county.

Example exchanges for both the Ohio QSO Party and CQP follow (SSB examples with CW examples in parentheses):

Ohio QSO Party (outside OH give their state, inside their county)

Ohio station calling: CQ contest, CQ Ohio QSO Party W8ABC (CQ TEST CQ OQP W8ABC)

You: Kilo India 6 X-ray (KI6X)

Ohio station: KI6X 59 Fairfield (KI6X 599 FAIR)

You: Thank you, 59 California (TU 599 CA)

Ohio station: QSL QRZ W8ABC (QSL QRZ de W8ABC)

CQP with you calling CQ (will be some calling into California that you can work similar to above)

You: CQ CQ California QSO Party, Kilo India Six X-ray (CQ CQP de KI6X)

Station calling you: Whiskey 5 Alpha Bravo Charlie

You: W5ABC 59 Orange (W5ABC 599 ORAN)

Station calling you: Thank you, 59 Texas (TU 599 TX)

You: QSL, QRZ contest Kilo India 6 X-ray (TU QRZ CQP KI6X)

Listen to a loud station working others and you will hear the routine (split frequencies are rarely used in contests). There are also many DX contests. In some, US / North American stations are sought, which improves your QSO chances since they are calling into our area.

Hope this gets you interested in trying out some radio contesting. It is just another facet of amateur radio that some find truly fascinating.



A FEW of the RADIO AUCTION ITEMS (just a sample)

(OCARC Radio Auction – coming Friday, October 16, 2015)

- MFJ Model 493 Memory Keyer
- Vibroplex dual paddle keyer
- homebrew memory keyer
- telegraph style CW keys - 2 each
- paddle keyer
- Nart Products Model P1220 unidentified
- MFJ Deluxe Verse Tuner II
- Crystal Filter 88H2, freq 8830 KHz
- mic & cable
- homebrew antenna pole with plastic pieces for dipole wires
- Kenwood model TS-430S HF transceiver
- Kenwood model TS-130S HF transceiver
- Swan Model 117-C power supply
- Swan model 500 SSB HF transceiver
- Tubes, maybe for Swan? 6HF5 & 6GK6 - 2 each
- Dell model P2210 22-inch flat-screen PC monitor (display great, USB ports bad)
- Heil model CC-1-K4 Mic cable. Fits XLR to older Kenwood & Elecraft
- Heil model AD-100 Adapter Cable. Adapts CC-1Y or AD-1Y Heil cables to fit Yaesu 6-pin mic connector radios. (8-pin round receptacle to 6-pin modular plug. Adapter for Yaesu RJ12 Mic Port)
- Weston Model 93 Laboratory DC voltmeter with mirrored scale. Sensitivity is 5,000 Ω per Volt. Three ranges 0 - 3V, 0 - 150V & 0 - 300VDC.

And more.....

Watson's Radio Club Goes Through Some Changes

The "Watson's Radio Club" is a loose-knit group of hams that eat breakfast each Friday morning at 7:30 AM. Most of the group is associated with the Orange Police Department RACES group called COAR (City of Orange Auxiliary Radio). Others are friends of COAR RACES and help out COAR during the year. Others just live in the City of Orange and enjoy the no-pressures chatter of the group and good food. You will find quite a few OCARC members eating at Watson's

For many years, this group of hams has eaten breakfast at Watson's Drug Store, located just East of the Old Town Plaza in the City of Orange. The drug store was first established in 1899 and has been used in movies. But Watson's Drug Store is changing owners. The new owners will keep the Watson's name and refurbish with new furniture, etc. Right now, Watson's is boarded up while remodeling is in progress.



The Watson's Radio Club members pose on the last breakfast before remodeling temporarily closed the land-mark establishment. L-R along front are: Joe KE6ZMG, Rich KE6WWK, Bev KI6APH, our favorite waitress Lily, Vern KG6OXD, and Ken W6HHC. L-R along the rear are: Will KJ6IA, Frank W6NKU, Leon KK6AB, Steve KI6DDE Kathleen K6IBH, Quent W6RI, Robbie KB6CJZ, Ken W6KOS, Fran KJ6UJS, Fred KK6MGW, and Mike WA6OUE.

The group plans to eat breakfast at Marie Callender's restaurant on Katella Ave in Orange until the remodeling at Watson's is completed in a few weeks.



Having what it takes to be an Elmer

Article by Tom W6ETC, OCARC VP 2015

One of the unique characteristics of the OCARC is that it has a large group of Extra, Advanced and General class licensed Amateur Radio operators who have expressed a willingness to assist aspiring, as well as newly licensed, Ham Radio enthusiasts.

So what exactly is an Elmer?

The term 'Elmer' is often used these days. An Elmer can be defined as a Ham who, in plain English, acts as a mentor of new Ham Radio operators.

Most folks outside of Amateur Radio typically would NOT recognize the term 'Elmer' but may recognize a more common expression such as 'Mentor.' No matter how you look at it, whether you call them a 'Mentor' or 'Elmer', their mission is to provide a positive influence that impacts every Op's (operators, more specifically radio operators) level of self-confidence and knowledge by expanding their sense of discovery and helping to facilitate future Amateur Radio operational expertise.



