



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LXVI NO. 7

PO Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781

July 2025

The Prez Sez...

By Dan KI6X



Wow! is all I can say about Field Day. As one Board member said "near perfect." I want to thank Ron, W6WG, for the general planning that was done so well. Also, a big thanks to the "band captains" who take the responsibility to make sure their station is ready and operators are lined up. On Saturday morning you see all the stations get put together by each group quickly. Also, a big thank you to the people that showed up Friday and Sunday for tower raising and lowering. That went very smoothly and we had enough involved to do it safely. The Safety Officer (thanks John, N6GTQ) was able to stand off to the side and monitor for any concerns.

Thanks to Debbie, W7UOX, and family for the truck help and also all those that supported the move of the FD equipment to storage. There is another behind-the-scenes effort that is a lot of work, but a very important part of the Field Day that many don't see. There are others involved in different roles (score submittal, bonus points tracking, etc.). I thank them all (Ron too) even if I miss calling them out here.

Please scan through the Minutes for the Board Meeting (and the General Meeting if you missed it). Our secretary presents them in the RF so the membership knows what is going on. You will see that we are planning our December party and other activities.

My picture today is our baby FD Possum friend that headed toward anyone around. He came into the SSB tent to visit too while we were operating. I think he was looking to be someone's pet! Ron picked him up by the tail and set him in the bushes since he would not leave. 73

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**-Kris W6KJC-
presents**

Emergency Preparedness

July 18th, 2025, at 7pm
at the

**American Red
Cross**

Orange County Chapter
Santa Ana, Room 208

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Saturday, August 2nd, 2025

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Arnie Shatz, N6HC
(714) 573-2965
n6hc@w6ze.org

Monthly Events

Membership Meetings*

Time: 7:00 PM
When: 3rd Friday of each Month
Red Cross Orange County, Room 208
600 N Parkcenter Dr, Santa Ana
(Replaced by the Christmas Party
in December.)

Board Meetings

First Saturday of each Month
*Board will handle Club business now
IN-PERSON.*

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE)

10M ~ 28.375 MHz SSB

Wed- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX
Alternate Net Control: AJ, W6OTO

2M ~ 146.55 MHz Simplex FM

Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX
Alternate Net Control: AJ, W6OTO
Echolink Node: KK6TRC-L

75M ~ 3.883 MHz LSB

Tue @ 8:00 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX

Other Nets

**Catalina Amateur
Repeater Association (CARA)**
147.090 MHz (+0.600 MHz) No PL
Monday - Friday
9:00AM & 9:00PM
Prg. Director. Tom W6ETC
COME JOIN US

OCARC 2025 DUES:

*Membership period is:
1 January to 31 December*

Individual New or Renewal: \$30
Family New or Renewal: \$45
Teen New or Renewal: \$15

***New Member Dues** are prorated
quarterly and includes a badge:*
Additional Badges¹ \$3

Use one of our interactive online forms
to calculate current prices, join, renew, or
order badges:

<https://www.w6ze.org/FormsShortcut.html>

¹ \$3 or less + mailing. See form.

RadioActivity

July 2025

Upcoming Activities

July

- [IARU HF World Championships](#): 1200 UTC Saturday July 12 through 1200 UTC Sunday July 13.
- [**North American QSO Party / RTTY](#): 1800 UTC Saturday July 19 through 0559 UTC Sunday July 20.
- [RSGB IOTA Contest](#): 1200 UTC Saturday July 27 through 1200 UTC Sunday July 28.
- [ARS Flight of the Bumblebees](#): 1700 UTC through 2100 UTC Sunday July 27.

August

- [10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB](#): 0001 UTC Saturday August 2 through 2359 UTC Sunday August 3.
- [**North American QSO Party / CW](#): 1800 UTC Saturday August 2 through 0559 UTC Sunday August 3.
- [WAE DX Contest, CW](#): 0000 UTC Saturday August 9 through 2359 UTC Sunday August 10.
- [**North American QSO Party / SSB](#): 1800 UTC Saturday August 16 through 0559 UTC Sunday August 17.
- [US Islands QSO Party](#): 1200 UTC Saturday August 30 through 0300 UTC Sunday August 31.
- [World Wide Digi DX Contest](#): 1200 UTC Saturday August 30 through 1200 UTC Sunday August 31.

* Indicates club entries are accepted

** Indicates team entries are accepted

Note: When submitting logs for ARRL Contests indicate your club affiliation as "Orange County ARC"

State QSO Parties:

- [Maryland-DC QSO Party](#): 1400 UTC Saturday August 9 through 0400 UTC Sunday August 10.
- [Hawaii QSO Party](#): 0400 UTC Saturday August 23 through 0400 UTC Sunday August 25.
- [Ohio QSO Party](#): 1600 UTC Saturday August 23 through 0400 UTC Sunday August 24.
- [Kansas QSO Party](#): 1400 UTC Saturday August 30 through 2000 UTC Sunday August 31.

