



# RF



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

VOL. LX NO. 02

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

February 2019

## The Prez Sez.....

by Dan KI6X



I said last month that I would tell a little bit more about myself. But first, some OCARC discussion.

Winter Field Day was a lot of fun. I could not spend as much time as I would have liked, but being more casual than June FD it was a lot of fun. No big towers to erect, nor huge activity (but the activity was surprisingly high), nor pressure to keep going, and as you will see elsewhere, we should be record setting in our score.

We are also lining up some great speakers for the year so I hope all can attend each meeting and see

the variety of topics being presented

As a heads-up, the Board has moved the April meeting to one week later to April 26. Our original meeting date conflicted with any Passover or Good Friday activities the members would like to participate in.

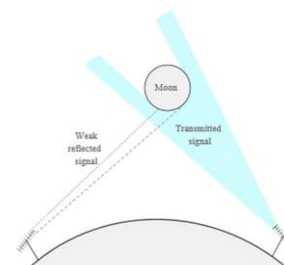
Now a little about me...  
...Continued on Page 12



## Next General Meeting

The February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 OCARC General Meeting program will be presented by Doug Millar - K6JEY

***"EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) on 10 GHz..."***



Doug has been active on 10GHz since the 1990's. Don't miss this program!!

*The next General Meeting will be on:*

**Friday, February 15, 2019**

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!*

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Nicholas Haban, AF6CF  
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 (714) 573-2965  
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[n6qq@msn.com](mailto:n6qq@msn.com)

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Feedback & Corrections:  
[rf\\_feedback@w6ze.org](mailto:rf_feedback@w6ze.org)

**Submit articles:**

[editors@w6ze.org](mailto: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  
 Alt: Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control  
  
 146.55 MHz Simplex FM  
 Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
 Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

7.086 ± MHz CW **OCWN**  
 Sun- 9:00 AM – 10 AM  
 Ann K6OIO, Net Control

**Club Dues for 2019:**

Regular Members renewals\* \$30  
 Family renewal/Join\*\* ..... \$45  
 New Member Join Jan-Mar\*\*\*\$30  
 Replacement Badge\*\*\*\* ..... \$ 3

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

## Winter Field Day 2019 Report

By Ron W6WG

First of all let's thank those who have made WFD 2019 a success by either operating, logging or providing support. Those to be thanked include Vijay KM6IZO, Tom W6ETC, Tom KA9FRH, Tim N6GP, Steve N1BKB, Ron W6WG, Phil K6PAD, Paul KB6OZZ, Jim AF6N, John KF6I, Greg W6ATB, Dan KI6X, Corey KE6YHX, Clem W0MEC, Chip K7JA, Bob AA6PW and Arnie N6HC.

We have completed our fourth Winter Field Day using the OCARC callsign W6ZE. Each year our effort, participation, and scores have increased despite the falling sunspot count and with the solar cycle nearly at its minimum.

Planning for WFD 2019 began in mid-November with emails and RF notices. By early January it was beginning to feel a bit overwhelming as the number of participants increased and the number of days until WFD 2019 was getting smaller. We are lucky to have a large number of members that have many years of Field Day experience and require little to no instruction on how to setup a site. Advice from the "Old Timers" on band plans, antenna layout, and equipment required was truly appreciated.

Setup was begun Friday afternoon in the large grassy area behind the Ocean View School District office buildings. Antennas consisted of a 10-15-20 meter tri-bander, 20 and 40 meter 3 element yagis, dipoles for 40, 80, and 180 meters, and a verity of digital/satellite antennas.

For this year's WFD we tried a different approach for sheltering the six operating positions. One large tent measuring 20 feet by 30 feet was used to house the entire operation with the exception of the UHF/VHF "Rover". All operators and loggers wore headsets which helped to minimize the noise level. In the writer's opinion this arrangement leads to a closer bond and common experience between all of those participating.

