

# ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LVII NO. 09

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

September 2016

# The Prez Sez.....

By Nicholas AF6CF



September is here, and while we wait for the final Field Day numbers for our two groups from the ARRL, we have great activities planned for the rest of the year. Our speakers this month will update us on the MESH network and the newest coverage areas. This is a new technology that creates a high speed, self-discovering, selfconfiguring, fault tolerant, wireless computer network. This network can be used for amateur radio communications, and is often used as an emergency backup in case of Internet access failure in an EOC (Emergency Operations Center).

Next month we will have the an-

nual Club Radio Auction; so here you have an opportunity to clear your garage of "junk" (spouse's term) or "treasures" (our definition). Or even buy some rare object for pennies on the dollar. Do not miss this event: it will make us all to have a memorable evening. Please see page 8 and 9 for the Auction Rules. Remember that the November general meeting is also our elections night, and all the Board of Directors positions are up for grabs. Our Club has a term limits policy that precludes any individual to stay more than two years in any given position in the Board, so this is your chance to help the Club by becoming a Director, or even President. If you feel that you can fill a seat on the Board, please contact the Elections Committee any Board or member to get into the candidate's list.

Mark your calendars for our Christmas party on December 9 at 7 PM, with more details to come.

As usual, hope to see you all at the next General Meeting.

73 DE AF6CF

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The next General Meeting will be on:

# Friday, September 16, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

ENTER from the WEST SIDE entrance of the Red Cross Building, Room 208 Take elevator to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. See you there!

The OCARC September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on the Broadband-Hamnet<sup>TM</sup>.

Joe Ayers AE6XE and Don Hill KE6BXT will bring exciting news on new discoveries with this type of network and will be here for questions from those in the audience. There will also be a demonstration.

Orange County
Amateur Radio Club
www.W6ZE.org



# 2016 Board of Directors:

# President:

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

### **Vice President:**

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

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Bob Eckweiler, AF6C (714) 639-5074 af6c@w6ze.org

# **2016 Club Appointments:**

### **W6ZE Club License Trustee:**

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C (714) 639-5074 af6c@w6ze.org

# Club Historian(s) (Updated)

Bob Evans, WB6IXN (Retiring) (714) 543-9111 WB6iXN@w6ze.org

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# **Assistant Webmaster:**

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# **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. & 4<sup>th</sup> St.)

# Club Breakfast (Board Mtg.):

Normally First Saturday of month at 8am Marie Callender's Restaurant 1821 North Grand Ave Santa Ana, CA (Between 17<sup>th</sup> & Santa Clara)

# 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 Ann K6OIO, Net Control



# Club Dues for 2016:

Regular/New Members\* - - - - - \$30 Family renewal/Join\*\*- - - - - - \$45 New Member Join Jul-Dec\*\*\*- - - \$15 Replacement Badge\*\*\*\* - - - - - \$ 3

- \* New members Jan-Jun, w/badge.
- \*\* Two members or more, w/badge.
- \*\*\* New members Jul-Dec, w/badge.
- \*\*\*\* There is a \$1.50 charge if you'd like to have your badge mailed to you.

# OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2016-09-03

The OCARC Board meeting was held at the Marie Calendar's Restaurant at 1821 N. Grand Ave in Santa Ana on September 3rd, 2016. There were a total of nine members attending. There was also a quorum with all Directors present except Don N6BXP & Tony N2VAJ.

# **Director Reports:**

 Treasurer- Greg W6ATB will include a YTD cash flow report in the September newsletter.

# OLD BIZ:

# Newsletter Editors

Sept - Brian KM6CXL

Oct - Nicholas AF6CF

Nov - Paul W6GMU

Dec - Don N6XBP

Jan - Greg W6ATB

Feb - Bob AF6C

# Program Speakers for Club Meetings

Sept - Update on BroadBand-Hamnet

Oct - club radio auction with Chip K7JA

Nov - Working Amateur Satellites with Your HT

Nov – (NOTE: club 2017 elections will also be held)

# OCARC Membership Roster (PDF)

Don N6XBP prepared an updated 2016 club roster that was e-mailed to the membership and was uploaded to club web site.

# • OCARC Membership Growth

Tom W6ETC suggested that the club promote a VHF contest. This activity is aimed at giving ham newcomers an activity to learn new skills.

# PayPal Button

The PayPal button to renew memberships and allow new members to pay online has been completed (Phase 1) with a lot of work by Bob AF6C and Ken W6HHC. You can find the revised club membership pages under **HOW TO JOIN** link. Phase 2 will simplify the info-gathering and also simplify the PayPal pull-down menu choices in order prevent confusion and prevent potential mistakes. Ken thanked Nicholas AF6CF for setting up the new PayPal account for OCARC.

# VE Team

Tom W6ETC will send out a list of VE events that can be used by OCARC VE team to obtain some training and experience.

# Club History Material at Santa Ana Library

The club's new Historian, Corey KE6YHX, reported that Santa Ana library is undergoing renovation until September. Corey will will review materials when the library is open again.

# Opportunity Drawing Plans

The Board approved a motion to again sell opportunity tickets at general meetings to win a \$50 HRO gift certificate prize.

# • New Ass't WebMaster

Tom W6ETC informed Ken W6HHC that Lito (new call KI9H) expressed interest in helping with the club web site. Ken to contact Lito.

# 2017 OCARC Election Committee

Nicholas AF6CF reported for the election committee that nominations had been found for all but two positions. See page 06 in this newsletter for the complete nomination list.

# • Report on Recent Show & Go Activity

Tim N6TMT reported that there was a very low OCARC turn out with only W6ETC, N6GP, and N6TMT for the Show & Go Activity held in August. Instead of a T-Hunt, conducted a near-by NPOTA event at to activate the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail. NPOTA # TR13

# • Updated OCARC Tri-fold Brochure

Bob AF6C explained to Doug K6PGH that the reason Doug was having difficulty printing a batch of 500 color copies of the OCARC Tri-Fold Brochure was he had to use 8.5x14 paper (ideally either off-white or light "orange-ish").