Repeating Activities:

- **Phone Fray** Every Tuesday night at 0230Z to 0300Z
- [SKCC](#) Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) on the first weekend of the month after the 6TH of the month. 1200 Sat. to 2359Z Sunday.
- [SKCC](#) Sprint (Straight Key CW) 0000Z to 0200Z on the 4th 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
- **K1USN Slow Speed Test**: (CW, 20WPM Max.) Every Friday 2000 UTC to 2100 UTC
Every Sunday night at 0000 UTC to 0100 UTC Monday
- **ICWC Medium Speed Test**: (CW, 25WPM Max.) Every Monday 1300 UTC to 1400 UTC 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC and Tuesday 0300 UTC to 0400 UTC

OCARC Club Nets:

- **75 Meter Net**: Every Tuesday night at 8:00 pm to 8:30 pm Local Time. SSB
3.883 MHz
- **10 Meter Net**: Every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Local Time. SSB
28.375 MHz

- **2 Meter Net:** Every Wednesday night at 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm Local Time. FM
Simplex 146.55 MHz

Other Nets:

- **Net-AT-9:** Wellness & Support Monday thru Friday 9:00 am and
9:00 pm Local Time 147.090 MHz (+600 MHz) No PL

Other Links:

[ARRL Contest Calendar](#)
[VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#)

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

New OCARC Members 2025

JANUARY

AK6AT Michael Porteous
W6VLN Daphne Tsao

FEBRUARY

NC6M Anatoly Ananovsky
N6MG Milton Garb
K6MKL Michael Berchtold
W6NVI Carolyn Berchtold
KN6WPB Thom Belford

MARCH

KN6NXJ Harry Long

APRIL

KO6ION Phil Sallaway

MAY

N6GTQ John Gabler
KO6JES Arshia Attar

JUNE

KO6JOB Jon Hoover
KG6LHK Robert Stone

JULY

KO6FKD Robert Wellington

OCARC Membership Director
Ron W6WG, membership@w6ze.org

-- FOR SALE --

See the updates in the For Sale section of the website: [OCARC For Sale Page](#)
- also in the left menu on the home page of www.w6ze.org -

-- FOR SALE --





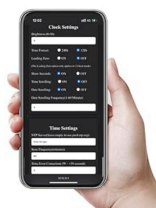




The outstanding crew that setup and operated one of the best emergency radio stations in Southern California.

Solar panels, batteries, propane generators, towers, antennas, tents and radios came together for a great activity.

We even had a GOTA (Get On The Air) station so the “newbies” can “test the waters” and get exposed to the hobby.



Wifi Network Clock Review: Great Features for Less than \$40 with a Security Concern

By Dave N3BKV

I have many clocks in my home which all seem to show different time no matter how often I try to sync them to an accurate time source.

I was looking for something inexpensive that I could have in the living room that would auto correct itself often so I had one clock I could depend on there.

I decided to stay away from radio clocks that needed to be able to receive WWV to reset themselves as I knew that would work maybe once a week, if I was lucky. I used to have a WWV correcting watch and I had to remember to put by a window at night to get updates. Ideally, I wanted something that would reset hourly so it could be accurate to within a second or two.

After searching around, I found this clock on Amazon and thought I'd give it a try. It can be set to synchronize over wifi with any time server worldwide or even a local one if you have your own NTP server. It is customizable via a web browser to display any time zone (including UTC – great for logging), show the date in rotation, set the brightness, etc.

I have had the clock running for a couple of weeks now and it is working well. The display is bright and easy to read from across the room and whenever I check its accuracy, it is always within about 1 second of the correct time.

The only issue I have with it is the open wifi hotspot used for initial setup can never be turned off. Although the range of the hotspot is limited, it is still a security risk since someone can hop through the clock and on to your home wifi if you are not careful. It is also possible to look at the HTML code of the clock's setup page and see your wifi password which is a bad design choice that was made by the manufacturer.

Matrix Clock Setting

IP: [REDACTED]

These configurations will be applied after saving. The device will reboot and use the newly saved configuration parameters.

