RF

ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LXVI NO. 12 | PO Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781 | December 2025

The Prez Sez...
By Dan KI6X

December 2025

For those who were unable to attend the year-end party, it went very smoothly (except for a last-minute menu change). Thanks to Corey for working out the details (place, timing, etc.). Also, thank you to Janet for a very interesting talk on women and travel as an amateur radio operator. It was enjoyed by hams and non-hams alike. In addition, our waitress told me we were one of the nicest groups she has handled and appreciated us.

You will probably see in other places of this newsletter the award winners that were presented their award at the dinner. Our yearly "Good of the Club" award went to Ron, W6WG, for his outstanding effort on our summer Field Day. We also have a special "OCARC Lifetime Achievement" award that is rarely given out. Only 7 had been awarded this previously in our 90+ year history. The Board awarded this special award to Nicholas, AF6CF, for his many years of tirelessly supporting the club through membership encouragement, especially when the club was shrinking (as all clubs were in the early 2000's), handling many behind the scenes needs (e.g., SK equipment), very active at the club auctions, President many times, and his general fulltime support of OCARC.

Continued Page 3

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Dave Akins
N6HHR

Presents
"The Queen Mary"

January 16th, 2026, at 7pm
at the
American Red Cross
Orange County Chapter
Santa Ana, Room 208

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Saturday, January 3rd, 2026

See www.w6ze.org for more info

In This Issue

The Prez Sez 1
Club Information 2
OCARC Renewal Announcement and continuation of Prez Sez 3
Portable POTA Callsign Database 4-15
Holiday Party Dinner Pictures 16
RadioActivity 17
Winter Field Day Announcement 18
New OCARC Members 19
OCARC General Meeting Minutes 20-21
November Cash Flow 22
Award Winners 23

2025 Board of Directors

President
Dan Violette, KI6X
(714) 637- 4632
ki6x@w6ze.org

Vice President
Tim Goeppinger, N6GP
(714) 730-0395
n6gp@w6ze.org

Secretary
Joyce Rodman, KN6UKJ
(714) 454-5721
kn6ukj@w6ze.org

Treasurer
Tim Millard, N6TMT
(714) 744-8909
n6tmt@w6ze.org

Activities
Corey Miller, KE6YHX
(714) 322-0395
ke6yhx@w6ze.org

Publicity
AJ Ricci, W6OTO
(714) 788-0847
w6oto@w6ze.org

Technical
Joe Rodman, KM6SVV
(714) 454-5721
km6svv@w6ze.org

Membership
Ron Mudry, W6WG
(714) 328-9308
w6wg@w6ze.org

Directors-at-Large:
Nicholas Haban, AF6CF
(714) 693-9778
af6cf@w6ze.org

Directors-at-Large
Janet Margelli, KL7MF
(714) 878-9369
kl7mf@w6ze.org

2025 Club Appointments

W6ZE Club License Trustee
Bob Eckweiler, AF6C
(714) 639-5074
af6c@w6ze.org

Club Historian
Corey Miller, KE6YHX
(714) 639-5475
ke6yhx@w6ze.org

RF Managing Editor
Corey Miller, KE6YHX
(714) 322-0395
ke6yhx@w6ze.org

RF Editor for December 2025
Tim Millard, N6TMT
(714) 744-8909
n6tmt@w6ze.org

Webmaster
Dan Violette, KI6X
(714) 637- 4632
ki6x@w6ze.org

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

Assistant Web Maintenance
Tim Millard, N6TMT
(714) 744-8909
n6tmt@w6ze.org

HAM License Testing
(before regular meetings)
Ken Simpson, W6KOS
(714) 651-6535
w6kos@w6ze.org

ARRL Awards Appointee
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, KN6WNO

2M ~ 146.55 MHz Simplex FM
Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX
Alternate Net Control: AJ, KN6WNO
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 Badges[1]	$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.

OCARC Membership Renewal 2026

Membership Renewal for 2026 is now open and can be made online by going to

https://www.w6ze.org/MemberForms/RenewForm.html#a2rf

It's Quick and Easy!!!

All club dues info is at: https://www.w6ze.org/clubdues.html

Prez Sez continued from Page 1.

We are now winding up another year, and I look forward to the coming year. The new Board should also be noted in this newsletter (at least you will find the list in the November Meeting Minutes). Contact any of them if you have issues, ideas, or "atta-boys/girls".

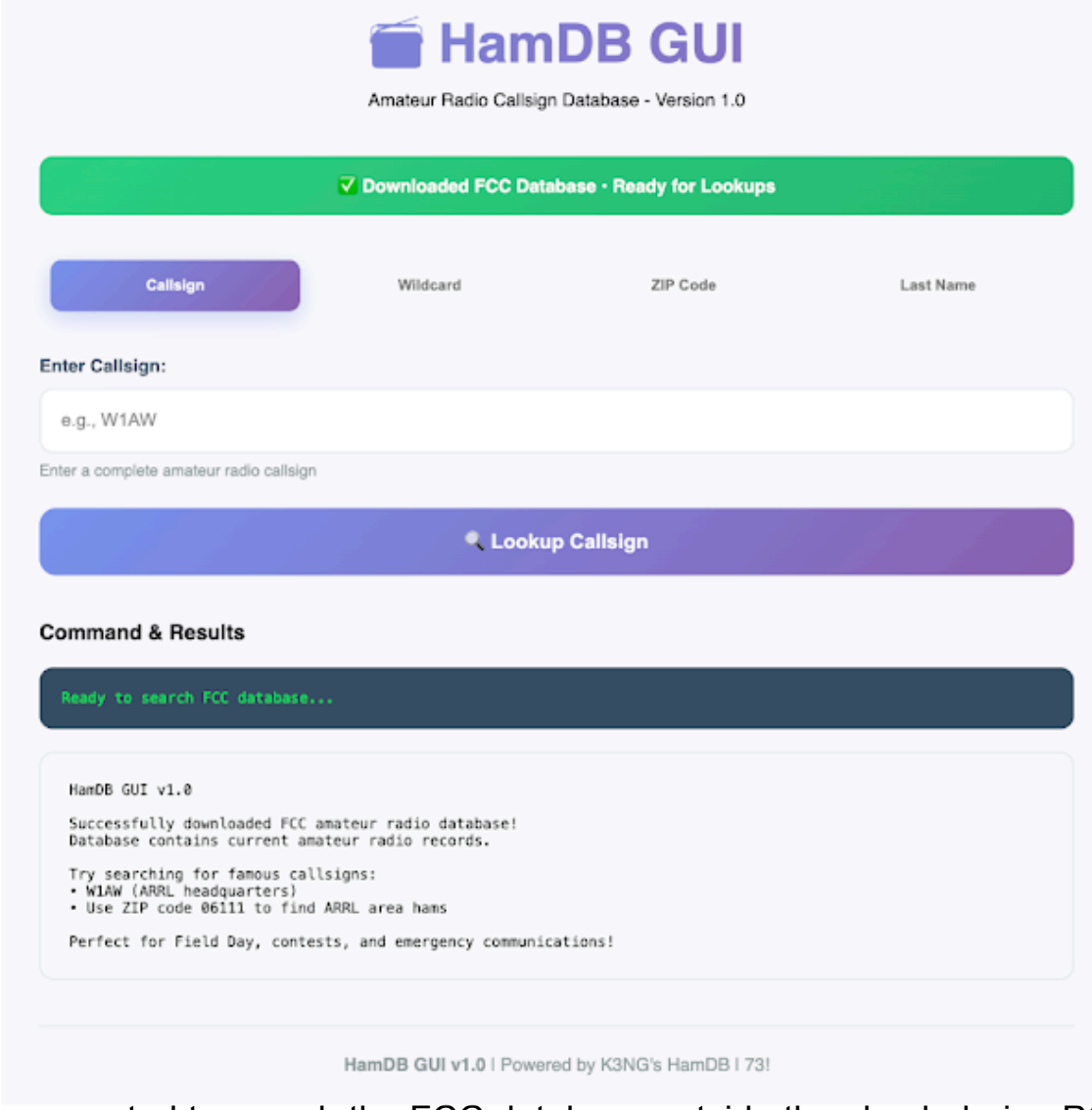
In addition, I want to thank all the members for this great year. Membership is at a record high, meeting attendance has been strong, and I appreciate those who stay after the break for the business meeting. I hope to keep the business meetings short and efficient to encourage all to stay. I have noticed more staying around this year. Please don't forget our great VE crew that does testing before our meetings, too.