# OCARC Pens for Advertising

Doug K6PGH reported that he could by 500 pens with OCARC info on it for \$223. Nicholas AF6CF had purchased small bags of different styles and colors. There are two pen styles: #1 White body with black lettering and a colored end-cap pocket clip and actuator (samples have purple end-caps). #2 Colored pen with white lettering and a rubber grip of the same color

# **NEW BIZ:**

# OCARC December Christmas Party

Tim N6TMT reported that reservations had been made for the OCARC Christmas Party on Dec 09 at Mimi's Café on 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Tustin. Menu choices will be Strip Steak, Salmon, or French Pot Roast.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Konechy W6HHC

# OCARC 2016 Field Day

The **1933 Long Beach earthquake** took place on March 10 at 5:54 P.M. PST south of downtown Los Angeles. The epicenter was offshore, southeast of Long Beach, California, on the Newport-Inglewood Fault. The earthquake had a moment magnitude of 6.4 and a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (Severe). Damage to buildings was widespread throughout Southern California. An estimated forty million dollars' worth of property damage resulted, and between 115 and 120 people died. Many of these fatalities occurred as people ran out of buildings and were hit by falling debris.

The major damage occurred in the densely-populated city of Long Beach on the south-facing coast of Los Angeles County, and extended to the industrial area south of downtown Los Angeles. At Long Beach, buildings collapsed, water tanks fell through roofs, and houses were tossed off their foundations. School buildings were among the structures that incurred the most severe damage.

Just one month after the earthquake, the California State Legislature enacted the **Field Act** when it was determined that loose subsoil, shoddy workmanship, and substandard materials all contributed to the failure of the school structures. This legislation required retrofit of all schools in California to new, strict standards.

The earthquake also destroyed or decimated most of the power and communications infrastructure, requiring the armed forces to move in to support the recovery effort.

There was no telephone service, so the Amateur radio community immediately setup a 24 hour operation to relay messages in and out of the area by HF communications.

Simultaneously a group of Orange County Amateur Radio Operators responded to the need by creating a new organization. That organization became known as OCARC, the Orange County Amateur Radio Club over 83 years ago and is still going strong today.

The Amateur radio operators efforts were so successful that the ARRL decided to create what is known as Field Day, a yearly 24 hour disaster training activity.

The ARRL realized early on that if the Field Day activity was to be successful, the operators had to be somehow motivated or induced to participate.

So they devised a structure for Field Day that included a set of rules and point incentives to lure a majority of people to participate. This structure would have an end result of certain "points" with stations participating in different categories as per number of transmitters, type of power used, etc.

The response from the Amateur Radio community was great, with the ARRL fine tuning every year the rules of engagement recognizing and awarding points for safety, the ability to operate without the power grid, and for visits by VIP's, elected officials, etc.

# Let's fast forward to the 21st century now.

A few years ago, the OCARC President felt that the Field Day activity was being "hijacked" by the East Coast operators, with one station consistently winning the first place and most of the ten top scores being from the "East Coast".

# RF Newsletter Orange County Amateur Radio Club www.W6ZE.org

So it was proposed at a Club meeting to launch a decisive effort to regain a position in the first 10 scores, coinciding with the Club's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This resulted as one of the best scores ever held by the OCARC, being second in the nation. The higher ham radio operator density of the east coast, combined with the propagation conditions allowed the traditional winner to score again in first place.

This started a debate among the OCARC members, with some calling the ARRL Field Day a "Contest" and some calling it a "Fun" activity.

Eventually, the "Contesters" decided to form their own Field Day group separate from the OCARC mainstream, calling it the ABCD group, after the initials of their founders.

There were no negotiations, special meetings or conversations, this just happened naturally, and those with a contesting inclination would join the ABCD group and everybody else would participate in the official OCARC activity.

The 2016 Field Day was a big success for both groups with safe operation and good scores.

So now I personally feel that having two Field Day groups, the OCARC has the best of both worlds and I thank and salute both the OCARC and the ABCD group for a job WELL DONE.

73 DE AF6CF

# An ARRL Special Service Club

# OCARC 2016 Club & Special Event Calendar

Sept. 03, 2016 OCARC Board of Directors Meeting <a href="http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html">http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html</a>
Sept. 16, 2016 OCARC General Meeting @ the Red Cross <a href="http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html">http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html</a>
Sept. 20, 2016 SHOW-and-GO OCARC Activity

Sept. 24-25, 2016 CQWWDX-RTTY CQ WW RTTY DX Contest http://www.cqwwrtty.com/

Oct. 01, 2016 OCARC Board of Directors Meeting http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html

Oct. 01-02, 2016 California QSO Party http://www.cqp.org/ rules: http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html

Oct. 21, 2016 OCARC Auction (Link Pending)

Oct. 09-11, 2016 The 34th Annual ARRL & TAPR Digital Comm. Conference https://www.tapr.org/dcc.html

Oct. 14-16, 2016 ARRL Pacific Division Convention (PACIFICON) http://www.pacificon.org/

Oct. 22-23, 2016 JOTA (Jamboree-on-the-Air) http://www.scouting.org/JOTA.aspx

Oct. 26-27, 2016 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB http://www.cgww.com/

### Nov. 05, 2016 OCARC Board of Directors Meeting http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html

Nov. 05-07, 2016 ARRL CW November Sweepstakes <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>

Nov. 19-21, 2016 ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest, SSB <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>

Nov. 20, 2016 OCARC General Meeting @ the ARC Santa Ana http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html

Nov. 26-27, 2016 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CQ <a href="http://www.cqww.com/">http://www.cqww.com/</a>

Dec. 02-04, 2016 ARRL 160-Meter Contest <a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">http://www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>

Dec. 10-11, 2016 ARRL 10-Meter Contest <a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-meter">http://www.arrl.org/10-meter</a>

Dec. 09, 2016 OCARC Holiday Party - ( Mimi's Café on 17th Street in Tustin)

# LIST OF THOSE RUNNING FOR THE 2017 OCARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Others can be nominated to the list at the November meeting.