Network Settings

WiFi SSID:

WiFi Password:

Clock Settings

Brightness (0-10):

Time Format: ☐ 24Hr ☒ 12Hr

Leading Zero: ☐ ON ☒ OFF

Show Seconds: ☒ ON ☐ OFF

Time Scrolling: ☐ ON ☒ OFF

Date Scrolling: ☒ ON ☐ OFF

Date Scrolling Frequency(1-60 Minute):

Time Settings

NTP Server(leave empty to use pool.ntp.org):

Sync Frequency(minutes):

Time Error Correction(-59 ~ +59 second):

Time Zone(UTC Offset):

☒ Daylight Saving(Summer Time)

SAVE AND REBOOT

```

<h2>Network Settings</h2>
<label for="ssid">WiFi SSID:</label>
<input type="text" id="ssid" name="ssid" value="Clock">
<label class="h_3" for="password">WiFi Password:</label>
...<input type="password" id="password" name="password" value="[REDACTED]">

```


However, there are a couple ways you can protect yourself here:

1. Create a separate wifi network with internet access and limit it so that only the clock can join it. This is the solution that I use. I have locked down the “clock” network so only this unit’s MAC address can connect to it. The worst case is someone can play with my clock settings but I feel it is reasonably secure for me based on the clock’s open wifi hotspot range.

2. If you do not have a guest network where you put all your devices that are less secure, you could set one up and put this clock on there. This is a good way to protect your computers from anyone coming on to your network via a less secure device like a doorbell, printer, lightbulb or other questionable gadget. This is not as secure as option 1 but simpler to set up. The main problem is your password being exposed via the clock’s setup page.

This budget clock hits a sweet spot between features and price—ideal for general use around the house or logging in the shack. It is reasonably well built but you must be comfortable with its obvious wifi security hole and make sure to lock it down.

Product link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DR2G868Y>

July Speaker – Kris Cutting, W6KJC

Emergency Preparedness On Campus & the OC Fire Watch Program



Kris has been friends with some of us for many years. Kris tells his amateur radio journey in his own words: “Originally assigned KI6TGY back on September 22, 2008. On October 28, 2008, changed to W6KJC. I got my extra class in 2010, when George Jacob, who was going to help me with a class I was teaching as a VE, won a opportunity drawing at a OCARC meeting and selected the Extra Class book, gifted it to me and said, “wouldn’t it be great if you could upgrade your license when your class tests for their Technician?” “

During the last 10 years or so, Kris has built up an impressive resume’ of education and expertise, particularly in the area of Emergency Management. He attained a BS degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Grand Canyon Univ. in 2020.

General Meeting June 20 2025

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone in attendance took a moment to introduce themselves.

Vice-President Tim N6GP introduced Ron Mudry W6WG Field Day Site Coordinator who gave the club an update on our upcoming Summer Field Day reviewing each day and what is needed. Friday June 27 club members with trucks kindly agreed to pick up equipment and deliver to our site in Huntington Beach, other members will arrive to help set up the antennas, tents, chairs to arrive Friday afternoon.

Ron reviewed safety precautions. John N6GTQ is designated to be our Safety Officer. Ron reviewed the positions with members for each of the bands and what will be needed, encouraging members to make a list of items needed. Members were encouraged to bring sunscreen, hats, water etc and maybe a chair that they may prefer.

Summer Field Day will begin at 11am Saturday June 28th 2025 and will end Sunday 11am June 29 2025 with set-up noon to dark Friday, before we start Saturday (about 8 AM), and tear-down Sunday after it ends (cleaned up by 1:30 PM).

Dave N3BKV who attended the Dayton Hamvention with Nicholas gave a presentation with pictures regarding new equipment/technology available, with many venues provided as well as the huge race track which was filled with tables of all kinds of old and new equipment available.

After a short break the meeting continued with club business.

Business Meeting

A quorum of club members were present.

Tim N6TMT, Treasurer, reports we are in good shape at present time and our Field Day budget is usually around \$750.

Corey KE6YHX, Activities, reports the Christmas Party at Mimi's is set for December 5, 2025, 5-9 pm. Corey made an info sheet to place at HRO. More info to be emailed to members regarding menu choices.

Corey will hold an opportunity drawing after our meeting tonight providing all members a free ticket for the drawing.

Ron W6WG, Membership, reports we now have 108 members with 3 Honorary members. We had a very good meeting with 31 members in attendance.

Joe KM6SVV, Technical, reports he was able to pick up equipment a B-TECH hand held radio donated by Michael J. Newell and brought for our drawing tonight.

AJ W6OTO, Activities, reports he has been working on providing a bi-weekly newsletter regarding our club's activities, and will be updating local news sources regarding our upcoming Summer Field Day as well.

Ask the Elmer

"Ask the Elmer" was presented to any members with questions.

Show and Tell

Charley KM6KCK presented how to use our local libraries to find information about amateur radio and was able to check out a portable wi-fi to use.