Weather conditions couldn't have been better for our team who were operating in the "Outdoor" class. Temperatures on Saturday and Sunday were in the mid-seventies with only a slight Santa Ana wind blowing. The Huntington Beach location had rain the previous and following weeks, but good fortune smiled on us with only partially cloudy skies.

Finding an easy way to feed lunch to the troops amounted to a six foot (2 meter in ham talk) sandwich and soft drinks from a local deli. Some operators didn't break their stride as food was placed before them. Dinner was a run to Carl's Jr for burgers and fries. Paul KB6OZZ kept a hot pot going so there was always coffee and tea available. Tom W6ETC brought donuts Saturday morning and Tom and Ron W6WG picked up more for Sunday morning.





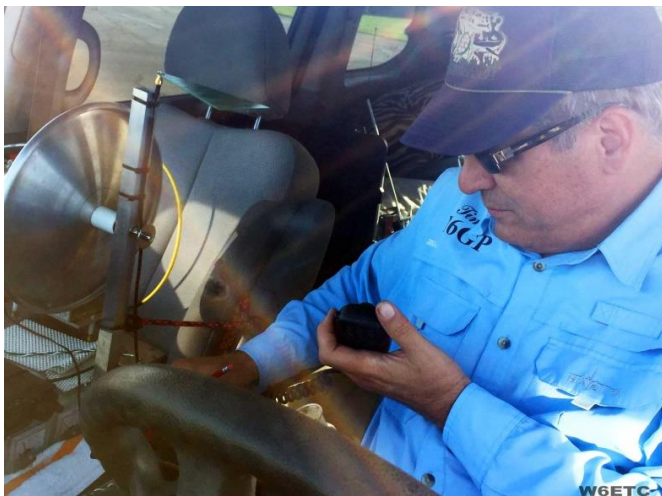
Operations started at 11:00 am Saturday. OCARC was on the air using sixteen bands covering 160 meters to 10 GHz. Tim N6GP worked on at least thirteen bands. Greg W6ATB made two satellite contacts for 1500 points. Twenty meters was the money band accounting for 70 percent of our contacts with Chip K7JP on 20m SSB and Bob AA6PW on 20m CW. Forty meters produced 18 percent with Arnie N6HC, Tom KA9FRH and Jim AF6N on CW and Vijay KM6IZO with others on 40 meter SSB. Corey KE6YHX and Greg W6ATB worked digital and satellite contacts.

The key to a high score is acquiring “multipliers” which in the case of WFD are band/mode multipliers. We were able to accumulate 32 multipliers. Achieving a high score is as **“Simple as ABCT”** (Arnie, Bob, Chip, and Tim).

Final Results: Our claimed score is 124,272 points. To put that in perspective: our claimed score for WFD 2018 was 33,336 and our final score was 30,869 points. Last year’s top score was 45,902 points. Let’s keep our fingers crossed.

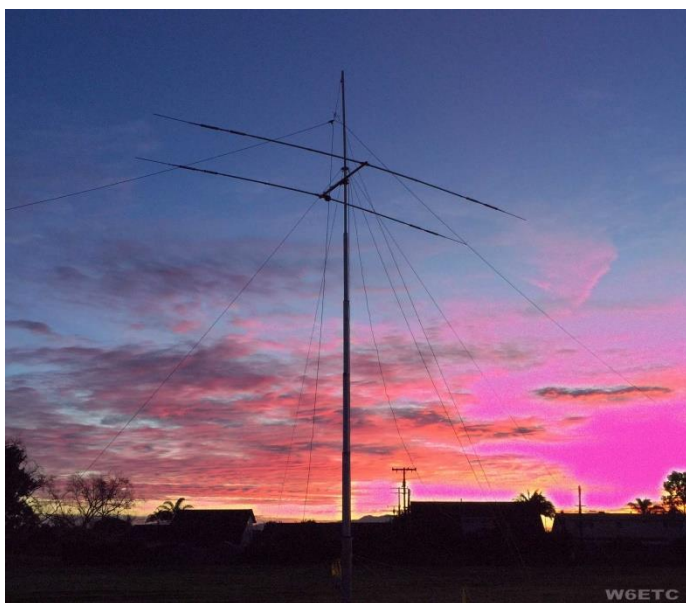
**“GREAT JOB” by the OCARC 2019 Winter Field Day Team!!!** Let’s make this a OCARC tradition.