Dan Violette, KI6X
President

2026 Board Members

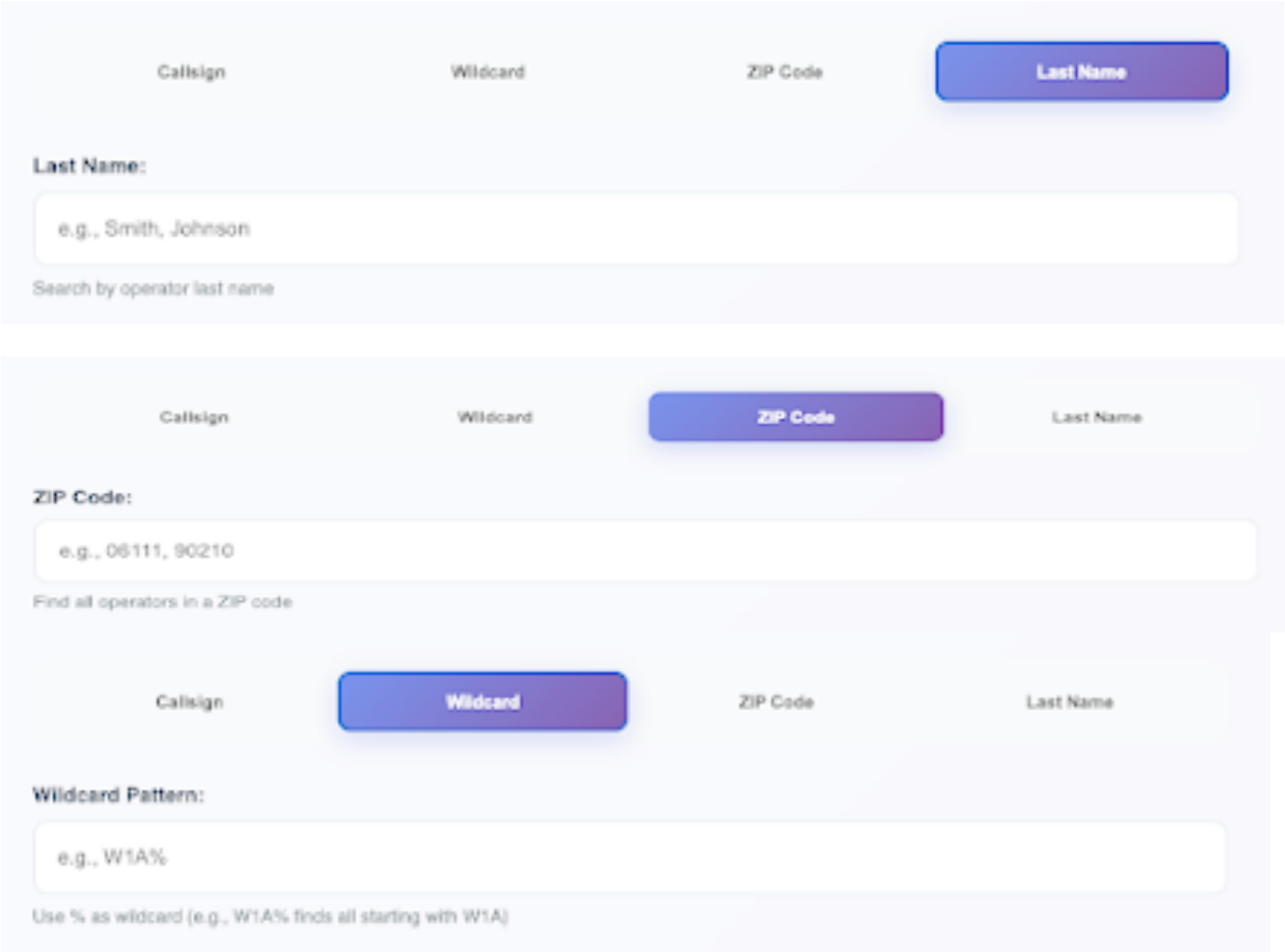
Your Own Portable POTA Callsign Database

By Dave N3BKV



Have you ever wanted to search the FCC database outside the shack during POTA or Field Day? It's easy when you have cell coverage, but what if you are in the middle of nowhere? Or what if you want to see all the amateurs around you, search by last name or even those who have a callsign like yours?

K3NG has developed a powerful command-line tool, HamDB (https://github.com/k3ng/hamdb), that lets you keep the entire FCC database locally on your Raspberry Pi. One thing I thought was missing was an easy-to-use UI, so I have put together a GUI called HamDB GUI (https://github.com/n3bkv/hamdb-gui).
With it, you can search by call, name, zip code, or callsign wildcard, right in your web browser.



It's easy to install and get up and running. All you need is a Raspberry Pi 3B or better and a 32GB SD card.
If you are looking to power your Raspberry Pi in the field, there are several <$10 converters, such as this one on Amazon, that will let you run the Pi on 12 volts.
(https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09DGDQ48H)

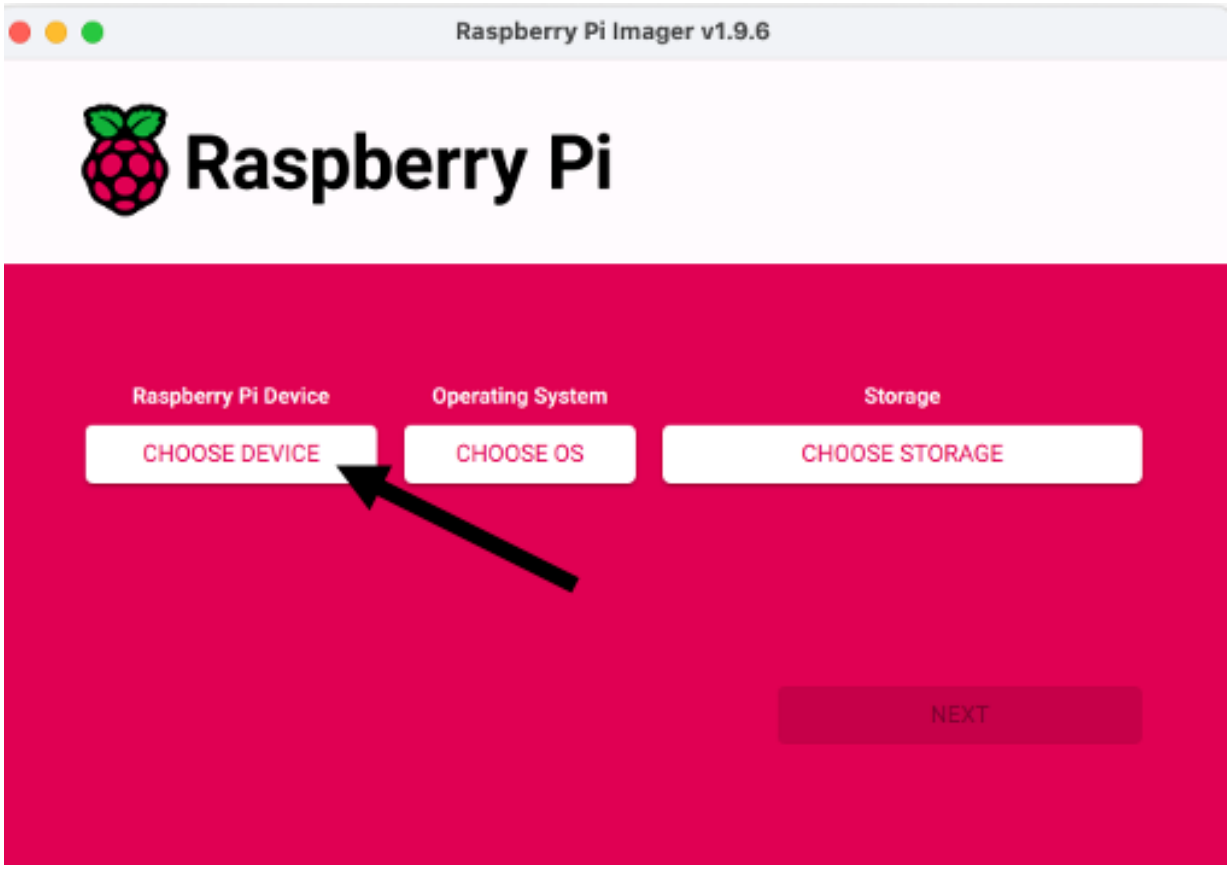
First, you'll need to set up your Pi.