Good of the Club

Bob, AF6C reports that he has someone who would like to donate a repeater cavity filter.

Ken W6KOS continues to offer VE testing prior to our monthly club meeting at 5:30 pm. Also assisting tonight were Charley KM6KCK, Chuck AK6JT, Fred W0PE, and Arnie N6HC. Tonight 3 passed and became technicians.

8:50 pm Motion to adjourn made, seconded and passed.

Submitted by Joyce KN6UKJ.

July 5 2025 OCARC Board Meeting

OCARC Board Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2025

The OCARC board meeting was held at the Streamliner Lounge, 186 N Atchison St. Orange and was called to order by President Dan KI6X at 8:15 AM.

A quorum of Board members were present.

Directors Report

Vice-President Tim N6GP reports the speaker for our July club meeting will be Kris Cutting W6KJC presenting Emergency Management and Fire Watch and will touch on the topic of CERT.

Treasurer Tim N6TMT reports our cash flow from Jan 2025 to June 2025 Inflows of \$ 2,440.50, outflows \$1,811.85 overall total \$628.66.

Membership Ron W6WG reports we have 108 members with 3 honorary members. Summer Field Day went smoothly this year. We discussed measures to make it even better for next year.

Activities Corey KE6YHX reports we made \$23 in donations and \$81 for the June opportunity drawing. Next drawing will be in August.

Joe Technical KM6SVV reports a family member called to donate equipment as his father K6LQB had passed, Nicolas AF6CF was able to contact the family and picked up equipment today, he is able to store the equipment until our auction is held in October.

Publicity AJ W6OTO was not present today but was able to have Huntington Beach News visit our Field Day site, with a very nice write up and pictures.

VE sessions for amateur radio licensing continues prior to our monthly club meetings at 5:30 PM under the guidance of Ken W6KOS.

Club Monthly Planner Review

Nothing for July at this time

Old Business

Newsletter Editors:

July - Nicholas AF6CF, Aug – TBD, Sept - Ron W6WG, Oct - Corey KE6YHX

Speakers/Entertainment:

July: Kris Cutting W6KJC Emergency Management and Fire Watch, will touch on topic of CERT

August: Tim N6GP will try to schedule Marty Woll, N6VI, which may need to be a Zoom presentation.

September: Nicholas AF6CF will provide a presentation on remote stations, how to set it up and maintain.

New Business

Discussed Mimi's menu choices for our Christmas party Dec 5, 2025, 5-9p, and chose the Magnifique menu, the cost will be \$35, the club will pick up taxes and tips, and will update members.

Allen Kesinger, Senior Librarian for Adult Services at Irvine Public Library is asking for help from our club to do a demonstration/lecture on amateur radio. He is planning this for January or February. Arnie N6HC will contact them regarding a presentation.

Business cards were approved to be ordered by Bob AF6C (voted).

K6NX 2m Repeater on Santiago peak is available, input 146.505MHz: output 147.465MHz, PL 4Z=103.5Hz. Can be considered for weekly net use if wanted to use.

Discussed our club CD at Wells Fargo which is due to renew July 24, will try to do the longest term 11 months if possible and authorized raising the new value to \$8000. (voted)

A suggestion was made to add a QR code when signing in at a meeting but was tabled at this time. Currently no time is spent copying data from the paper sign in sheet so no “value added”.

Good of the Club

Nicholas AF6CF reported he visited Canada recently but was unable to meet with any other clubs.

Janet KL7MF suggested we provide more interesting items for our opportunity drawings which are usually held every other month.

An adjournment was voted on and agreed at 9:50 AM.

Submitted by Joyce KN6UKJ

The Beginning of a Friendship

A Mike and Carol Adventure

[Part III of III] Gunfire in the Storm

Previously, Mike and Carol had been detained by the FBI while tracking the source of a radio signal that was interfering with a project Carol was building. The source of the interference was a nearby airport marker beacon and the FBI was investigating the recent vandalism of similar beacons around the State. In Carol's basement lab, she and Mike had just figured how to eliminate the interference problem, while outside a storm raged. Suddenly the beacon signal they were monitoring changed, giving pilots the wrong information. Someone was tampering with the beacon at that very moment!

It was really raining hard outside, and the wind was blowing the rain onto the basement windows, making a lot of noise. "We have to notify the airport right away!" exclaimed Mike, "And then contact Agent Gains or Sgt. Tough."

Carol had just picked up the receiver on the old wall dial phone and was getting ready to dial the number when a flash of lightning lit up the basement, followed almost immediately by a loud thunderous crash that shook the old house. At the same time the lights went out and Carol dropped the receiver and jumped backwards, plopping onto an old sofa against the wall.