## Winter Field Day Photos





## Winter Field Day Photos – cont'd



10 GHz station equipment



**OCARC Officer Position  
of the Month  
Directors-at-Large (DaL)**

*Note: This will be a monthly Newsletter feature highlighting an officer position, their duties and where you can assist.*

**Duties:**

The OCARC By-laws do not list specific duties of the Director-at-Large positions. The By-laws do mention there are two in this officer's position and that the immediate past President and Vice-President can automatically be appointed to the position without an election which gives continuity to the Board. This year we have two former Presidents in the role but the position has also been a place for newer Board members to get a feel for the behind the scenes of the club. Since the DaL positions do not have other officer duties, they are more available for a special assignment such as committee leads. This year they will be leading an effort to revise the By-laws to bring them more up to date.

**Current Officers:**

Tim Goeppinger, N6GP

([N6GP@W6ZE.ORG](mailto:N6GP@W6ZE.ORG))

Nicholas Haban, AF6CF

([AF6CF@W6ZE.ORG](mailto:AF6CF@W6ZE.ORG))

**Any club members may assist these officers:**

If a special committee is formed, or a special project taken on by the DaL, volunteering to participate on the committee or on the project would be a big help to the Club. Also, if you have club concerns and don't want to bring it up to the President or another officer with a main role, you can contact a DaL as a Board member that could be called the "member representative".

**Orange County ARES Is Forming  
and Recruiting Members**

At the direction of Carl Gardenias, Orange Section Emergency Coordinator, Bob Turner W6RHK is working with OCARC member Galel Fajardo, KD6AYP to put a plan together to form a new organization called Orange County ARES. This group has the ambitious task of picking up where the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) left off. HDSCS had decades of exemplary service to the hospitals of our County before their leader, April Moell, WA6OPS retired last year.

At the current time, there is a vacuum left in our local hospitals disaster planning, without an Amateur Radio emergency group supporting them, so this is why Orange County ARES is starting up.

If you are interested in signing up, please con-tact Galel KD6AYP with your name, callsign, cell phone number and email address. He can be reached at [galel@galelfajardo.com](mailto:galel@galelfajardo.com) or phone at 714-478-9221. They will let everyone know when the first planning meeting is.

This is a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor of an organization with great service to our community.

**Estate Give-away:**

*Tubular US tower crank up* (looks like MA-40 footer), 3-element tri-bander, and heavy duty rotator (base mounted) available L.A. area - - free for take down.

Contact Dan KI6X for more information. [ki6x@w6ze.org](mailto:ki6x@w6ze.org)



## ... Radio Activity

February 2019

- **\*ARRL International DX Phone Contest:** 0000 UTC Saturday March 2 through 2359 UTC Sunday March 3.
- **\*CQ WW WPX / SSB:** 0000 UTC Saturday March 30 through 2359 UTC Sunday March 31
- **\*\*North American Sprint / RTTY:** 0000 UTC through 0359 UTC Sunday March 10

## State QSO Parties

- **South Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday February 23 through 0159 UTC Sunday Feb. 24
- **North Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday February 23 through 0159 UTC Sunday Feb. 24
- **Oklahoma QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday March 9 to 0200 UTC Sunday March 10 and 1400 UTC to 2100 UTC Sunday March 10
- **Idaho QSO Party:** 1900 UTC Saturday March 9 to 1900 UTC Sunday March 10
- **Wisconsin QSO Party:** 1800 UTC Sunday March 10 to 0100 UTC Monday March 11

## Repeating Activities:

- **Phone Fry** Every Tuesday night at 0230 UTC to 0300 UTC
- **SKCC** Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) on the first weekend of the month after the 6<sup>TH</sup> of the month. 1200 UTC Sat. to 2400 UTC Sunday.
- **SKCC** Sprint (Straight Key CW) 0000 UTC to 0200 UTC on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday night (USA) of the month.
- **CWops** Every Wednesday 1300 UTC to 1400 UTC 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC and Thursday 0300 UTC to 0400 UTC

Send an email to Ron W6WG, [w6wg@w6ze.org](mailto:w6wg@w6ze.org) to have your favorite activity or your recent RadioActivity listed in next month's column.