More than one person can run for any position on the board.

PRESIDENT - Nicholas AF6CF

VICE PRESIDENT— (open)

SECRETARY — Ron W6FPS

TREASURER —Ken W6HHC

ACTIVITIES — Tim N6TMT

MEMBERSHIP — Bob AF6C

PUBLICITY — (open)

TECHNICAL— Clem W0MEC



DIRECTOR AT LARGE — Greg W6ATB & Paul W6GMU

This list of suggested names is not final or "all inclusive" and it is subject to change at or before the November 20<sup>th</sup> Elections.

If you want to run for a position on the OCARC Board of Directors, please contact the Elections Committee Chairman.



Typical OCARC Board of Directors (breakfast) meeting

# **2016 OCARC**

# SHOW & TELL SCHEDULE

This is a list of suggested Show and Tell activities for the 2016 calendar year. Bring your item to show and tell! \*

September: Digital Modes

October: Auction - no "S-n-T"

November: Linear Amplifiers

December: X-MAS Party - no "S-n-T"

\*If you wish to participate in the "Show & Tell", please contact the Activities Chairman Tim, N6TMT <a href="Motor-N6TMT@w6ze.org">N6TMT@w6ze.org</a>, or just bring your "treasured stuff" to OCARC meetings to share with the other members.

Note: Topics are subject to change without notice.

# **Quick-View OCARC 2016 Calendar and Topic Schedule**

|    | OCARC<br>Member-<br>ship** | Board of Directors Meeting  B |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9  | 9/16                       | 9/03                          |
| 10 | 10/21                      | 10/01                         |
| 11 | 11/20                      | 11/05                         |
| 12 | Christmas<br>Party 12/09   | ??                            |

<sup>\*</sup>Indicates Change to normal schedule. OCARC Board of Directors schedules breakfast meetings on the 1st Satur day of each month. B Indicates Breakfast available at extra cost, meeting held offsite at a location; Marie Calanders.

# COAR RACES Helping Orange PD at International Street Fair

The Orange PD obtained extra eyes and ears to help patrol the City of Orange International Street Fair from COAR RACES (City of Orange Amateur Radio). By walking the crowds, COAR RACES members could assist identifying any problems or questions to the OPD via COAR Net Control located in the Orange Police Building. Four members of OCARC were involved in helping COAR during the September fair.



Four of the COAR RACES members helping Orange PD are (L-R): Quent W6RI, Sam W6RDS, Jeff KK6YUP (OCARC), Lt Monjaraz, Ken W6HHC (OCARC), and Sgt Thorsen

<sup>\*\*</sup>OCARC membership meetings are typically held the 3rd Friday each Month.

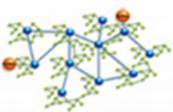
# September 16th 2016 OCARC Membership Meeting



Broadband-Hamnet™ HSMM-MESH™



Presented by Don Hill, KE6BXT Joe Ayers, AE6XE









Mark Your Calendar

Friday, October 21st 7:00 PM

Held at...
American Red Cross
600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana, CA
Second Floor Rm #208





# **AUCTION**

OCARC RADIO AUCTION Friday, October 21, 2016 7 PM

www.w6ze.org



# **Auction Rules**

The OCARC Annual Auction will take place on **Friday evening**, **October 21st**, **2016**, **at 7:00 PM** at the American Red Cross facility located at 600 N. Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana. The room will open at 6:00 PM to allow registration, set-up and viewing. All buyers and sellers are welcome. The following rules for the auction will be in effect:

- 1. Only ham radio or electronic equipment / items will be auctioned (i.e.: no fishing equipment, etc)
- 2. Buyers and Sellers must register at the door with the OCARC Treasurer.

# There is NO registration fee.

- 3. Sellers should number each item in their lot. A tag should indicate the minimum bid they expect.
- 4. Only 3 items from a Sellers lot will be auctioned during each turn. After auction 3 items, the auctioneer will move on to the next lot. After the first 3 items from every lot have been offered for bidding, the auctioneer will start the second round of auctioning with the next 3 items in Lot #1.
- 5. Auction bidding will take place as follows:
- (a) \$0.00-to-\$5.00 bidding will take place in \$0.50 increments.
- (b) Over-\$5.00-to-\$50.00 bidding will take place in \$1.00 increments.
- (c) Over-\$50.00-to-\$100.00 bidding will take place in \$5.00 increments.
- (d) Over-\$100.00 bidding will be in \$10.00 increments.
- 6. Rules 4 and 5 may be changed at the auctioneer's discretion to expedite the auction.
- 7. Payments for purchased items are due at the end of the auction and shall be by cash or check with the appropriate ID. No two-party checks or credit cards are allowed. Disbursements to the Sellers will be by OCARC check, only. Sellers will be charged 10% of the selling price for items sold by OCARC.

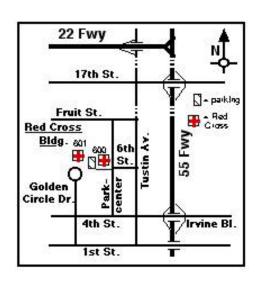
A special table will be set up for donated items. The proceeds of donated items will go to the OCARC



The American Red Cross George M. Chitty Building 600 Parkcenter Drive Santa Ana, CA.