Mike heard Carol breathing in gasps. "I - Just - Got - a - Nasty - Shock." she said weakly between breaths, "That - was a - close one."

An emergency light mounted on the basement wall had come on dimly; evidently it remained

from when Sparks Winston lived here. Carol, still shaking and breathing hard, managed to sit up on the sofa.

"What happened? Are you all right, Carol?" asked Mike, his voice full of concern, "Are you sure you're okay?"

"That lightning bolt must have induced a voltage spike on the phone line. If it had been a direct hit I would be dead. I think I'll be okay when my heart settles back down and I stop shaking." Her voice was already sounding less pained, "My arm was resting on the light switch box, which is grounded and, that's where the current left. Luckily I was holding the receiver. with that same arm.

"But, we have to warn the airport." she added.

Mike reached down and picked up the phone receiver that was dangling from its coiled cord. "It's dead," he exclaimed, "I figure that bolt must have hit a nearby utility pole." He hung the receiver back on the wall phone, grabbed a small handheld radio from his belt and turned it on. A conversation was going on on the local two-meter repeater; two hams were talking about the storm. Mike recognized them as Carl and Jerry, members of his radio club. He broke in, using multiple breaks to signify an emergency. Giving his call, he asked Carl to standby and requested Jerry to call the tower at the County Airport and report that someone had tampered with the outer marker, and it was sending the wrong code. Mike then passed on the phone numbers of Senior Special Agent Gains and Sgt. Tough to Carl and requested him to call and tell them that someone was vandalizing the outer marker beacon at this very moment. Both hams soon reported back

that they had passed along the messages, and action was being taken.

The emergency light was quickly dimming; evidently the battery had not been replaced in many years. Carol grabbed a flashlight from the workbench drawer. Mike noticed it was the same one she had taken to the park the night they got into so much trouble. He also noticed color had returned to her face.

"What can we do?" Carol asked. Then she answered her own question, "Let's go to Gilbey's Park; perhaps we can get there before the vandals leave. Come on; you can ride me on the handlebars of my bike."

Mike and Carol ran upstairs, grabbed their raincoats and went outside. Mike jumped on Carol's bicycle and she sat on the handle bars. Mike pedaled quickly the few blocks to Gilbey's Park. The rain was still coming down, though it had eased up some, and the lightning had moved off to the south. A block from Carol's house, two vehicles whizzed passed them. One was the unmarked car that had brought them to the station a few nights ago. The other was a marked police car, and Mike thought he recognized Sgt. Tough driving. As the two cars turned towards the park entrance they both slowed and turned out their lights.

Approaching the park, Mike continued straight ahead where the other vehicles had turned. He was looking for another way into the park. Suddenly, Carol yelled at Mike to stop, pointing to a vehicle partially hidden in the bushes at the edge of the park grounds. This end of the park was up against a large wooded area. They got off the bike and cautiously approached the vehicle. It was a sixties vintage

faded-green Volkswagen van, and it appeared empty. The van was parked less than a hundred feet from the clearing where the marker beacon transmitter was located.

"This must be the vandal's van." commented Mike; "Hide the bike in the trees and wait there for me."

Mike cautiously advanced to the van. The engine cowl in the back was still hot. Suddenly he got an idea and quickly opened the rear engine hatch. He pulled the high tension wire running from the coil to the distributor and put it in his raincoat pocket. Closing the engine hatch, he ran quickly back into the trees where Carol was waiting. Her bicycle was leaning against a tree and hidden from the van by some bushes. He showed her the high tension lead and said, "They're not going to be driving away anytime soon!"

Suddenly, someone was talking on a powered megaphone. All Mike could hear were the words "surrounded" and "surrender", due to noise from a large power company truck out on the street with yellow emergency lights flashing, heading opposite the way Mike and Carol had just come. Soon after the the megaphone announcement stopped, shots rang out and Carol and Mike ducked behind the same bush that hid the bicycle. By now the rain had mostly let up.

As they watched, two men in black ski masks and black oil-cloth robes came running out of the woods. Both had pistols and one kept pointing his gun behind him and firing a shot, as if they were being pursued. They jumped into the van; the guy on the passenger side picked up an automatic assault rifle that must have been by the seat, and fired a burst into

the woods at the point where they had emerged. From the woods a loud curse could be heard. Mike was annoyed at himself for not checking out the van's interior for weapons. The driver tried to start the engine but it would not catch. Mike smiled as he felt the wire in his raincoat pocket with his hand.