LIFE IS SIMPLE



## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15th, 2019

Doug Millar, K6JEY

"EME Communications on 10 GHz"

EME = Earth-Moon-Earth

Doug has been active on 10GHz since the 1990's. Recently he designed a portable station for terrestrial and EME communications that he will describe. He has also designed several simple receiving systems for that band and will share as well. To learn more about Doug and this challenging aspect of our hobby join us at the February meeting.

March 15th, 2019

William Phinizy, K6WHP and

Dave Martin, KD6QIY

"Civil Air Patrol (CAP)"

For the most current Upcoming event information go to the OCARC EVENTS website:

<http://www.w6ze.org/Events.htm>



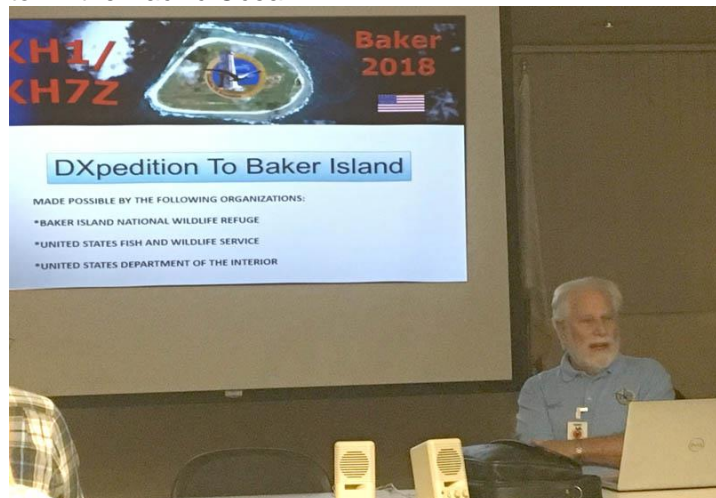
Kit fun.

## OCARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2019-01-18

The OCARC General meeting was held at the Red Cross Complex in Santa Ana on January 18, 2019. We had 45 people attending, including 46 members, and 9 visitors/guests. There was a quorum of club officers present, with all in attendance, except Nicholas AF6CF.

### January Program:

VP Tim N6TMT introduced the speaker for the evening, member Arnie Shatz W6HC.. Arnie presented a slide show on the 2018 KH1/KH7Z DX-pedition to Baker Island, a US Wild Life Preserve, near the equator in the Pacific Ocean.



Our speaker, member Arnie W6HC, provided a great slide show on the KH1/KH7Z DX-pedition to Baker Island, a US Wild Life Preserve,



Photo of the "on island operators" of the very successful 2018 KH1/KH7Z DX-pedition to Baker Island.

This DX-pedition was organized by the Northern California DX Foundation and included 14 hams that operated on the island. Another 9 hams

acted in support roles and lived on the "mother ship" anchored beyond the reefs.

The Baker Island effort was very successful. The highly desirable DX entity was able produce over 68,900 QSOs. The all bands operated from 160 M up to and including 10 M. Arnie explained that FT8 was capable producing a very high rate of QSO's per hour.

### Business Meeting:

#### • Winter Field Day Plans

Ron W6WG discussed the OCARC plans for Winter Field Day (WFD) that will be held on Jan 26 and Jan 27. Ron explained that the purpose of this event is:

- An opportunity to test emergency equipment and emergency skills
- An outlet for competition

#### • QuartzsiteFest

Doug K6PGH reported that the QuartzsiteFest ham gathering in the desert was about to begin on Sunday Jan 20. Look for the special events station, W7Q

#### • ASK Elmer

One of the visiting new hams (call ?), asked what was the easiest antenna to get started with for 40M transmitting? The consensus of club members was to try a 40M dipole for 40M inverted-Vee.