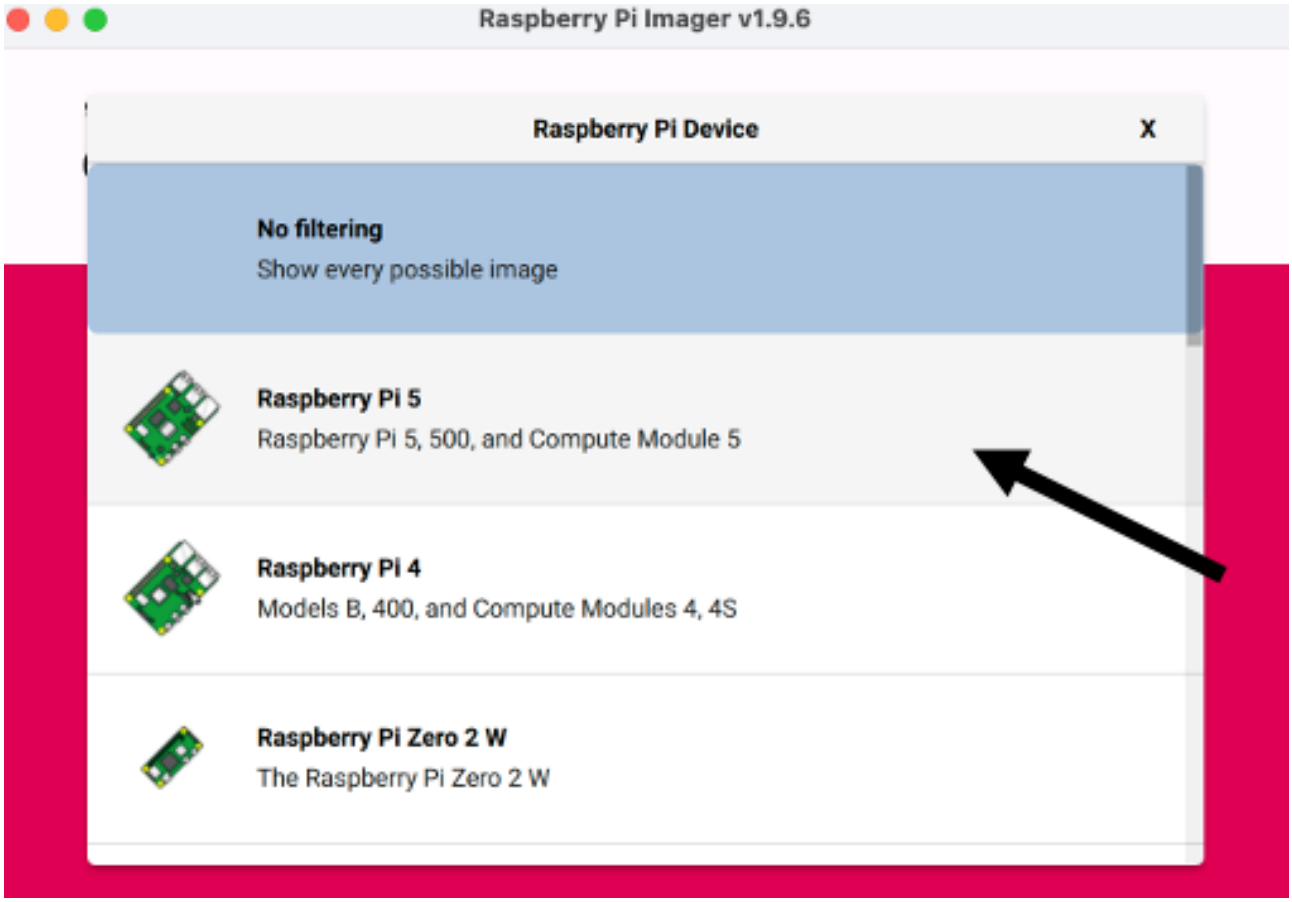
1. Preparing the Raspberry Pi SD card

a. Put your SD card in your reader and plug it into your computer’s USB port.

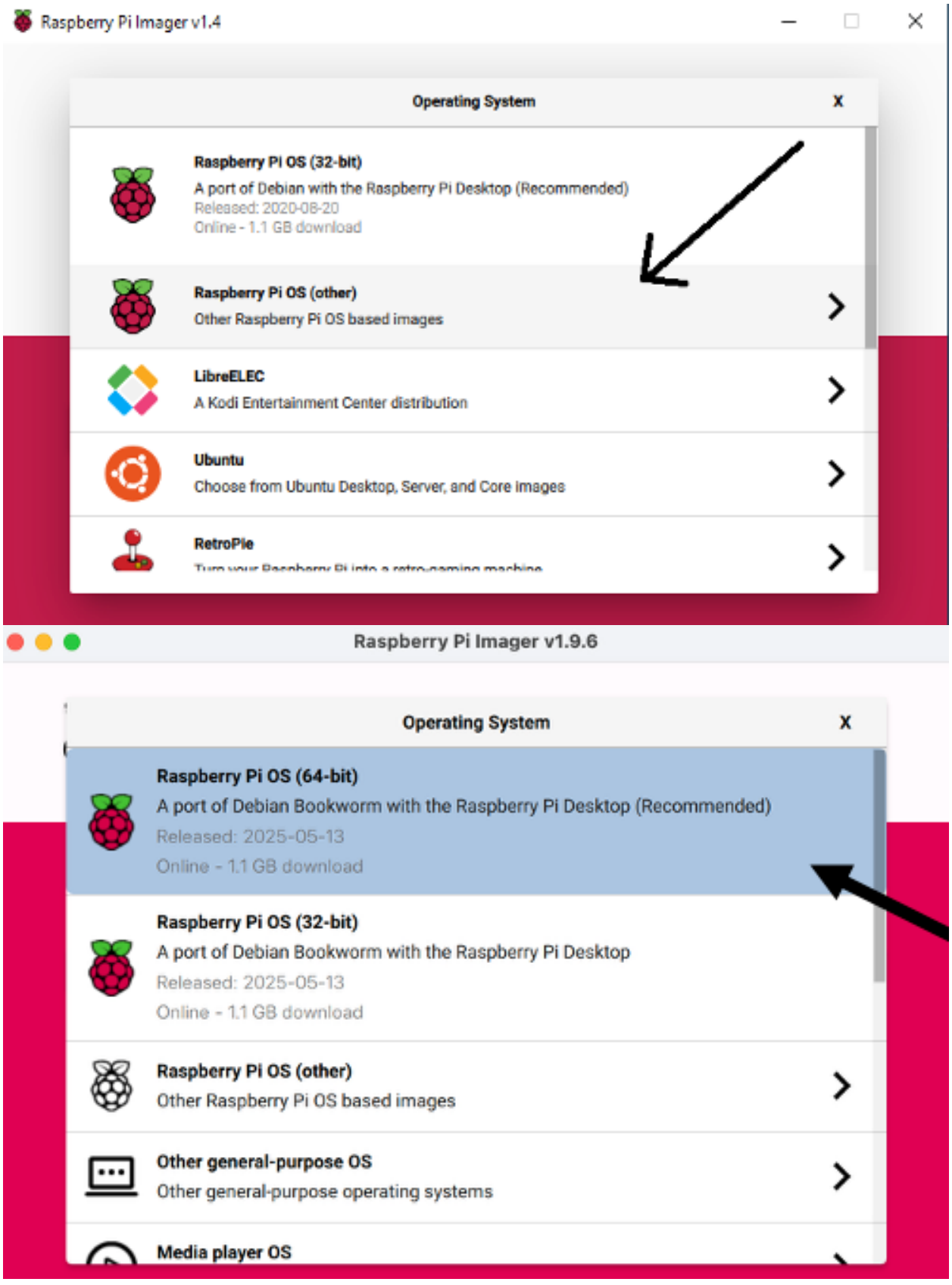
b. Download and install Raspberry Pi card management software.