Gunfire came from the woods, and the passenger in the vehicle returned the fire using short bursts from the assault rifle. The driver continued to try to start the van as sirens from approaching law enforcement vehicles got louder. In a matter of seconds the road was filled with flashing red and blue lights. Reinforcements had arrived, and a bright spotlight from one of the police cars illuminated the van. The driver stopped trying to start the van, grabbed a second automatic weapon and fired. The spotlight went out with a crash of breaking glass.

Hiding in the woods, Mike realized he and Carol were in serious danger from the crossfire. He grabbed Carol and pulled her to the ground. Together they crawled into a depression in the ground that was half-full of muddy water. "Better wet than dead," thought Mike. The recently arriving law officers began returning fire on the van and bullets were flying everywhere.

All of a sudden Carol's bicycle was hit and seemed to explode. At the same instant Carol's body jerked, and she cried out; "I've been shot!" Mike held her close, trying to shield her with his body. The hand grip from Carol's bike had landed a few inches from Mike's head and he realized that part of the metal handlebar was still firmly attached to the grip. A bicycle wheel, missing the tire and a piece of rim lay a few feet away. Rounds continued to

kick up the dirt around them; he could feel Carol shivering, and then she let out a painful groan.

"Where are you hit?" he asked.

"My left shoulder." Carol answered, crying, "It hurts so badly; I can't feel the rest of my arm." Mike could hear the fear in her voice. He was on her right, and he reached over her to her left shoulder. He felt her grimace as he touched the shoulder. Something felt very strange; she appeared to have an object sticking out of her upper arm. Whatever it was, it wasn't solid, but felt flexible. He removed his hand and brought it up to his face. He expected the coppery smell of blood; instead he smelled rubber.

At that instant the gunfire abruptly stopped and he heard police giving commands to the two gunmen to get out of their vehicle. He slowly raised his head and caught sight of both masked men with their hands in the air; they were covered in blood, but seemed to be able to stand just the same. One was shouting wildly in a foreign language.

Mike switched his attention to Carol. He wanted to cry out for help but he knew they'd both be in big trouble if found, so he decided to look more closely at Carol's shoulder first. Carefully he rolled her over. Her raincoat and blouse were torn at the shoulder, but there was no sign of major bleeding. Instead of a bullet hole he found a short length of tire from her bicycle sticking out of the shoulder of her raincoat. Inside the tire was still part of the wheel rim. Through the torn fabric of the coat and her blouse he could see a large welt raised on her upper arm. The skin was broken in a few places but the bleeding was minimal. The welt

was marked with an impression of the bicycle tire tread. Carefully he moved her arm until he assured himself that no bones were broken. He then explained to Carol the extent of her injury in a voice full of relief.

"It really hurts," she said, examining her arm. "I was too scared to look at it; I wondered if my arm was still attached." They quietly moved out of the water and went deeper into the woods. The rain had stopped, and Mike took off his raincoat and stripped to his waist. From his undershirt, he fashioned a sling for Carol's arm.

As he put his shirt and coat back on, he noticed Carol looking at him.

"Ham's can play sports too. I played on the junior varsity football and lacrosse teams last year and have been moved up to the varsity teams for my Junior year. How's your arm doing?"

"It's feeling a little better. My arm is still quite numb, but I'm beginning to get feeling back in my fingers. It must be psychological, but once I found I still had an arm, and it wasn't as badly injured as I thought it was, the pain subsided."

Mike crept to the edge of the woods to see what was happening. The police had the two gunmen in custody. They were sitting in the back of a police car and appeared to be handcuffed. As he was watching, the police car drove away. It was escorted front and back by two other police cars. All three turned their lights and sirens on almost simultaneously. Mike watched them speed off.

As the three vehicles disappeared from sight, Mike saw a big police van pull up, its blue and red flashing lights adding more chaos of the scene. Mike counted eight vehicles in all now,

including a tow truck that evidently was there to impound the Volkswagen van. Three of the vehicles were ambulances, and medical teams were working on three people. Two were lying flat on the ground and the other was sitting up. Mike recognized him as Sgt. Tough. The medical team appeared to be working on his leg. A team got out of the newly arrived van and they started to unload a lot of equipment. Mike knew they were here to investigate the crime scene and thought it best that Carol and he leave immediately.

He worked his way back to where Carol was waiting. She was wiggling the fingers and gently rubbing her injured arm. Mike told her they should head for home unless they wanted to be found there by the police. The bicycle was a total loss, so they had to walk. The storm had moved on. In places, the sky was clearing up and an occasional star was visible. They decided to take the long way home to avoid the crowd of police and spectators gathered at the shooting site.