### GOOD OF CLUB:

Tim N6GP reported on the VHF Contest that was coming up Jan 19 – through – 20. All bands would be active from 6M and higher in frequency.

Chip K7JA reported there had been a very excellent 6M opening that was open to New Zealand and Australia..

Submitted by Ken, W6HHC

.....OCARC Secretary



## OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2019-02-02

The OCARC Board meeting was held at the Marie Calendar's Restaurant at 1821 N. Grand Ave in Santa Ana on February 2nd, 2019. There were a total of 8 members attending, plus one visitor (Herb KM6MRE from Irvine). There was also a quorum with all Directors present except Nicholas AF6CF and Bob AF6C.

### Director Reports:

#### • Treasurer

Greg W6ATB reported that there was NET INCOME of \$845 YTD.

#### • Secretary

Ken W6HHC reported there was no mail in the club PO Box. All dues payments seem to be coming in by PayPal or paid at club meetings.

### Old Business:

#### • Newspaper Editors

Feb – Vijay KM6IZO, Mar – Greg W6ATB,  
Apr – Tom W6ETC ..... May – Bob AF6C  
June - ??

#### • Programs for Meetings

Feb – EME on 10 GHz by Doug K6JEY  
Mar – Civil Air Patrol by Bill K6WHP & Dave KD6QIY  
Apr – FT8 Contesting by Arnie W6HC and Chip K7JA  
May - ??  
Sept – Ducie Island DX-pedition by Arnie W6HC

#### • 2018 Audit Committee

Tim N6GP reported that the audit committee had completed the audit of 2018 finances. Ken W6HHC reported that the Audit Report was published in the January RF Newsletter.

#### • Winter Field Day

Ron W6WG reported that the OCARC WFD effort was a huge success, 15 members participated. The team operated on 16 bands: 160M up to 10 GHz. The final score for the effort was 1,325 QSOs. A full report is included in this issue of RF Newsletter.

- There was discussion about the source of funds for the large rented tent (\$140) used for WFD. The board decided to ask

members for donations during the upcoming General Meeting.

- The board approved a motion to purchase a club copy of the N3FJP software for WFD (\$9).

#### • Bylaws Update Committee

Tim N6GP reported that there were currently three areas of the bylaws that were being worked on:

- 1) Improving/clarifying the position of Director-at-Large,
- 2) Revising the General Meeting agenda that is currently in the bylaws
- 3) Updating the FCC license requirements for a board member (currently says a 5-year license).

#### • Establishment of a “Donations Committee”

While there were discussions of various concepts for the “Donations Committee”, there was no consensus. The matter was tabled for more work.

#### • June Field Day Plans

Tim N6GP reported that there has been discussion with the school district for use of the Walter Knott Education Center field for FD in 2019. The school district is checking on the availability...one new conflict is that a new kitchen function is being planned for the center.

1. There was discussion about using a large rented tent for some stations during June FD. No decision, yet.
2. There was a discussion to buy a new box of “Exxon polyester rope”. Will look into the cost.

### New Business:

#### • Date of April Gen Mtg?

Dan KI6X pointed out that the normal club meeting date of April 19 is also the date for Passover and Good Friday. Moving the meeting date to one week earlier is NOT viable since that is the date for the Visalia DX Conference. The board approved moving the OCARC Gen Mtg to Friday April 26.

- **PHP Software issues on Club Website**

Webmaster, Ken W6HHC, reported the web host (1and1.com) for the club W6ZE.ORG website has announced they are dropping support for PHP Software v5.6 on March 1. This affects the club's interactive PayPal membership forma. The club recommends that all members renew their dues before Feb 28. The club will attempt to switch to the new PHP v7.2 on Feb 28. If v7.2 does not work correctly, OCARC will pay \$9/month fee for security support on the PHP v5.6. Vijay KM6IZO said he will look at the club's PHP coded files (about four files) and see if he can update the coding to be compatible with PHP v7.2 software standards.