Go to https://www.raspberrypi.org/software/ and download and install Raspberry Pi Imager. Follow the illustrations below to install the base lite image on your SD card:

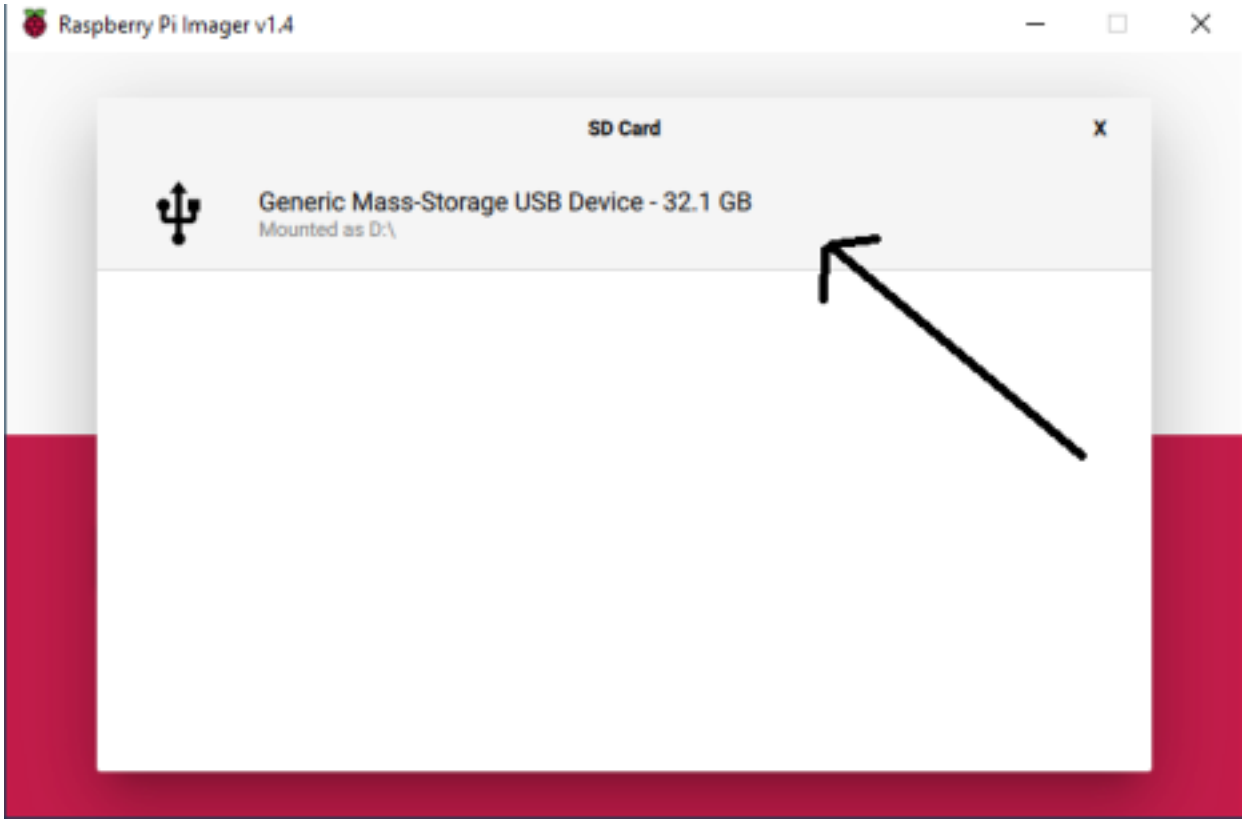




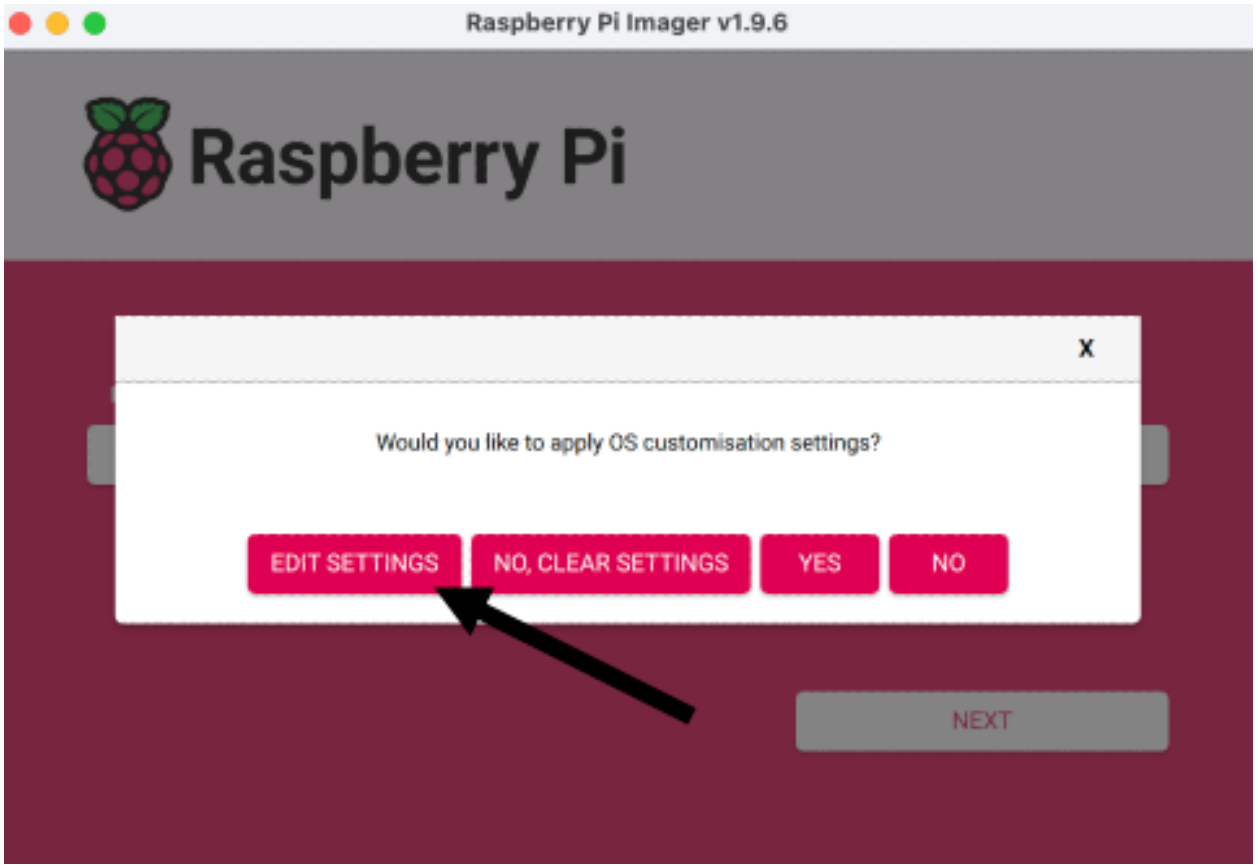
Pick your computer model.

