



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LXVII NO. 1

PO Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781

January 2026

The Prez Sez...

By Dan KI6X



And now it is 2026! And I think we had a great year in 2025 as a club. We have also reached, what we think is, a new high in membership at 120. This is the highest membership count time of the year with 2025 members still on until March 31st deadline to renew before being dropped and any new 2026 joining. I hope you all plan to renew. Let us know if it is because of something we did. You may contact any one of the Board listed on page 2 that you might

be comfortable letting know. I expect some to not renew for various reasons unrelated to the club itself, and we will (and already have) gotten new members each year that were not on the roles before. We start out with a bang with Winter Field Day (Jan 24/25). See w6ze.org website and club emails. We have an interesting speaker this month regarding the Queen Mary radio station. It has been around a long time. Nate Brightman, who the station is now named after, used to go around giving presentations about it. When it started up you could go to a back entrance and pay 50 cents to get on board without the tour. Not sure what they do now if you just want to get on and are not a regular station volunteer.

Hope you enjoy the planned activities and speakers. We always are open to suggestions too. My picture this month is my tube I hope to build an amp out of (kidding!).

Dan Violette, KI6X
President

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, February 7th, 2026

See www.w6ze.org for more info

In This Issue

The Prez Sez	1
Club Information	2
OCARC Renewal Announcement.....	3
January Speaker Spotlight	4
Holiday Party Dinner Pictures.....	5
RadioActivity	6
Winter Field Day Announcement.....	7
OCARC General Meeting Minutes	8-9
New OCARC Members.....	10
Award Winners	11



2026 Board of Directors

President

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

Vice President

Tim Goepfinger, N6GP
(714) 730-0395
n6gp@w6ze.org

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Activities

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

Publicity

Michael Mastrianni KO6FAR
(714) 623-5210
ko6far@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:

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

Directors-at-Large

David Ginsberg, N3BKV
n3bkv@arrl.net

2026 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 January 2026

Tom Culhane AK6GR
(714) 231-8274
editor@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 2026 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.

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>

2026 Board Members



January Speaker Spotlight

David Akins, N6HHR

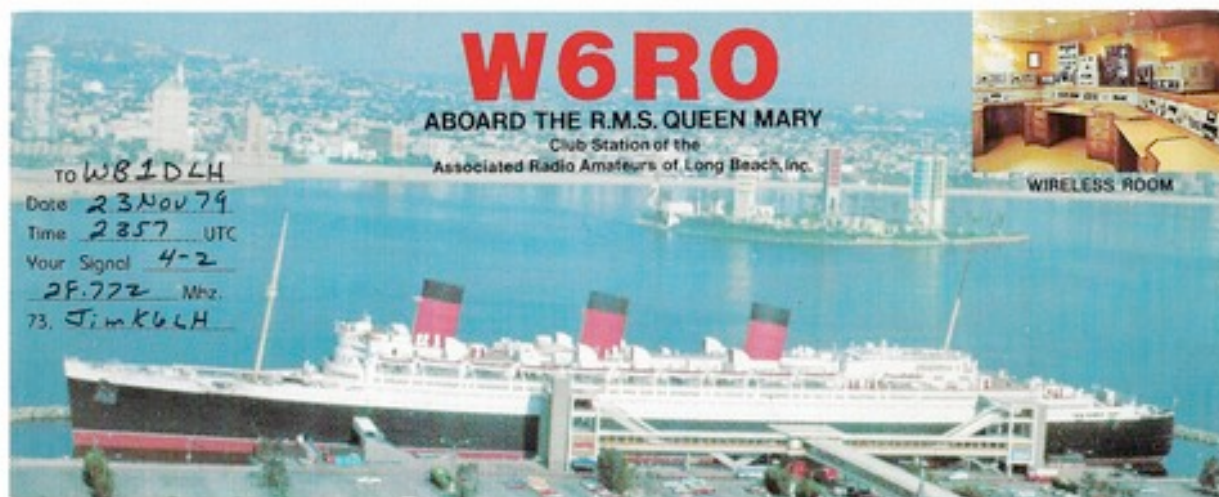
“All Aboard the Queen Mary to See the Radio Room W6RO”

We look forward to seeing David's program in person at our January monthly meeting. How can you operate the historic station at the Queen Mary? Come, and find out!