- **W6ZE EchoLink Node**

Jeff Cowart KK6TRC has offered to change his EchoLink node to include W6ZE. The board agreed to move forward.

**Good of the Club:**

- **Baker-2-Vegas Help Needed**

Ken W6HHC explained that COAR RACES in Orange is looking for more hams willing to help support the Orange PD running team during the Baker-2-Vegas relay race this year. You do NOT need to be a resident of Orange to help COAR RACES. The event will be held on Saturday, March 23 and Sunday March 24,

- **OC Hospital Support**

The board agreed to include an informative article about the re-forming of the OC Hospital Group in the RF Newsletter this month.

**Submitted by** Ken, W6HHC

.....OCARC Secretary

**OCARC DUES Reminder**

To: OCARC Members

To those that have already renewed for 2019, thank you. For the others, **DUES ARE DUE**. We allow a 3-month grace period to get dues in before you are removed from membership. The earlier the better to beat the last-minute rush (on-line or at the meetings).

There is a second issue this year. We have been accepting PayPal for dues for over a year now. The PHP security software our website uses needs an update and we may lose the PayPal ability for a couple months until we can fix it. This switch over will happen late February and the results are unknown on whether PayPal will still work.

So, I ask a couple things:

- 1.If you plan to pay online by PayPal you want to do it soon. You can always still pay at the meeting.
- 2.If you paid at a meeting already or plan to pay at a meeting, fill out the on-line membership form and put "paid/paying at meeting" in the box and bring a check/cash to the meeting (\$30 one person, additional persons in household are discounted).

Go to <http://www.w6ze.org> and on the left side is "Member Renewal" (as well as "How to Join" for the new members). Keep advertising the club to prospective members. I think this will be a fun year for everyone.

Dan Violette, KI6X  
OCARC President

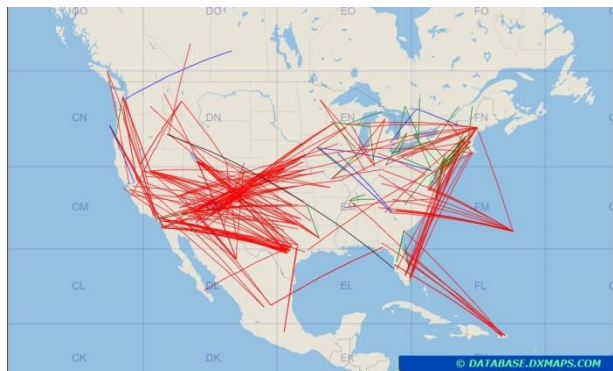


## Roving in the January VHF Contest By Tim N6GP/R

I wasn't expecting much sporadic E in this contest, so I joined a rover group that was going to do 10 bands in 3 grids until 4PM local. This group included Wayne N6NB, Steve N1BKB, Erick KK6CKK and myself. Murphy hit us hard with some equipment problems, so the group quit early. I began the contest on my own on Barrett Hill in north Tustin for a few contacts. I couldn't get FT8 going, and because I didn't have the power slider high enough to trigger the VOX.

I found the drive to Signal Hill was much easier from here, rather my usual trek from Newport Beach.

On Signal Hill I got FT8 going only to find the band surprisingly open to Oregon on 6 meters! I think I was too late for that opening, then suddenly Texas was rolling in.



**Figure 1 6 meter opening Jan 20 0000z. from DXMaps.com**

I worked a bunch of grids all over Texas, and then it progressed farther north to Kansas. Made a couple of short skip QSOs to places like Las Vegas, and a few others to Mexico.

I drove out to the town of Grapevine (elevation 1500 ft) at the southernmost part of the San Joachin Valley Sunday, arriving about 1230 local. Found a lot of testers in the valley hungry for the DM04 multiplier, since the rest of the grid, which in-

cludes Downtown LA is blocked by the mountains.