Second Floor, Room 208\*
(Enter from the West Side.)
Note: The door locks after
7 PM. If no one is there to
let you in call W6ZE on the
TALK-IN freq.
146.55 MHz Simplex

\* Room # is subject to change.



# **Kickstart Your Group with Club Contesting**

Club contesting brings a team together for more QSOs, more time on the air, and more fun.

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# G. Scott Davis, N3FJP

When we first introduced the idea of team radiosport to our local club, the Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society, some were skeptical, some enthused, and others confused — but teaming up has thoroughly reinvigorated our group. Together we're having tons of fun and building a sense of camaraderie. Best of all, we're sharing the excitement of working toward a common goal. It's done wonders for our club. Here's how you can do the same for your group.

#### **Club Contesting: The Basics**

Whether you just want to make a few contacts or you have serious competition in mind, there's nothing like a contest to get you on the air. Radiosport offers a great opportunity to speedily connect with lots of fellow hams, enhance your operating skills, learn about propagation, demonstrate the abilities of Amateur Radio, accumulate lots of DX entities, states, or sections in a hurry, and discover the strengths and weaknesses of your station.

That's more than enough incentive to enjoy the many fun radiosport events we can look forward to annually, but club contesting adds another great element — the team! When you contest with your club from your home station, every point that your station earns is added to the club's cumulative score, so everyone is pulling together to reach a common goal. The total score comprises points from all the individual home stations (and maybe a club station too, if you have one) in your club.

Because the club score is a total, not an average, there's no worry that anyone might somehow hold the club back by joining in. Everyone is helping and encouraging each other to achieve their individual goals, and the result is the club's total score.

# **Reinvigorating Our Group**

If your group is like ours, when you first start club contesting, you'll likely have a few people who already enjoy radiosport, a few who are willing to give it a try, and some who are intimidated by it. Some people worry about how the comparatively few QSOs they think they'll make will be received, compared to others who make 1000 contacts per contest.

The key to our success has been creating a no-pressure environment where every QSO is valued. The ham who's never contested before and makes a handful of contacts is appreciated every bit as much as the regular contester who makes more than 1000.

That fun and thrill is infectious for all of us. On our club e-mail group, post-contest recounts ensue, which in turn gives others the incentive to give contesting a try. With each successive contest, operators who started by tentatively putting a toe in the water are diving in, and new operators are often joining in for the first time.

Our cumulative scores are progressively improving, too. Because operators are having fun, they are spending more time on the air, making more contacts. Their skills are improving, and their higher QSO rates always add to the total as well.

Figure 1 — An example of a portion of the data included in the online contest upload, accessible to all team members as a web page that constantly updates automatically throughout the contest.

# N3FJP ARRL-SS Status Current status as of: 2015/11/25 17:00:55 UTC 2015/11/25 12:00:55 PM Local Updates are set to upload every 3 minute(s). Your Internet browser will refresh this page automatically every minute. Current Score Statistics: Total Contacts = 554 Sections Worked = 83 Sections Remaining = 0 Total Score = 91,964

Figure 2 — The contest leaderboard display for the 2015 November Sweepstakes, which updated every 60 seconds throughout the contest.

#### NEMARCS Total Score = 417,518 Current status as of: 2015/11/23 10:18:36 UTC **Uploading Participants:** Call QSOs 20 Min 60 Min Frequency Score W3JX 186,584 1,124 27 28.84600 **N3FJP** 91,964 554 30 14.15980 KA2BKG 51,460 310 18 24 14.31800 27 **KB3KNX** 32,400 200 19 3.80900 N3FM 9 27,556 166 13 3.82537 WC3N 18,758 113 15 7.13890 5 K4JDF 8,320 104 12 4 3.86399 **KA3YJM** 476 17 0 0

# **Sharing the Contest in Real Time**

Sharing our contest adventures after the event is great fun, but teaming up in real time as the contest unfolds has taken the excitement to a whole new level. We accomplish this in two ways. First, we set up the automatic status upload feature available in all my N3FJP software contest programs (from the program's menu options, click SETTINGS > WEB UPLOAD). With the upload feature enabled (see Figure 1), we can see everyone's current score and QSO count, which updates automatically every 3 minutes.

To make it even easier to monitor how our team is doing, I created a little club score processor program that summarizes our current club totals from our individual uploads and updates them on the web every 60 seconds (see Figure 2). That way, we can see minute-by-minute how everyone is doing, all on one page. By the time this article goes to press, you should be able to download the club score processor program free from my website at www.n3fjp.com.

Secondly, we've found using an online text chat room to be of tremendous value. Folks share how they are doing, ask questions, cheer each other on, and provide any needed help. It's great for new operators who might need a bit of nurturing or encouragement, and it's fun for all of us.

The chat room works particularly well because instead of stopping your run rate to answer a question on 2 meters, you can just bring up the chat window in your Internet browser when it's convenient for you, and contribute between contacts. Even club members who may not be operating a particular contest themselves will still sign in to help look for needed multipliers.

Recently we have set up a permanent virtual clubhouse on Discord (https://discordapp.com/). This is pretty easy to do, will let you stay logged in indefinitely, and will accommodate any number of members.

Of course, like DX spotting, folks will post exciting stations or multipliers that others in our group may be looking for in the chat room, so if your group uses the chat room, make sure everyone enters in the "Assisted" category when applicable.

# **Finding Contests for Your Club**

There are many annual club contest eligible events, sponsored by a variety of organizations. As a starter, here are the major ARRL

# **The Club Gavel Competition**

The ARRL Club Competition is a great incentive for members of all kinds of ARRL Affiliated clubs — not just contest clubs — to get on the air for ARRL contests. Competitive activity is excellent exercise for improving operating abilities, giving the radio equipment a good test, and building radio "know-how" in general.