The radio bug first bit David in high school when some of his friends introduced him to CB radio. He went on to earn his Novice and Technician Amateur Radio licenses during his service in the Air Force a few years later. Two-meter packet radio caught his eye in the late 80's and kept him absorbed for over a decade until it faded from popularity in the early 2000's. A move to Long Beach brought W6RO, the Wireless Room aboard the Queen Mary to his attention, and he joined the crew in 1993. As older members of the Wireless Room crew retired, he took the job of QSL Officer in 2006, then Assistant Manager in 2009. He finally made the effort and earned his Extra license in 2012.

David was selected to succeed the legendary Nate Brightman (K6OSC/SK), when he chose to retire in 2013 after serving as Founder and Station Manager of the Wireless Room for nearly 35 years. David has always kept a VHF/UHF rig in the car and almost always has an HT on his belt. You can often find him on one of the Long Beach area repeaters. He and his lovely and radio-tolerant wife live in a neighboring town. They enjoy hiking, bicycling and camping together, and he often brings a radio along during those activities. He plans to master and become active in CW after retirement.



December 2025 Holiday Dinner Party



RadioActivity

January / February 2026

Upcoming Activities:

JANUARY

- ****North American QSO Party / CW:** 1800 UTC January 10 through 0559 UTC January 11
- ***January VHF Contest:** 1900 UTC Saturday January 17 through 0359 UTC Monday Jan. 19
- ****North American QSO Party / SSB:** 1800 UTC Sat. January 17 through 0559 UTC Sunday January 18
- ***CQ WW 160 Meter / CW:** 2200 UTC Friday January 23 through 2200 UTC Sunday Jan. 25
- **Winter Field Day: 1600 UTC**
Saturday January 24 through 2159 UTC Sunday January 25

FEBUARY

- **10-10 Winter Contest, SSB:** 0001 UTC Feb.7 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 8
- ***CQ WW WPX / RTTY** 0000 UTC Saturday Feb. 14 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 15
- ***ARRL International DX Contest / CW:** 0000 UTC Sat. Feb. 21 through 2359 UTC Sunday February 22
- ***CQ WW 160 Meter SSB:** 2200 UTC Friday Feb. 27 through 2200 UTC Sunday March 1
- **North American QSO Party / RTTY:** 1800 UTC Feb. 28 through 0559 UTC Sunday March 1

* 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

- **Vermont QSO Party:** 0000 UTC Saturday February 7 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 8
- **Minnesota QSO Party:** 1400 through 2400 UTC Saturday February 7
- **South Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday February 28 through 0159 UTC Sunday March 1
- **North Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Sunday March 1 through 0100 UTC Monday March 2

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 6TH of the month. 1200 UTC Sat. to 2359 UTC Sunday.
- **SKCC** Sprint (Straight Key CW) 0000 UTC to 0200 UTC 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
- **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
- **K1USN Slow Speed Test:** (CW, 20WPM Max.) Every Sunday night at 0000 UTC to 0100 UTC Monday

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](#)
- [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

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 (WFD) and the ARRL Field Day in June, is the BEST way to become “RadioActive.”

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

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

OCARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 3, 2026

Meeting held at the Streamliner Lounge, 186 Atchison Street, Orange, CA and called to order by President, Dan KI6X, at 8:18AM. A full house quorum of Board members was present, as well as a visitor, Nicholas AF6CF.