**Figure 2 Rover portable setup in Grapevine. 6m Moxon is pointed north to the rest of the valley**

Online coordination of QSOs is allowed in this contest, so I found the N6SJV site was great to arrange contacts. I made contacts with former OCARC member Jon Morrice, K6MI, on all 4 bands (6m, 2m, 222 and 432). This was a shot of about 135 miles up to Fresno.

On 6m FT8, I worked WA6OSX in Galt for CM98 and N7WT near Lake Tahoe for DM08. I made my first 2 meter FT8 contacts ever with, bagging CM96 and CM98. I attempted CM98 on SSB, but it was not do-able. I had 2 previous tries at this location for VHF contests, and I was disappointed. I concluded that for the January and September contests, this drive is well worth it, for the extra multipliers.

I drove back thru the Grapevine to hear the Rams NFC victory on LA radio. I went to the hill in Glendale, which is also in DM04, and found the activity to be very low. I scraped up some contacts there. DM12 was a tough shot that day.

I hurried up and drove to the Walmart in DM14 right before the end of the contest.

FT8 is a huge game changer! Kudos to the WSJT team, because the contest mode worked great, even with my /R callsign. Am going to try more 2m FT8 for long shots.

Problems: QRM from my GPS dongle on 6m. Tried to unplug it in Glendale, but then my FT8 time was 2 seconds off. Next time I need to turn on computer first, and let the GPS track for about 5 minutes before unplugging.

Thanks to our members Peter NI6E, Tony N2VAJ and Chip K7JA for the many contacts.

73, **Tim N6GP/R**

---

#### Prez Sez – cont'd from Pg 01

Now a little about me...

I have been licensed 40 years now (since High School days).

I got interested with a Junior High friend who was a Novice (no voice privileges) and listening to CW despite my not understanding. Later after moving to CA I did some shortwave listening on a regenerative receiver built from a Radio Shack kit. I also listened to Westlink Report (now Amateur Radio New-line) on an FM/VHF/UHF receiver from a 2M repeater. Took me a couple years to find an "Elmer" to give me the Novice test as the Novice tests were done then. Ramped up to Extra (with 20 word per minute code) over the next year or so with regular trips to the FCC office in Long Beach.

During college, marriage, and the child rearing years I tried to stay active. I have been the main force in creating decent club stations at work and trying to keep something decent at home despite a move during mid-family life.

Still have not got a tower up again.

I have always enjoyed contesting and DXing. Most of my contesting has been casual but have participated on a few serious efforts, usually as a multi-op station since I do not have the "all-night" stamina, nor am I a morning person.

DXing is part of contesting and I do non-contesting DXing at home with various small to mid-size home stations and a lot of effort. I also fill in the "countries" from the much better club station at work. I reached Honor Roll a couple years ago and have the 1500 DXCC Challenge emblem. So, the point here is, no matter what you have for a station, keep plugging away, gain experience, and you will get there.

I like to try new things in amateur radio ..just to know I did. This has included mobile RTTY, before laptops and soundcard modes, VHF contesting on a mountain, satellite, SSTV, etc. My 6M and above operating did not really exist until the last 3-4 years and now I try to fill in 6M grids. I was never a repeater user, but we have owned multiple at work and I am glad there are persons that care more about repeaters to keep them going. I have learned a lot since I am always involved and tough to find helpers sometimes. I have been President for many years of the Rockwell then Boeing radio clubs and try to keep them going despite the many company changes.