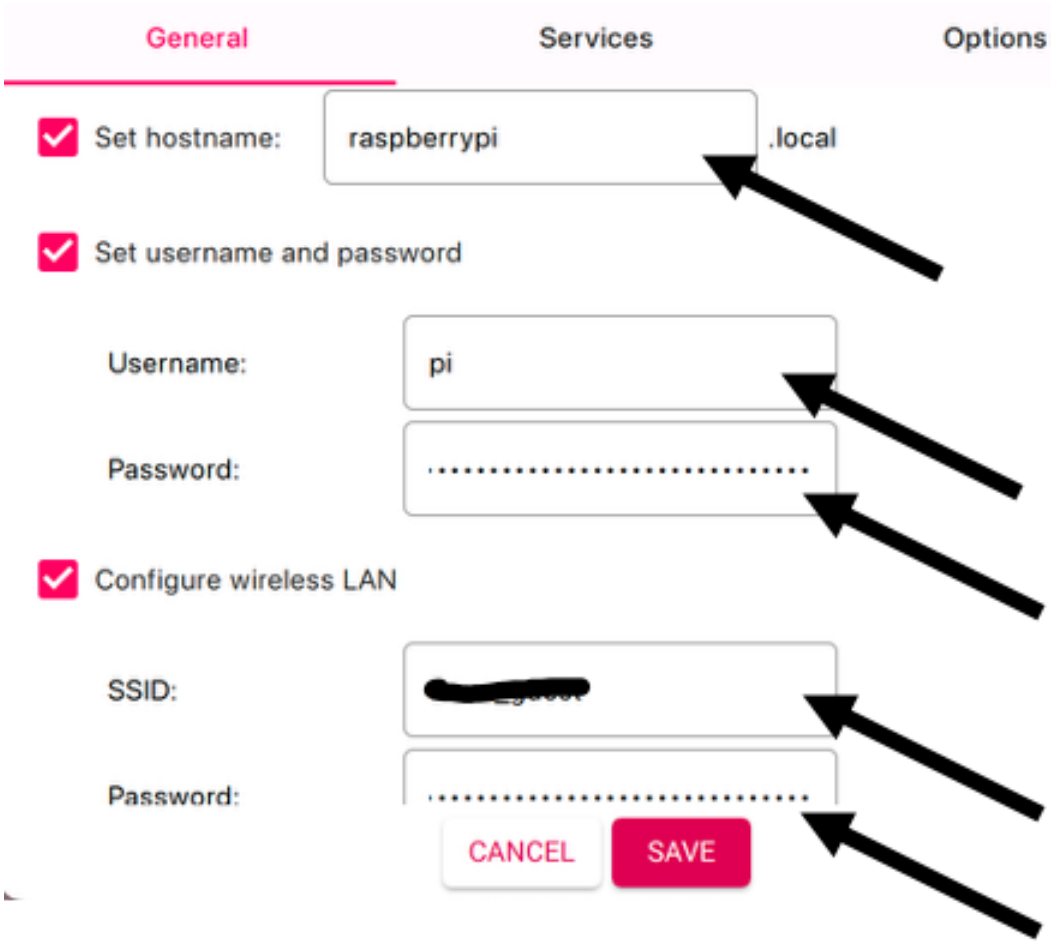

Raspberry Pi Imager v1.4
Operating System
Raspberry Pi OS (32-bit)
A port of Debian with the Raspberry Pi Desktop (Recommended)
Released: 2020-08-20
Online - 1.1 GB download
Raspberry Pi OS (other)
Other Raspberry Pi OS based images
LibreELEC
A Kodi Entertainment Center distribution
Ubuntu
Choose from Ubuntu Desktop, Server, and Core images
RetroPie
Raspberry Pi Imager v1.9.6
Operating System
Raspberry Pi OS (64-bit)
A port of Debian Bookworm with the Raspberry Pi Desktop (Recommended)
Released: 2025-05-13
Online - 1.1 GB download
Raspberry Pi OS (32-bit)
A port of Debian Bookworm with the Raspberry Pi Desktop
Released: 2025-05-13
Online - 1.1 GB download
Raspberry Pi OS (other)
Other Raspberry Pi OS based images
Other general-purpose OS
Other general-purpose operating systems
Media player OS

Raspberry Pi Imager v1.9.6
Raspberry Pi
Raspberry Pi Device
Operating System
Storage
RASPBERRY PI 5
RASPBERRY PI OS (64-BIT)
CHOOSE STORAGE
NEXT

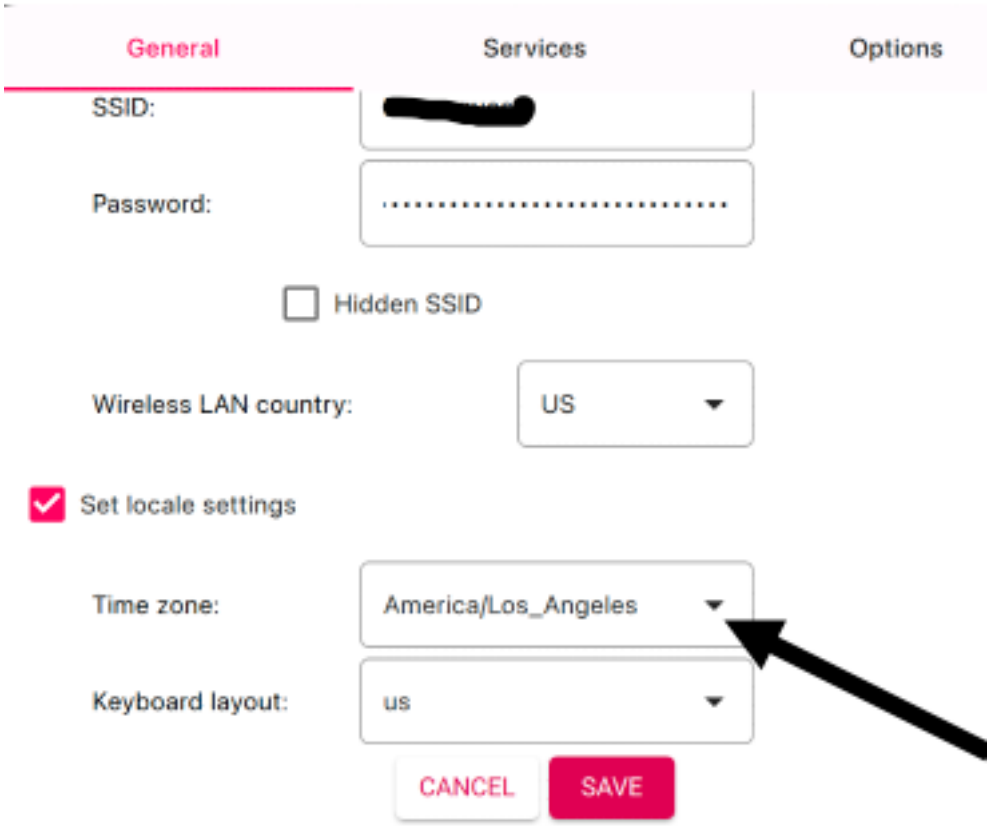

Raspberry Pi Imager v1.4
SD Card
Generic Mass-Storage USB Device - 32.1 GB
Mounted as D:\

Error!