- No specific reports from Vice-President Tim, N6GP, Secretary Janet, KL7MF, or Technical Advisor Joe, KM6SVV.
- Treasurer Tim, N6TMT, is wrapping up the books for 2025 and will have a report for the RF Newsletter, also confirming club insurance was paid for this year in December, and asked that the Monthly Planner reminder for same be inserted into the November review.
- Activities Director Corey, KE6YHX, advised the last opportunity drawings brought in \$445, and a good portion of that will be used for future prizes. Opportunity Drawings this year will be in February, April, June, August, and November.
- Membership Manager Ron, W6WG, advises we now have 119 members, confirmed receipt of two recent checks, and added the reminder to get the word out to renew. Ron also asked for clarification in submitting updated rosters to Bob for the RF.
- At this point, with two new Board members present, President Dan, KI6X, read the section of the By-Laws with a description of duties pertaining to all members, and especially Publicity and Director-at-Large. Our new Publicity Chief Michael, KO6FAR, was briefed on the club flyer and stocking it at HRO, as well as the various news sources available for club activities such as Field Day.
- New Director Dave, N3BKV, had nothing to report. Director AJ, W6OTO, offered to assist with Publicity, and advised he has procured a couple UV5R-mini for give-aways to new licenses or for drawings. AJ is now very familiar with online proctoring for testing if assistance is needed in that regard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Newsletter Editors: January, Tom AK6GR with assistance from Ron W6WG; February, AJ W6OTO; March, Michael KO6FAR with assistance from Dan and/or AJ; April, Dave N3BKV with assistance from Ron W6WG. Formatting was discussed briefly and new editors were advised to use Word with the template provided.

Entertainment: January speaker will be Dave, N6HHR re the Queen Mary W6RO. Suggestions for following months were Wayne KH6WZ, W6NBC, W6BI, and others. All suggestions welcomed.

OCARC Remote Station: The plan is moving forward slowly. The new remote radio was just received, but the old one may need some updating and possible repair. The user interface is ready to go any time.

Winter Field Day: Ron, W6WG, again heads up our efforts at this event. A Zoom meeting will be held soon to discuss details. Operators needed! Bob AA6PW, will loan his tribander, although cannot participate. Plan B discussed in case of bad weather, e.g., keeping tower heights lower. Same locale as recently used. Ron may check into using one of the portable buildings on site and confirm FD rules re status of operating indoors at a remote site with emergency power.

Meeting temporarily paused at 8:50 and resumed at 9:25 after breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion continued regarding archiving website historical data on the club. Approximately 10G annually needed of content folder only, and suggestions of M-disk, and other Cloud options like Amazon Glacier. Consideration will continue.

Nicholas, AF6CF, will be donating various types of radio equipment to the club and needs assistance in moving it to a storage facility. Several members present will be joining him after the meeting to help in this regard. Ron, W6WG, and Nicholas, AF6CF, were excused early to start the process.

With nothing further for the good of the club, meeting was adjourned by vote at 9:47AM. Next OCARC Board Meeting February 7, 2026.

Submitted by Janet Margelli, KL7MF, OCARC Secretary

New OCARC Members 2026

DECEMBER 2025

KO6LLT Sophia Axiotis
AA6R Morgan Fine
KK6OYR Gregorio Valdivia

JANUARY 2026

KJ6ZEY Chris Chubbuck

Morgan Fine

“I got into HAM radio as I was working on telemetry for amateur rocketry. While only a Technician license, I was needed for this purpose I got both the Tech and General license at the same time, to make sure I was more respected by my neighbor.

I recently upgraded to Extra as I thought it would be fun to go for the last license. I am an avid outdoor enthusiast and recently discovered SOTA. I plan to add this to any hiking and climbing trips I go on in 2026.



Look forward to learning more from all the members of OCARC.”

Regards,
Morgan

OCARC Membership Director
Ron W6WG, membership@w6ze.org

Award Winners 2025



Good of the Club Award Recipient - Ron Mudry



Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient - Nicholas Haban



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

RF - VOLUME 67 ISSUE 1 – January 2026

P.O. BOX 3454

TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454



***First Class Mail
Time Dated Material.
Please Expedite!***

<https://www.w6ze.org>