Dan Violette, KI6X



# MiniTiouner-Express

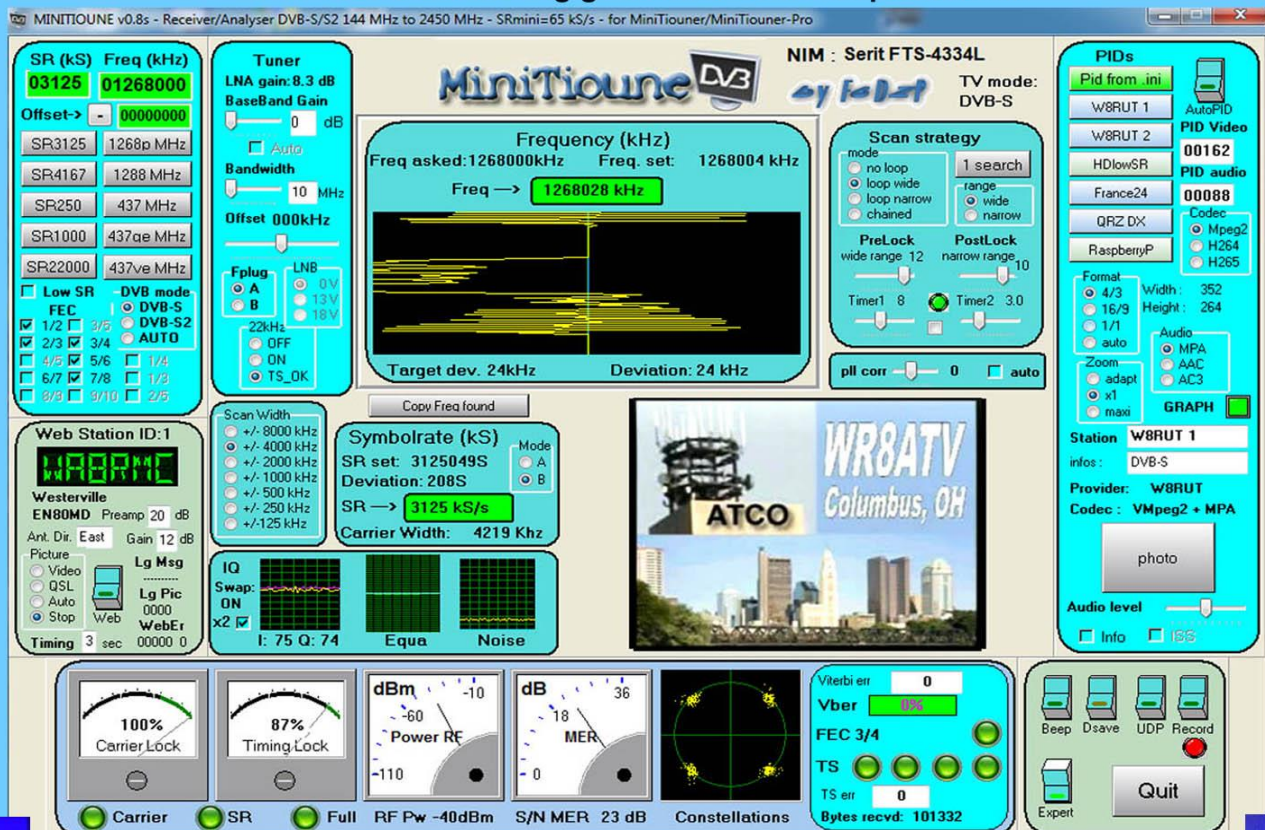
## Digital Amateur Television DVB-S/S2 Receiver / Analyzer



Available at [DATV-Express.com](http://DATV-Express.com)

- Operates with Windows PC using free MiniTioune software from Jean-Pierre F6DZP
- Smaller than a stack of 2 decks of cards (picture above is full size)
- Two independent simultaneous RF inputs with internal preamps
- High sensitivity -100dBm @1288MHz – at 1/2 FEC
- Fully assembled/tested in aluminum enclosure
- Covers 144-2420MHz (ideal for Space Station DATV reception)
- Symbol rates from 75 KSymb/s to >20 MSymbols/sec
- Uses external 8-24VDC supply or +5V from USB-3 port (with small modification)
- Real time signal modulation constellation & dBm signal strength display
- Price: US \$75 + shipping – order with PayPal

For details & ordering go to [www.DATV-Express.com](http://www.DATV-Express.com)



(MiniTioune display above is the ATCO 1268MHz DVB-S repeater signal at WA8RMC QTH 15 miles away).