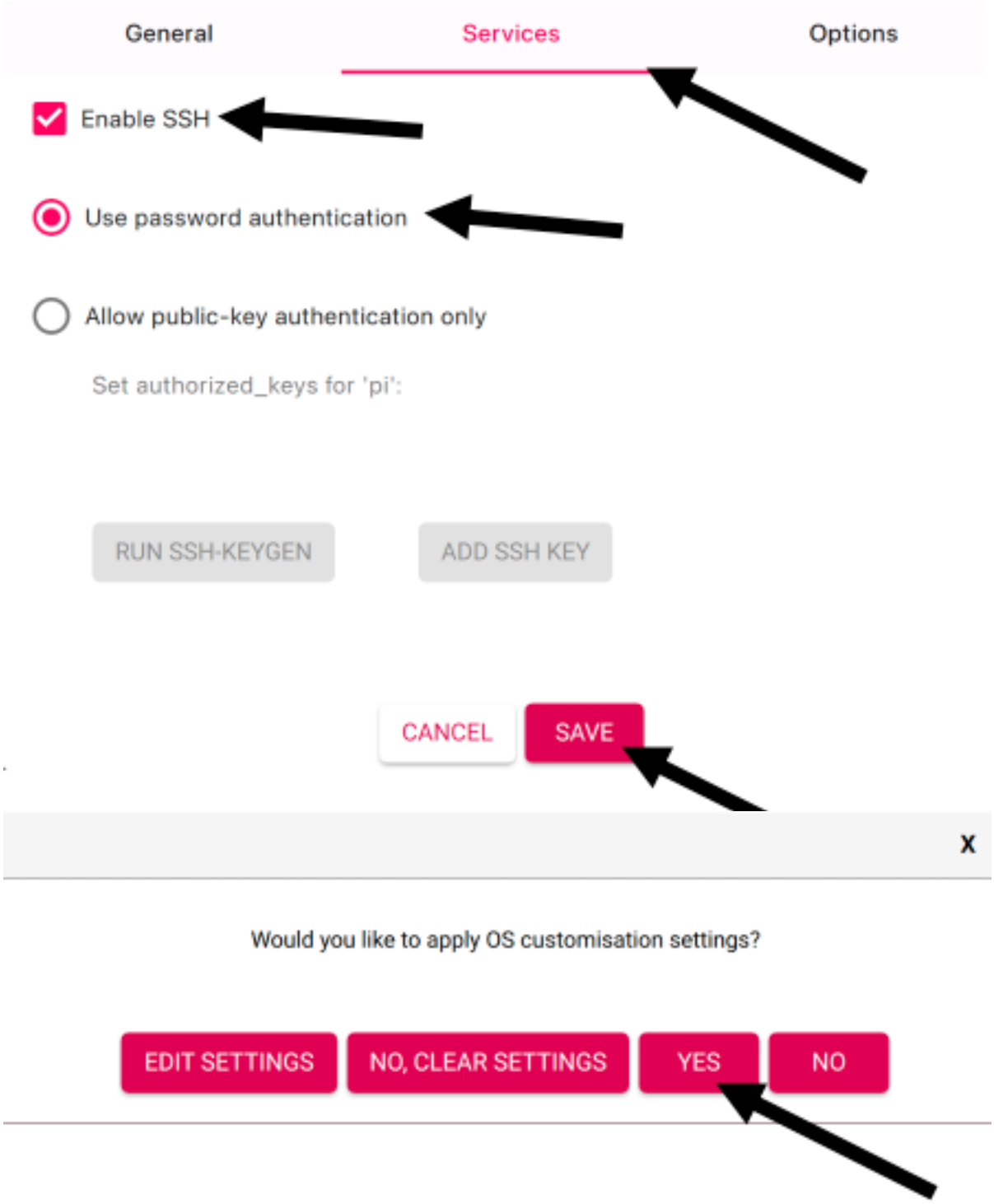

Raspberry Pi Imager v1.9.6
Raspberry Pi
Would you like to apply OS customisation settings?
EDIT SETTINGS
NO, CLEAR SETTINGS
YES
NO
NEXT

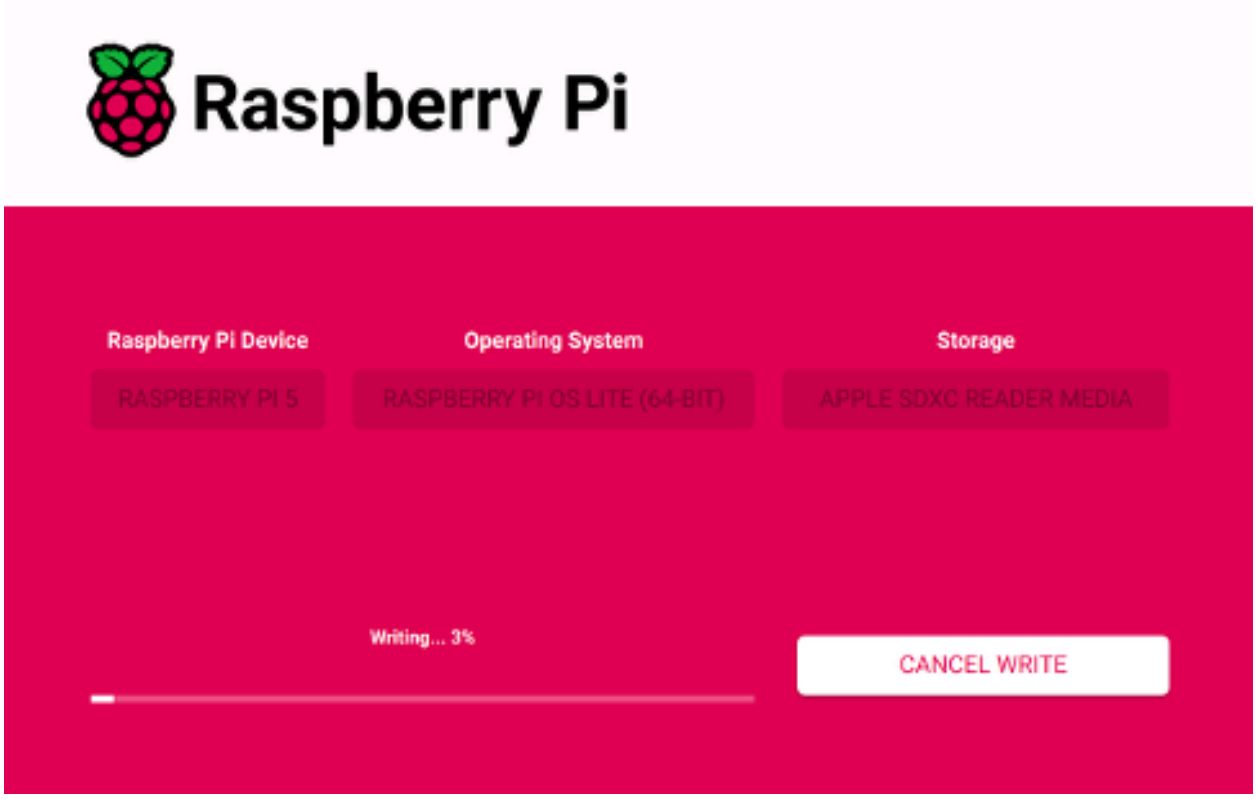

General
Services
Options
Set hostname:
raspberrypi
.local
Set username and password
Username:
pi
Password:
Configure wireless LAN
SSID:
Password:
CANCEL
SAVE

Name your system; the default instructions below reference the computer as “raspberrypi,” with a user of “pi” and a password of “raspberry”. It is easiest to use that name and password, then enter your Wi-Fi network name and password.



Then scroll down and select your time zone. Then continue as shown in the following images.