In the nine different contests that allow Club Competition, there are three different levels of the Club Competition designed to accommodate all sizes of clubs: Unlimited (with 51 or more entries), Medium (from 11 to 50 entries), and Local clubs (10 entries or fewer). The winner of each category in each contest is awarded a highly coveted gavel. The full Club Competition rules are available at www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Club Gavel Competition-V3.pdf, or in the "Rules for All ARRL Contests" at www.arrl.org/contest-rules.

Clubs across North America compete in many different ways. The largest clubs with many members try to rack up millions of points in order to win nationwide. Smaller clubs join the fun by challenging a rival to see whose members do the best.

By encouraging every member to submit a score, the clubs also encourage new hams and hams with new privileges to get on the air in a new way. They are often surprised at how many contacts they can make — and with so many states, provinces, and countries! What better way to chase Worked All States than in the November Sweepstakes? DXCC and the ARRL DX contests are natural partners, as are the three VHF contests and the VUCC award. Many clubs recognize the efforts of their members, particularly those new to contesting, with achievement awards — a great way to mentor and encourage on-the-air activity.

Every ARRL Affiliated Club is encouraged to compete by getting their members on the air and submitting every single score. Any eligible member should feel welcome operating and being a part of the club total. We hope to see your club in the Club Competition tables, moving up every year as more and more members join the fun. Bang the gavel — it's contest time!

and CQ contests that are eligible for club competition, but be sure to check out other information sources like the *National Con*test Journal for even more events.

January — ARRL January VHF Contest, ARRL RTTY Roundup, CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest CW

February — ARRL International DX Contest CW, CQ World Wide WPX RTTY Contest, CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest SSB

March — ARRL International DX Contest SSB, CQ World Wide WPX Contest SSB

May — CQ World Wide WPX Contest CW

June - ARRL June VHF Contest

July - CQ World Wide VHF Contest

September — ARRL September VHF Contest, CQ World Wide DX RTTY Contest

October — CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB

November — ARRL November Sweepstakes CW, ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB, CQ World Wide DX Contest CW

December — ARRL 160 Meter Contest,

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Keep in mind that many of the contests that have both SSB and CW events, such as ARRL International DX, ARRL November Sweepstakes, CQ World Wide DX, etc, combine your club contest scores for both contests into one grand total in the club results listing. In addition, your log count is also added together, so if N3FJP operates both Sweepstakes SSB and Sweepstakes CW, for example, that counts as two logs submitted. The total number of logs submitted affects your club classification for ARRL contests.

# Setting Up Your Club and Submitting Your Club Score

For contests sponsored by CQ, submitting as a club couldn't be easier. Each member should simply submit their contest results as usual, but also include the club name that you decide on in the Cabrillo file (most contest logging programs provide a "Club Name" field on the Cabrillo creation form). As long as your club submits at least four Cabrillo logs with the same contest name specified in the Cabrillo log file, your club results will be totaled and listed. There isn't any prior registration requirement or any-

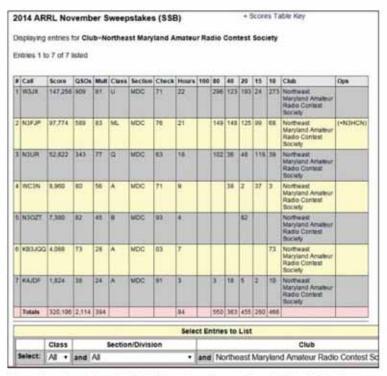


Figure 3 — Results from the 2014 November Sweepstakes SSB for the Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society.

thing else you have to do. The rules for each CO contest have more details in the "Club Competition" section.

For ARRL contests, you'll need to affiliate your club with ARRL if you haven't already. In addition to making your group ARRL club contest eligible, becoming an ARRL Affiliated Club has lots of other great benefits detailed here: www.arrl.org/ affiliated-club-benefits. You can apply for affiliation at www.arrl.org/applicationfor-affiliation.

Once you are affiliated with ARRL, simply add your club name to your Cabrillo submission file. Because ARRL also requires members to be in good standing, when you enter as a club for ARRL contests, your group's contest coordinator must submit a roster of participants, within 30 days after the contest, to contests@arrl.org.

### **Club Categories**

### ARRL

ARRL organizes contest club categories by size, so you can more easily see your results compared to similarly sized clubs (see the sidebar, "The Club Gavel Competition"). ARRL club categories include:

Unlimited - 51 or more entries, all within

a 175-mile radius or one ARRL section.

Medium — 50 entries or fewer, all within a 175-mile radius or one ARRL section, and not qualifying as a local club.

Local — 10 or fewer entries all within a 35-mile radius.

More details and other criteria are explained in Section 4, at www.arrl.org/ files/file/Clubs/Club%20Gavel%20 Competition-V3.pdf.

For CQ contests, the club categories are:

A. US Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing and operating within a 250-mile radius circle from the center of the club area (except for expeditions organized specifically for the contest conducted by members who reside within the club circle).

B. DX Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing and operating within either the DXCC country where the club is located, or within a 400 km radius circle from the center of the club area (except for expeditions organized specifically for the contest conducted by members who reside within the club area).

More information is available at www. cgww.com/rules.htm.

### Seeing the Results

While the accomplishments and goals of our individual members, lofty or modest, always come first, seeing how our club placed overall is fun, too, Both ARRL and CQ provide club results in their respective summary articles. For ARRL contests, go to the Contest Results Articles web page at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles, click on the year, find the contest, and click on FULL RESULTS. For CQ contests, go to the respective results contest link (for example, the CQ World Wide link is www.cqww. com/results.htm) and click WRITE UP.

ARRL also has a results database with lots of details. Just go to the Results Database page (www.arrl.org/results-database) and select a contest. Then, at the bottom of the page that appears, select your club from the drop-down menu and click SELECT and SORT ENTRIES. An example of the results can be seen in Figure 3.