Their route home took them north and to the west of Gilbey's Park. As they passed the west side of the site of the outer marker, they saw an open gate. Parked inside was a Jeep with FAA markings. The Jeep's headlights lit the outside of the small building, and through the open door a technician could be seen working on a rack of electronics; the beacon was already being fixed. Overhead a jetliner passed. It was the first plane they had heard that night.

The walk home was uneventful. Once they were north of the park they cut back east and in a few blocks found themselves on the street where they lived. They turned south and soon

were standing outside of Carol's house. The electricity was back on, and Carol's house was lit up brightly. Mike knew that Carol's parents were going to go ballistic when they saw the two youths. Still, he walked her to the door and went in with her. Upon seeing their daughter, both parents breathed a sigh of relief.

"We heard gunshots and police sirens soon after you two went running out of the house, and we were worried sick." Carol's father said.

Seeing the sling on Carol's arm, her mom took her upstairs to the bathroom for first aid. Carol's dad looked at Mike and said in a tone of voice that was not friendly but showed relief, "You're sopping wet son. You better get home and change into something dry. Carol can fill us in on what you two were up to this time. We'll see you in the morning."

Mike entered his home from the kitchen door. His mom heard him enter and said, "I wish you had worn your galoshes... Why Mike! You are totally soaked."

"Yes I am, mom," Mike replied, "And wearing galoshes wouldn't have helped me!" He then headed directly upstairs, took a steaming bath and went straight to bed. He was exhausted.

The next afternoon, Mike and Carol were again down in the basement lab. Carol's mom had taken her to the emergency room at the County hospital after Mike left the previous night. The doctor took X-rays and said she had suffered muscle and tendon damage but felt she would recover completely, over the next few weeks. He sent her home with a bandaged shoulder a prescription for pain pills, and a canvas arm sling.

Carol's father had left early that afternoon on a business trip, and Carol had begged her mom to allow Mike to come over. Carol reported to Mike that she saw the two heavily guarded criminals being treated for their wounds, and she also saw Sgt. Tough, who had received a minor gunshot wound to his calf. Outside the hospital she met Agent Gains, who told her that two other officers had also received gunshot wounds - neither was life-threatening, but they both required hospitalization.

A newspaper sat on the workbench. The shootout had happened too late to make the early edition. However, in the second section was a brief article on the airport marker beacon vandalism that was occurring around the state. The article mentioned that the FBI had questioned and released two sixteen year olds suspected of vandalizing government property. Being minors, their names weren't given. Carol's father had circled the article in red ink.

Carol had Mike replace the resistor in the second receiver of her storm tracker project; she wasn't going to do much soldering until her arm healed. They then fired up the tracker and the interference from the marker was totally gone. "Success!" remarked Mike.

"I'm still worried about a way to check the accuracy," said Carol.

"Perhaps we can borrow a 150 MHz handheld radio from the plant, and use it to send a signal from various known locations. Then you can plot the bearings against what your tracker registers."

"Brilliant, Mike. I will call NANEC and ask if they have one they will lend me."

Upstairs the doorbell rang. A few minutes later steps were heard on the basement stairs, and Agent Gains of the FBI entered the lab. He looked around at all the equipment and appeared impressed, if only for a moment.

"I want to thank you two for your quick action notifying us, as well as the airport, when you realized that someone was tampering with the radio beacon last night. We were able to apprehend the villains; and though they were both wounded, they will live to stand trial. The two are being interrogated as we speak and have already admitted belonging to a Foreign terrorist group. We expect them to tell us a lot more when they realize how hopeless their situation is."

"Was their motive to wreck an airliner?" asked Mike.

"It was more than that, Mike," the inspector replied, "The President was to fly into the County Airport last night. Regular commercial traffic had been rerouted or rescheduled to leave a safe window for Air Force One to arrive. The expected landing time was published in a paper by some overzealous reporter, something the Secret Service doesn't like to see. Fortunately, the weather deteriorated to the point where the Presidential flight was rescheduled, so Air Force One remained safely on the ground in Washington DC."

"How were the terrorists able to change the code on the beacon so quickly?" Carol queried, "I would think that would take a lot of time and some electronic expertise to accomplish. Those two terrorists didn't look like rocket scientists to me when I saw them at the hospital

last night; yet they made the change in just a few seconds."

"Actually it only required changing the settings of a few switches on the tone keying board and the monitor alarm board. As long as it was done in the right sequence no alarm would be received in the airport control tower. The board modules are common to the various beacons to keep the required spares to a minimum. We found step-by-step instructions on one of the terrorists, as well as a complete set of ILS manuals in the Volkswagen van. The back of the van was full of other interesting items that I can't discuss. Our people feel it is a gold mine of intelligence information.