General
Services
Options
Enable SSH
Use password authentication
Allow public-key authentication only
Set authorized_keys for 'pi':
RUN SSH-KEYGEN
ADD SSH KEY
CANCEL
SAVE
X
Would you like to apply OS customisation settings?
EDIT SETTINGS
NO, CLEAR SETTINGS
YES
NO

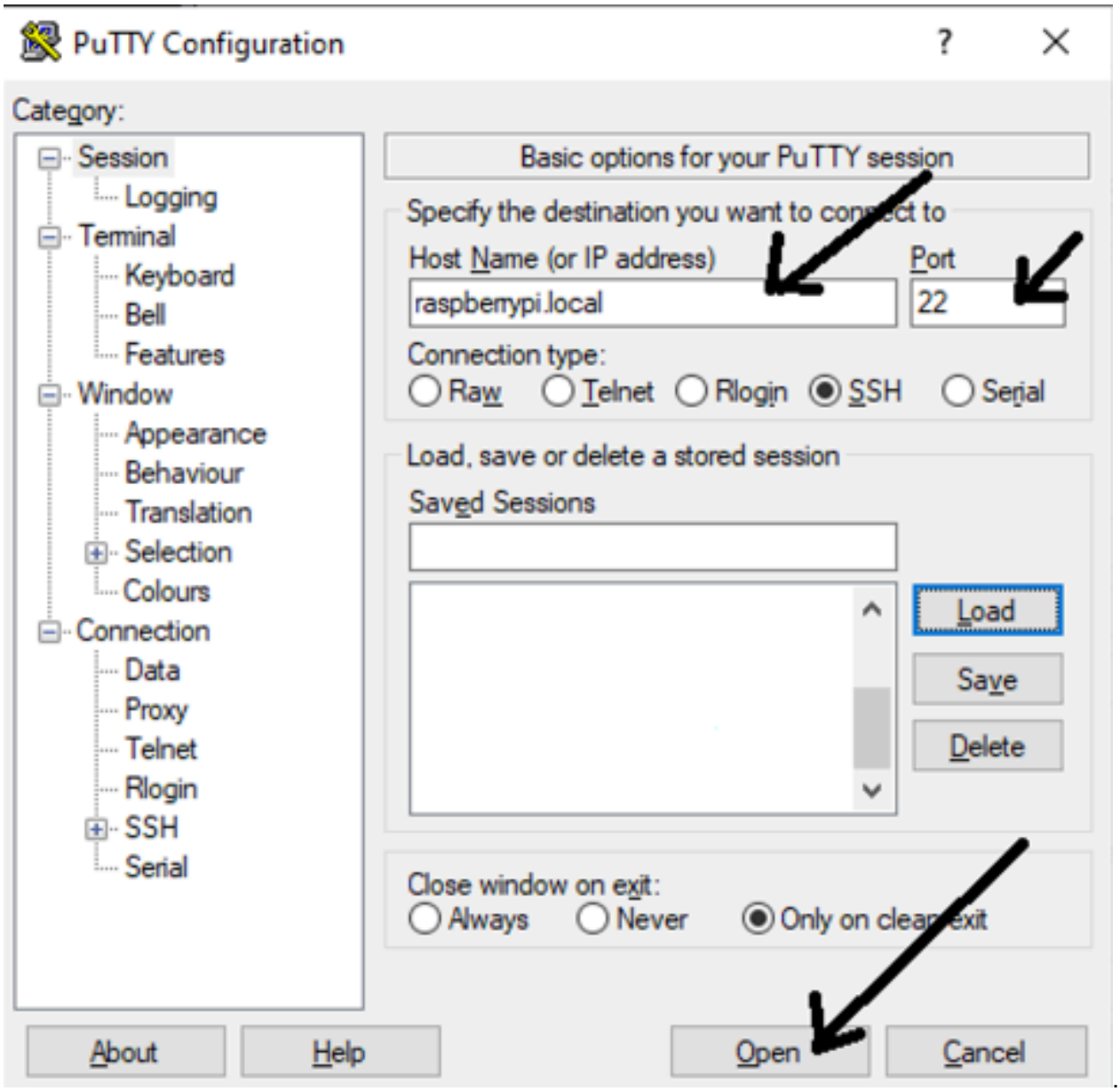


2. Connect the hardware and SD card.

Insert the SD card into your Raspberry Pi, connect your CAT interface (USB cable) and (optional) connect your ethernet cable. Wifi is not recommended because it can introduce issues but we have it set up with your network on the previous step if you'd like to try it.

3. Connect via SSH to your Raspberry Pi

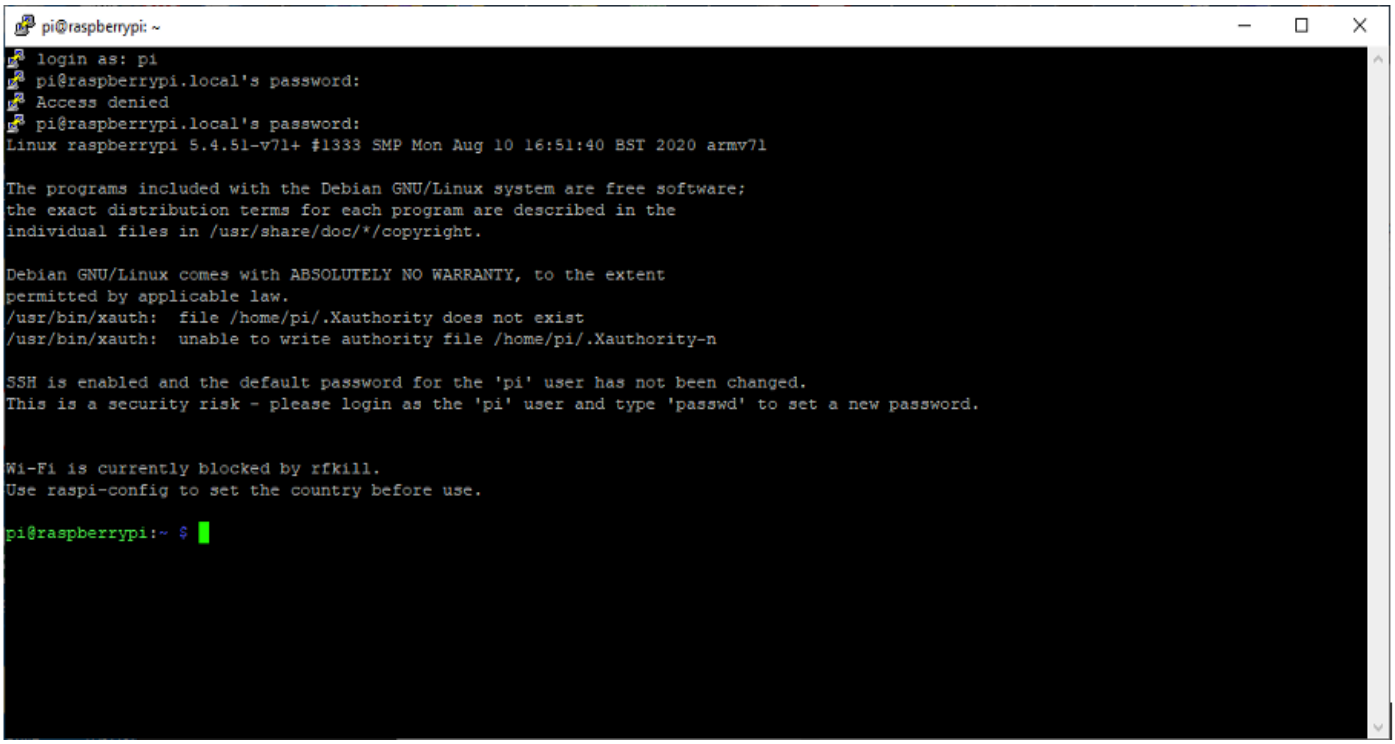
Wait a minute or two for the Raspberry Pi to boot up and then connect to it with the steps below in Putty



If you have a "Putty Security Alert" window, click "yes".

A black window will open. On the line "login as:" put "pi" On the line "pi@raspberrypi.local's password:" place "raspberry" (Warning, it is normal that nothing is displayed on the password line, in fact your password is hidden for discretion).

You should then see this:



4. Software Installation

At the pi@raspberry prompt, enter (type this command as one line – it is best if you copy/paste it).

curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/n3bkv/hamdb-gui/main/Ham_DB_Gui.sh | bash

Then at the next prompt type (to make it executable):

chmod +x Ham_DB_Gui.sh

Then run the installer and select the option to download the FCC database. This takes a little time, so please allow 15-30 minutes for installation.