CQ doesn't yet have a score database online, but they do provide an Excel spreadsheet for many contests with similar details. From their results page (www.cqww.com/results. htm), click the CLUB SCORE SUMMARY (.xls file) link. After you download the spreadsheet, click on the + on the row by your club name to see everyone's individual details (make sure you enable editing in the spreadsheet first).

### Conclusion

Want to breathe some new life into your local group, build a team, enhance camaraderie, and have a lot of fun? Setting your local group up for club contesting could be the answer. It certainly was for our Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society!

G. Scott Davis, N3FJP, holds an Amateur Extra class license. He was first licensed in 1976 as WB3CZF. Scott shares his interest in Amateur Radio and programming with his wife Kimberly, KA3SEQ, and sons Christopher, KB3KCN, and Bradley, KB3MNE. Scott can be reached at snkdavis@aol.com.

# **August Show N Go**

The Show N Go event on August 20<sup>th</sup> became more "Go" then anticipated. The original concept was to meet at Vista Park in Fullerton and do some HF operating followed by a cooperative t-hunt, however, the event worked out much differently.

Three members arrived to participate (Tim N6GP, Tom W6ETC and myself N6TMT). Determining that no one else was making their way there and one member needed to leave before the T-hunt was likely to start the decision was made to convert the event into a NPOTA (National Parks on The Air) event.

One of the closer locations for activating NPOTA is about 20 minutes north in the San Gabriel Valley where two historic trail systems once passed through. The Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail and the Old Spanish Trail.

# **History**

The Juan Bautista de Anza trail was the pathway followed by settles from New Spain whom made their way during 1775-76 from Central Mexico to near the San Francisco area. This is designated TR13 for purposes of the ARRL NPOTA event. The second trail, known as the Old Spanish Trail was established in 1829 and remained in use until 1848. It started in Colorado and made its way to Southern California. Mexican trader Antonio Armijo established it and lead a party of traders from both the US and Mexico on the route. Designated TR19 for the ARRL NPOTA event. The nearby Mission San Gabriel was a stop for travelers on both trails.

# Operating

We found a good field for operating at the Civic Center Park in San Dimas, however another park close by in La Verne was the backup plan. After tossing a line over a branch 40 or 50 feet up a Eucalyptus tree we were able to setup a wire for 20 meter operation. 1<sup>st</sup> up was to operate SBB over a short 45 minute window before the North American SBB QSO Party begin at 11am local time. Before the band got filed with CQ Contest I was able to make 32 QSO's.





September 2016 – OCARC RF Newsletter - Page 13

# **RF Newsletter**

# Orange County Amateur Radio Club

www.W6ZE.org

After the SBB contest was rolling it was onto CW operation. N6GP went to work and made 20 plus contacts for the NPOTA.

# **Conclusions**

Despite the day not proceeding as originally planned it worked out well. All it took was 50 watts, a wire and a well-placed tree in San Dimas.

# **73 N6TMT**











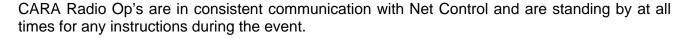
# CARA EmComm at Disney's Half Marathon

As a member of both <u>OCARC</u> (Orange County Amateur Radio Club) and <u>CARA</u> (Catalina Amateur Repeater Association) they recently provided an opportunity to be volunteer as an Emergency communications operator for the September 4<sup>th</sup> running of a <u>Disneyland Half Marathon</u>.

For this particular event 14+ CARA Amateur Radio Op's (operators) members signed up to participate. Each volunteer is assigned a particular station inside or in some cases outside the Park. Volunteers could be stationed at one of the medical tents; other's reported to water stations, or assigned to participant safety-security locations as well as other locations. Dan AD6HK and I were assigned as Net Control operators stationed at Disneyland's EOC (Emergency Operations Center).



There's a benefit offered both to Disneyland and to the CARA volunteers. Disneyland EOC receives qualified, experienced radio operators who arrive fully equipped, self-sufficient and organized for free. They are managed by CARA's onsite Net Control operators utilizing an informal but structured Net operational methodology. Here it is the Radio Operators primary responsibility to be available for Emergency traffic in case conventional methods of communications become compromised in any way. And at times depending on the (radio) traffic Radio Op's can augment EOC communication needs. They can be activated by Disneyland's EOC basically at a moment's notice. In this case the





The Radio Op's can report to Net control event updates. These include reports of runners who have fallen, possibly injured. At times volunteers running a station may request information or support through the Op's when they are unable to connect to Disneyland's operations.

For the CARA volunteer team the day begins early (3AM) for most. Teams will rendezvous at a predetermined points and times near Disneyland. Once our particular group of volunteer Amateur Radio Op's arrived we began reviewing assignments, updated instructions, pass out parking passes, then we all caravan together to specific parking/check-in locations.

I had the honor of observing Disneyland EOC operations in action. Their lay-out seems similar to that of a conventional <u>ICS</u> (Incident Command System) operation. Based on my opinion and observations they seem to be highly organized, well-practiced and very professional.

Each member of this team knows their specific assigned tasks and areas of responsibility. They do their job and they do it well.

And speaking of doing the job well this holds true for the whole group of CARA Amateur Radio Emergency communication Op's. From beginning to end for an event such as this it's imperative that there is good communication between volunteer Radio's Op's and Net Control. Net Control must be well organized, anticipate needs if all possible, respond to questions and act quickly when tasked to do so. Overall the radio communication efforts all seemed to work. The CARA repeater worked well, assigned Simplex channels worked and I walked away with marveling that everything ran fairly smooth. It was a privilege and pleasure to be part of this CARA team.

This experience has given me better insight and a broader appreciation of some of the challenges and obstacles that face Emergency Management personnel. I'd like to encourage you to consider joining a local Amateur Radio Emergency communication group. Most importantly take the time to Learn, Listen, and Practice. Practice builds experience. And experience build expertise if you know my meaning.