The National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) has always felt that the local radio club is best place where real Amateur Radio operations learning takes place.

The mission and objective of the OCARC Elmer program mirrors the ARRL's Elmer (mentoring) program.

Is an 'Elmer' an expert on every aspect of Amateur Radio?

The obvious answer to the question is **NO!**

Amateur Radio is a great hobby that offers and helps develop a wide range of Radio and Electronic disciplines. Ham Radio operators communicate by voice, data (computers), Morse code and other exciting ways. Ham Radio operators can be motivated to be part of the hobby because of interests in emergency communications, electronics, computers, wireless technologies and more. Amateur Radio is the **premier** high-tech hobby and it's a hobby that is enjoyed by many people from all walks of life from around the world. As such, it offers a diversity of opportunities, encourages the development of various disciplines to communicate with interesting people from within Orange County, surrounding communities and around the world.

The term Elmer often describes men and women who really care about others and who demonstrate that they are willing to cooperatively and collaboratively share their time and their expertise in helping (mentoring) new (and old) Ham Radio operators. Their efforts assist in developing the skill sets of future Amateur Radio operators.

An Elmer also becomes a sounding board for those who just need someone who they can look up to and talk to from time to time... to ask questions about the hobby's various technical or operational disciplines without having to feel intimidated or fearing that their question or questions may seem dumb or just plain stupid. An Elmer knows that there are **no** stupid questions!

Do you have what it takes to be a successful OCARC Volunteer Elmer?

Answer these questions:

- Do you believe that Hams share a fascination with communications, electronics and new technologies?
- Do you have a real interest in promoting Amateur Radio and are you willing to share your expertise and experiences?
- Do you enjoy being and interacting with others?
- Would you describe yourself as a good listener? A good radio operator should be willing to listen to others.
- Do you have an in-depth knowledge of different aspects or disciplines of Amateur Radio operations that you are willing to share with others?
- Are you willing to help others become more successful in reaching their own expectations and understanding of Amateur Radio operations?
- Can you encourage and be patient with others?



**I want you to
be an Elmer!**

If you answered yes to any or all of the questions above, then you may be a great candidate to help others. All that's required is to volunteer a little of your time to someone that

may or may not be new to Amateur Radio. Just imagine what that could mean to someone who is struggling to learn or has hit a little bump in the road. What might seem simple to you may be a new, profound experience to another. Imagine knowing that because you cared enough to share your experiences, you made another Ham's experiences so much better!

NO Elmer experience is required, and it doesn't take a lot of time or effort on your part.

What are the Benefits of being an OCARC Elmer / Peer / Mentor?

- You gain the satisfaction of passing along a legacy of your knowledge, insight & experience
- Your own leadership skills are enhanced
- You gain the unique perspective of how others view the world of Amateur Radio and how you can have a positive influence in their experiences
- You gain enhanced self-esteem and respect from others that comes from helping a fellow radio operator
- You are rewarded with the satisfaction of making a real and positive difference in someone's life
- You get a better return on your invested time when you consider others' needs
- And as an Elmer you receive a **Huge** amount of satisfaction knowing that you have been a positive influence to the Orange County Ham community

Interested in being an Elmer? Want more information?

If you are willing to be added to the volunteer Elmer, list please contact one the following. Please include your contact information and areas of interest:



OCARC President: [Tim Millard N6TMT](#),
OCARC Vice President: [Tom Cowart W6ETC](#)
OCARC Secretary: [Ken Konechy W6HHC](#)
OCARC General Mailbox: OCARC_info@w6ze.org

The OCARC is a nonprofit organization that is celebrating more than 82 years of serving the Amateur Radio community of Orange County, California. As a result of its longevity it largely consists of highly experienced Ham operators.

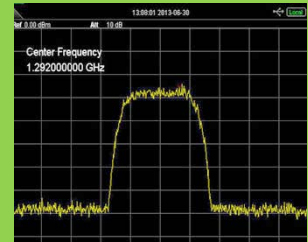
We are very proud of our Amateur Radio veterans who consistently help to keep the OCARC membership informed of the latest technological advances and happenings within this exciting hobby. Regardless of where you are in your journey into Amateur Radio, the OCARC is where you'll find friends and peers ready to share their insight and expertise.



Digital Amateur TeleVision Exciter/Transmitter

now available from

DATV-Express



- A more affordable DATV exciter can now be ordered
- Fully assembled and tested PCBA
- DVB-S protocol for DATV (using QPSK modulation)
- Can operate all ham bands from 70 MHz-to-2450 MHz
- RF output level up to 10 dBm (min) all bands (DVB-S)
- Software Defined Radio (SDR) architecture allows many variations of IQ modulations
- "Software-Defined" allows new features to be added over the next few years, without changing the hardware board
- As extra bonus, the team has been able to get the board to transmit DVB-T 2K mode, however we cannot guarantee the performance of that protocol. Caveat Emptor!
- Requires PC or ODROID running Ubuntu Linux (see User Guide)
- Price is US\$300 + shipping – order using PayPal



For more details and ordering

www.DATV-Express.com

Register on the web site
to be able to see
the PURCHASE page