./Ham_DB_Gui.sh

After installation is complete, go to http://raspberrypi.local to access the system webpage. Initial lookups will be slow while the system indexes the FCC data. After about an hour, they should be much faster. At 2:30AM daily, the system will download updates, ensuring you always have the latest call information.

73 and happy POTAing.

Holiday Party

RadioActivity
December 2025

Upcoming Activities:

DECEMBER

- ***ARRL 10 Meter Contest:** 0000Z Saturday Dec. 13 through 2359Z Sunday Dec. 14.
- **VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest:** 1700Z to 2100Z Wednesday Dec. 10
- **ARRL Rook.ie Roundup, CW:** 1800Z to 2359Z Sunday Dec. 21.

JANUARY 2026

- **Straight Key Night:** 0000Z – 2359Z January 1
- **ARRL Kids Day:** 1800Z – 2359Z Sat. January 3
- **ARRL RTTY Roundup:** 1800Z Saturday January 3 to 2359Z Sunday January 4.
- ****North American QSO Party / CW:** 1800Z Saturday January 10 to 0559Z Sun. January 11.
- ***ARRL January VHF Contest:** 1900 UTC Saturday Jan 17 to 0359 UTC Mon. January 19.
- ****North American QSO Party / SSB:** 1800Z Saturday January 17 to 0559Z Sun. January 18.
- ***CQ 160 Meter Contest/ CW:** 2200Z Friday January 23 to 2200Z Sunday January 25.
- ***Winter Field Day:** 1600Z Sat. Jan. 24 to 2159Z Sun. January 25.

*** 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”

Repeating Activities:

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

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.*

2026 Winter Field Day
January 24th and 25th, 2026

We will be needing operators and support volunteers. If you are interested and need more information contact Ron, W6WG, by email, W6WG@W6ZE.ORG

Belonging to OCARC and joining in on our two major events, Winter Field Day and the ARRL Field Day in June, is the BEST way to become "RadioActive."

Download (and read) the lastest version of the WFD Rules here:

https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/2026-rules-v3.pdf

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
K06FKD Robert Wellington
N6YZ Adam Ehrheart

AUGUST
K6MFK Mike Klewer
N6ASM Sheri Millard

OCTOBER
W6KIC Mike O'Sullivan

NOVEMBER
Kimberly Pifher

DECEMBER
KO6LLT Sophia Axiotis

New Member Introductions,

Kimberly Pifher is new to amateur radio and is currently studying for her FCC exam, which she plans to take sometime in December 2025. She is especially interested in VHF/UHF operations, local repeaters, and emergency communications. Kimberly looks forward to meeting fellow club members, getting involved in club activities, and eventually supporting community emergency response efforts. Outside of radio, Kimberly runs a small community-focused business that provides support services to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Her background reflects a strong commitment to service, which she hopes to bring into her ham radio journey as well. Interests: Emergency communications, Local nets (Seal Beach / Long Beach area), Learning radio theory, and repeater systems

Sophia Axiotis is a new Ham! She loves to travel, and has been to Greece, Switzerland, Jordan, and England. She is a Greek American who loves to cook and enjoys going to Greek festivals. In her free time, she cares for her flock of hens, bakes sourdough, and enjoys long walks in the Old Towne Orange area.

OCARC Membership Director
Ron W6WG, membership@w6ze.org

General Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2025

General Meeting November 21, 2025

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone in attendance took a moment to introduce themselves.

Vice President Tim N6GP introduced our guest speaker, Scott Bovitz N6MI, who gave a very interesting presentation on how he converted a news van to accommodate substantial radio equipment and included a telescoping mast. He enjoys visiting remote places and participates in many contests, including transmitter hunting. He has many talents: he is a lawyer and a musician. He became interested in ham radio and in 1969 built his 1st radio. Later, he moved on to rigging his truck with equipment, removing seats, etc., using 12 golf cart batteries, eventually advancing to a news van converted to hold radio equipment, and a telescoping mast.

After a short break, the meeting continued with club business.

A quorum of club members was present.

Tim, N6GP, Vice-President, reports we have a guest speaker scheduled for our January club meeting, Dave Akins, N6HHR, from the Queen Mary.

Ron, W6WG, Membership reports we have 114 members at present, with 3 Honorary members. Tonight, we had 18 members in attendance, four guests, and four online check-ins. Ron reminds everyone that we are open for club membership renewals.

Tim, N6TMT, Treasurer, reports that we made about $600 from the auction and are in good shape at present.

Corey, KE6YHX, Activities: We are set for our December 5th Christmas party at Mimi's, starting at 5:30 pm. Corey circulated menu options for members to complete. Corey gave out a raffle ticket to each member attending tonight for the drawing. He also provided water and coffee tonight.

Janet, KL7MF, Director-at-Large, reports that she will provide a program at our Christmas party, focusing on encouraging female members to obtain their licenses and showcasing the many places she and Chip have traveled.

Nominees for Board members were presented individually, and all members present voted for them in for 2026
President - Dan, KI6X
Vice-President - Tim, N6GP
Secretary - Janet, KL7MF
Treasurer - Tim, N6TMT
Membership - Ron, W6WG

Technical - Joe, KM6SVV
Publicity - Michael, KO6FAR
Activities - Corey, KE6YHX
Directors-at-Large - AJ W6OTO, and Dave N3BKV

Corey, KE6YHX, made a motion to club members to vote on whether to purchase a Blu-ray disc recorder for $212 as he maintains the club's history.

After some discussion, a secondary motion by AJ, W6OTO was made to table this until the January board meeting, seconded and passed.

Ask the Elmer
No questions were posed at this time.

Show and Tell
Fred, WOPE, brought in a rather large coax to pass around.
Tim, N6GP, brought in DMR radios, which they are currently "beta testing". These are high-end, next-generation radios.

Good of the Club
Ron, W6WG, reports that we are preparing for our Winter Field Day, which will be held on January 24 and 25th. Ron sent an email to last year's participants and a diagram, asking them to keep him updated on whether they plan to attend.

Ken W6KOS continues to offer VE testing before our monthly club meetings at 5:30 pm. Also assisting were Charley, KM6KCK, Fred, WOPE, and Chuck, AK6JT. There were no applicants tonight. Per Ken, testing will transition to digital with ARRL in the coming year. They are pleased with the new tablets the club purchased for administering the tests.

9:05 pm Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and passed.

Submitted by Joyce KN6UKJ.

Cash Flow	1/1/2025-11/30/2025
INFLOWS	
Auction Income	1,607.50
Badge	6.00
Christmas Party	910.00
Donation	112.00
Dues 2025	682.50
Dues 2026	127.50
Dues, PayPal 2025	1,806.75
Dues, PayPal 2026	270.00
Interest Inc	228.25
Opp Drwg Income	339.00
Refreshments Income	174.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	**6,256.00**
OUTFLOWS	
Activities Supplies	87.22
Auction Expense	973.80
Auction Flyers	59.26
Award	72.72
Badge Expense	158.17
Field Day - Equip	26.92
Field Day - Flowers	36.50
Field Day - Oil	7.51
Field Day - Propane	55.14
Field Day Rental - Tent	325.00
Flag and VE tablets	544.95
P.O. Box Rent	188.00
PayPal Fees	142.42
Printing Brochures	265.80
Prize Expense	438.13
Refreshments Expense	359.77
Software License	59.88
Speakers Meal Reimburse	29.29
Storage	325.00
Website	374.25
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**4,529.73**
OVERALL TOTAL	**1,726.27**

Tim Millard, N6TMT, OCARC Treasurer Report

Award Winners 2025

Good of the Club – Ron Mudry

Lifetime Achievement Nicholas Habin

The ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
RF - VOLUME 66 ISSUE 12 – December 2025
P.O. BOX 3454
TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454

First Class Mail
Time Dated Material.
Please Expedite!
https://www.w6ze.org