Here's a list of links that in my opinion offer outstand Amateur Radio Emergency communication volunteer opportunities or training or both. Links are clickable. They include:



- CARA (Catalina Amateur Repeater Associations)
- County of Orange (California) RACES
- ARRL ARES
- I highly recommend the (EmComm) <u>EC-001</u> class of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications that <u>ARRL Orange Section</u> Manager Mr. Carl Gardenias WU6D offers on occasion.
- ICS (Incident Command Systems) and NIMS (Natl. Incidents Mgt. Systems).
- Hospital Disaster Support Communications System click here <u>HDSCS</u>.
- Orange County and City RACES / ACS and Affiliated Units.
- <u>Search CERT</u> by zip code (Community Emergency Response Teams)
- Click the following link for <u>SATERN</u>

(Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network).



The OCARC website also offers a lot of information in regards to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. For more information click the logo link at the left.

Learn by listening. Learn by doing. You learn more if you just do it! 73

by Tom W6ETC













# You Can now Renew your OCARC Dues Online Using PayPal

The interactive-membership form on the <u>www.W6ZE.org</u> web site has been upgraded to allow paying online for new members or renewals. Prospective club members and existing members now have three choices in order to pay:

- 1. Use the new online PayPal button
- 2. Send check to the club PO Box
- 3. Bring cash or check to an OCARC meeting.

You can reach the membership form by clicking on the **HOW TO JOIN** link down the left-hand-side of the OCARC front web page.





# www.capoc.org

# **Mission Statement**

The mission of Community Action Partnership is to enhance the quality of life in Orange County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty by mobilizing and directing resources to programs that assist, educate and promote self-sufficiency.

# **Food Services**

# **Commodity Supplemental Food Program**

CSFP provides nutrient-rich foods contained in a monthly food package to the low-income elderly (60+). CAPOC personnel distribute over 23,000 food boxes each month at 55 distribution sites in Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. Household income is set by the Federal Poverty Guidelines which is at or below 130% for seniors.

Check out our Income Guidelines, Distribution Sites, Current Distribution Calendars and flyers at:

# http://www.ocfoodbank.org/csfp

For more information contact:

Trudy Wilson (714) 897-6670 ext. 3610 twilson@capoc.org

# **Orange County Food Bank**

The Orange County Food Bank works with over 336 charities, food banks, and community organizations to end hunger and malnutrition. The Food Bank provides USDA commodities, federal-fund purchased food, and donated food to different non-profit agencies in Orange County that serve low-income families and individuals. In order to be eligible, recipients must self certify that household income is at or below 150% of federal poverty level.

# For more information contact:

Mark Lowry (714) 897-6670 ext. 3601 mlowry@capoc.org www.ocfoodbank.org

# **Food Stamp Outreach**

The Food Stamp Outreach program is a federal program designed to help people on limited budgets buy nutritious food. Community Action Partnership assists individuals in applying for food stamps. The Partnership is the lead agency for a county-wide collaborative to increase enrollment

into the Food Stamp Program to alleviate hunger for the over 400,000 individuals in the county who are at-risk of hunger.

For more information contact:

Alfonso Chavez (714) 897-6670 ext. 3606 achavez@capoc.org

# **OC National School Lunch Program**

Schools offer free or reduced-price lunches that meet federal nutrition guidelines to children in low-income families. Children from families with income below 130% of federal poverty line receive free meals, while those with family income between 130-185% of FPL receive reduced price meals.

# For more information contact:

Dolores Barrett
Director of Community Partnerships and Services
(714) 899-3684 ext. 5301
dbarrett@capoc.org

# **Energy Conservation, Weatherization and Utility Assistance Programs**

Utility assistance programs helps low-income clients who need assistance paying their utilities, receive discounts, receive assistance during crisis and learn through consumer education how to conserve energy and reduce their energy burdens that results in savings. These programs include:

- Energy Application Forms
- Home Energy Assistance Program
- Energy Crisis Intervention Program or Fast Track
- Disaster Response Volunteer Program
- California Alternative Rates for Energy
- Weatherization
- Refrigerator Replacement
- Information and Referrals

# **Disaster Response Volunteers**

Disaster Response Volunteers (DRV's) are volunteers who will report to Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC) in times of disasters. There are many disasters that occur in Orange County so it is important to be prepared. Some of the functions of a DRV are:

- 1.To assist the Garden Grove main location of CAPOC with packaging any food or supplies that the community needs.
- 2.Go to one of the Family Resource Centers either in Anaheim or in Orange to assist the staff there with any relief effort that they need.
- 3. Help the AmeriCorp's DRVP Program Coordinator on educating the public about disasters that effect Orange County.

For more information contact:

# **Brian Ahn**

AmeriCorp's DRVP Program Coordinator at CAPOC

(714) 899-3684 ext. 5340

drvp@capoc.org





# TOPICS COVERED:



# **Coming soon!**

# **Disaster Readiness Presentation**

Learn How to Keep Your Family Safe during a Disaster

September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm-8 pm





✓ Building Disaster

**Kits** 

✓ Planning

✓ Practice Drills

✓ Earthquakes

√ Floods

✓ Fires

✓ Drought

✓ Heat Building Dis-

aster Kits

✓ Planning

For more information contact Maribel Reyes, Center manager at mreyes@capoc.org

# WHERE:

El Modena Family Resource

18672 E. Center Ave, Orange, CA 928

7:00pm-8:00pm













The ARRL Pacific Division and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Present:

# PACIFICON 2016 - October 14, 15 and 16, 2016

- The ARRL Pacific Division Convention!
- One of the Largest West Coast Vendor Shows of Amateur Radio Gear!
- Outstanding Technical Forums!
- Sunday Swap Meet!