"One final thing young lady," the Inspector continued in a sterner voice, turning to Carol, "May I ask what your bicycle was doing at the scene of the shootout last night? I recognized it immediately, and what was left of it still carried the ID that the police put on it while it was in their custody four days ago. At the hospital last night you told me you were in a bike mishap. Was this the same bike?"

"Yes! We wanted to see what was going to happen," Mike answered for her, "We headed over to the park after we sent a message to you through the local amateur radio repeater. On the way, Carol spotted the van partially hidden in the shrubbery beside the woods. The bike was hit by stray gunfire while you were all shooting at one another. When it ended, we left and walked home."

"So, you were both there? I thought as much from the tracks," replied the Inspector, "Leave the police work to the professionals. The FBI and police had the situation well in hand;

there's no way you two could have helped us apprehend the criminals, and you could have gotten yourselves killed.

"I would run you both in if I could find something to charge you with," he added with a slight smile."

"How about theft?" replied Mike, producing the high tension lead from his pocket. "I stole this from that van last night when I saw it suspiciously parked so close to the outer marker beacon fence."

He handed the wire to the Inspector, who just rolled his eyes, gave them both a big grin and quietly headed back upstairs.

Carol and Mike looked at each other, and when the Inspector was out of earshot, burst out laughing. They both stopped at the same instant and stared into each other's eyes. Mike found Carol's blue eyes so wonderful to look into. All he could think of was giving her a big hug.

She was looking directly in his eyes too, and took a step towards him. He put his arms out ready to hold her close when suddenly she leaned forward, gave him a quick peck on the cheek and whispered in his ear, "When are you going to teach me, so I can get a ham license too?" The word "too" was emphasized with a push by her good hand on his chest and a quick step backwards, so his hug caught nothing but air. She gave him a wink and said, "I wonder if the Senior Special Agent finally shot someone last night? I meant to ask him."

"I don't know." sighed Mike, feeling rejected; "But we did miss a good opportunity to try out this storm tracker yesterday. That was some wild night."

"Yes it was!" replied Carol gently rubbing her sore shoulder. "And it wasn't because of the weather." Then she added, "It's going to get a lot wilder tomorrow when my dad gets home!" Mike saw her shiver at the thought.

[The End]

This story has been sitting on the author's computer since 2004 when it was first written.

Another Mike and Carol adventure awaits, but only if you, the readers, ask! Club membership is not a requirement.



? PUZZLER ?

Last week I was working on my house and had to make a trip to the hardware store to get some things that were needed to finish the job. I explained what I needed to the guy behind the counter, and asked him how much for one.

He said, "\$2.99."

I replied, "Great, how much for ten?"

"Ten will cost you \$5.98," he answered.

I said, "OK, I'll take six hundred and sixty-seven."

"That'll be \$8.97," he replied as he took the \$10 bill I handed him and gave me back thirty three cents in change - California state tax, remember!

What was I buying for my house?

Send your answer to RF_Feedback @w6ze.org



? PUZZLER ?

Cash Flow - Year to Date
1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025

INFLOWS

Badges	6.00
Donations	62.00
Dues 2025	600.00
Dues, PayPal 2025	1,540.50
Opportunity Drwg	119.00
Refreshments	113.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	2440.50

OUTFLOWS

Activities Supplies	87.22
Badge Expenses	158.17
Field Day	355.64
PayPal Fees	79.94
Brochures Printing	265.80
Prize Expenses	104.88
Refreshments	211.89
Software License	69.88
Speaker Meals	13.50
Storage	325.00
Website	150.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	1,811.84

OVERALL TOTAL **628.66**

Submitted by Tim N6TMT, Treasurer.

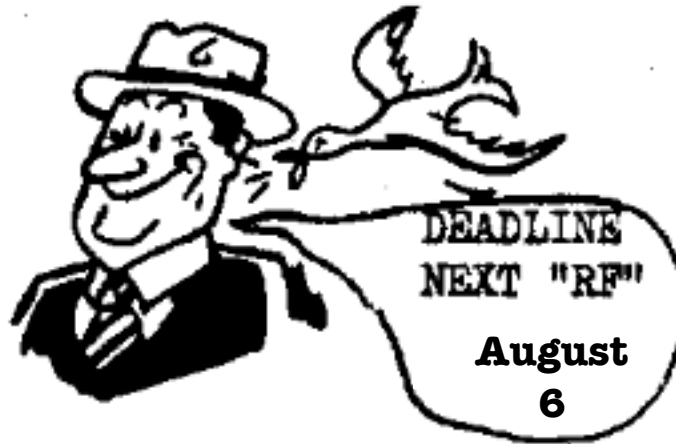


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