  And...Much, Much More!

Takes Place in San Ramon, California San Ramon Marriott Hotel 2600 Bishop Drive San Ramon, California, 94583

For Events, Schedules, Latest Updates, and <u>Registration and Ticket Reservations</u> go to

### www.PACIFICON.org

Youth 17 & under free • College students \$5 • Advance registration closes October 3, 2016.

### If Hotel lodging is needed:

To make Hotel reservations on-line and get the special Pacificon rate, <u>CLICK HERE</u>. Or, call the Marriott Hotel Reservations Desk at 1-800-228-9290, and ask for the Pacificon rate. The special rate will be available until the Pacificon block is sold out.

# **Unique Forums Programs:**

Pacificon 2016 features a long list of great Forums, including presentations from some of the most well-known and respected names in Amateur Radio.

### PACIFICON 2016 Events, Forum Topics, and Exhibits Include:

All-Day Antenna Seminar on Friday • Saturday Morning Breakfast with Gordon West
• Outstanding Technical Forums • Large Vendor Show of Amateur Radio Gear - All 3
Days • Get-on-the-Air W1AW/6 Special Event Station • Special Public MDARC Meeting on Friday Evening

Saturday Evening Banquet with Guest Speaker, new ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF • Excellent QRP Program • Ham License Testing • One-Day Technician License Class Followed by License Testing • Gordon West Ham Instructor Academy • Kit Assembly/Soldering for Youth and Adults • Daily Radio Prize Drawings • Parachute Mobile Radio Transmissions • Wouff Hong Ceremony

Great Sunday Swap Meet • Sunday Ham Radio 101/201 Seminar - What Every New Ham Needs to Know • Sunday Disaster Communications Workshop • Sunday Annual ARRL Pacific Division Forum • Sunday Emergency Communication Exam (EC-001)

Come and Experience the Many Facets of Ham Radio!

<u>See Pacificon 2016 Introductory Video</u> Courtesy of Randy Hall, K7AGE

Pacificon Committee general inquiries- info@pacificon.org www.pacificon.org - (925) 945-8007

# OCARC General Meeting Minutes August 19, 2016

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Tim N6GP and Nicholas AF6CF began meeting by reading a prepared story about Field Day. A copy of the FD story is available on Page 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Tom W6ETC introduced the program for the evening - the DX Panel of Experts:

Arnie Schatz N6HC Bob Harrington AA6PW Chip Margelli K7JA Dan Violette KI6X Doug Wood K6PGH

Each preceded to give describe how they got interested in Ham radio and DX. Chip gave a brief presentation about DX. A question and answer session then began. There was also a prepared list of questions which were also addressed.

A break was taken from 8:30 PM until 8:45 PM

Upon reconvening it was suggested we do a brief business meeting, no roll call was taken. Tim M. made an announcement about a Show & Go event which was a Fox Hunt.

The following Directors were present.
Nicholas Haban AF6CF
Tom Cowart W6ETC
Don Mech N6XBP
Doug Wood K6PGH
Tim Millard N6TMT
Clem Brzoznowski WØMEC
Tony Scalpi N2VAJ
Bob Eckweiler AF6C

- Tim N6TMT. announced that the Christmas Party would be held at Mimi's Cafe (on 17th Street) on December 9th.
- Chip announced that Tim N6GP got married!
- Tom W6ETC announced that the club is looking for help for the Wednesday night net. We need volunteers and someone with experience with Echo-Link would be nice.

Tim N6TMT & Dan KI6X did a brief Showand-Tell on morse code keys.

At 8:54 PM the business part of the meeting ended and questions to the panel resumed. The meeting ended at 9:15 PM

Prepared by *Don Mech N6XBP*Acting Secretary



The DX Panel consisted of (L-R): Doug Wood K6PGH, Dan Violette KI6X, Arnie Schatz N6HC, Bob Harrington AA6PW, and Chip Margelli K7JA

# OCARC Cash Flow - Year To Date

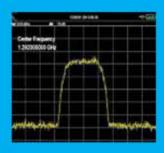
1/1/2016 through 9/8/2016

| Category                       | 1/1/2016-<br>9/8/2016 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| INFLOWS                        |                       |
| ARRL Membership Dues           | 39.00                 |
| Badge Income                   | 6.00                  |
| Battery-Box-Kit                | 150.00                |
| Dues, Membership 2016          | 1,670.00              |
| Dues, Membership 2017 (PayPal) | 63.00                 |
| Dues, New Member 2016          | 180.00                |
| Field Day Food Advance         | 428.50                |
| Food Snacks Donations          | 33.00                 |
| Old Generator Sold             | 100.00                |
| TOTAL INFLOWS                  | 2,669.50              |
| OUTFLOWS                       |                       |
| ARRL Membership Expense        | 34.00                 |
| Bank Svc Chg                   | 45.00                 |
| Battery-Box-Parts              | 166.25                |
| CA Statement Of Info filing    | 20.00                 |
| Club History Archive           | 4.00                  |
| Coffee Supplies Expense        | 76.73                 |
| Field Day Food                 | 612.50                |
| Food Snacks                    | 193.40                |
| Money Back For Change          | 10.00                 |
| OCARC Historian                | 159.46                |
| PAYPAL FEE'S                   | 4.28                  |
| PAYPAL Testing Reimbursement   | 2.80                  |
| PO Box Rental                  | 60.00                 |
| Postage                        | 39.16                 |
| Storage Locker                 | 664.00                |
| Web Site Hosting               | 89.94                 |
| Web Site SSL Fee               | 29.99                 |
| TOTAL OUTFLOWS                 | 2,211.51              |
| OVERALL TOTAL                  | 457.99                |



# 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
- Symbol Rates from 100K to 8000K Symb/sec allows RB-DATV
- Requires PC running Windows or 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

