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## ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

VOL XXIX NO. 2

P.O. BOX 3454 TUSTIN, CA 92681

FEB 1988

JUST A REMINDER:

# NEXT OCARC MEETING IS THIS FRIDAY FEB 19th -- 7:30 PM

DX BULLETIN NR 3 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 22, 1988, TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

THANKS TO WB2CJL AND THE WESTERN NEW YORK DX ASSOCIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DX INFORMATION.

- SOUTH GEORGIA. VP8BPZ SAYS THAT HIS TRIP TO SOUTH GEORGIA IS POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY FEBRUARY. LOOK FOR HIM ON 14295 KHZ AROUND 1300Z AND 28495 KHZ, HIS USUAL HANGOUTS.
- EGYPT. SUIER HAS INSTALLED A SLOPER FOR 160 METERS AND IS READY TO OPERATE. TRY 1840 KHZ SSB AND CW FOR THIS ONE.
- SPRATLY ISLANDS. K6EDV REPORTS THAT IF MILITARY TRANSPORTATION CAN BE ARRANGED, THIS COUNTRY WILL BE ACTIVE IN MID MARCH.
- MARKET REEF. OH0MB/OJ0 WILL BE ACTIVE FROM JANUARY 27 TO 31 ON ALL BANDS 10 THROUGH 160. SOME RTTY OPERATION IS POSSIBLE. QSL TO N2AU.
- AUCKLAND ISLAND. RON, ZL1AMO HAS BEEN SUPPLIED WITH RTTY GEAR, THANKS TO JIM, JA1HCD. THIS OPERATION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH 15 OR 16.
- MAURITIUS ISLAND. 388FQ ADVISES THAT HE WILL BE ACTIVE THROUGH MARCH ON 1400K KHZ FROM 1915 TO 2015Z.
- GUINEA BISSAU. J52US, DAVE, IS NOW ACTIVE AND PLANS TO BE ON ALL BANDS AND MODES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HE WILL CONCENTRATE ON RTTY THE NEXT TWO WEEKENDS. ALSO WATCH 21270 KHZ AROUND 1800Z. QSL VIA WA8ZOC.
- JUAN DE NOVA. BRUNO, FR0EH/J, HAS BEEN ON 21280 KHZ AT 1800Z.

HEARD RECENTLY FROM WESTERN NEW YORK,

DK7PE/TH0	3504 KHZ AT 1230Z	SUIDO	3504 KHZ AT 0345Z	
HZ1HZ	7003 KHZ AT 0413Z	4K1J	7003 KHZ AT 0318Z	
VP8BFM	21018 KHZ AT 1950Z	TU2JT	21025 KHZ AT 1851Z	QSL VIA F6CXV
VP5CPU	21020 KHZ AT 1654Z	3D6AN	21214 KHZ AT 1631Z	
EL2MS	14028 KHZ AT 2106Z	4K1J	14010 KHZ AT 0029Z	
HL9XP	14029 KHZ AT 0030Z	BY4RB	14025 KHZ AT 0045Z	
EA9JV	14081 KHZ AT 1558Z	VP8BPZ	28495 KHZ AT 1600Z	

### U.S. LICENSED HAMS TOTALS (as of Nov '87) via Worldradio - March 1988

NOVICE	TECH	GENERAL	ADVANCED	EXTRA
82,296	92,618	114,396	98,383	43,608
TOTALS		- 431,301		

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1988 CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President .....	Ken Konechy .....	W6HHC .....	541-6249
Vice President	Ron Toering	KB6EZP	971-5180
Secretary .....	Mark Stanford .....	N6QMW .....	991-7398
Treasurer	Frank Smith	WA6VKZ	730-7142
Activities .....	John Roberts .....	WA6LAB .....	540-7368
Membership .....	Chris Breller .....	KA6IMP .....	(213) 866-2077
Public Relations	Lu Hurlbut	K1YZG	832-8386
T.V.I. Chairman .....	Kei Yamachika .....	W6NGO .....	538-8942
Member at Large	Jim Talcott	N6JSV	838-5395
Member at Large .....	Will Galusha .....	WB6GDZ .....	897-3376

CLUB APPOINTMENTS

Club Historian .....	Bob Evans .....	WB6IXN .....	543-9111
W6ZE Trustee	Bob Eckweiler	AF6C	639-5074
R.F. Editor (ACTING)	Ken Konechy .....	W6HHC.....	541-6249
Teen Representative	<open>		

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CLUB FUNCTIONS

MONTHLY MEETING: 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30PM at:  
MERCURY SAVINGS & LOAN  
Feb 19th 1095 Irvine Blvd. (4th St. becomes Irvine)  
Tustin, CA. Talk-in on 146.55 MHz  
Mar 18th  
Apr 15th (If your 1040 is mailed!) (Take the 4th St. exit of the 55 FREEWAY  
and head east. Continue about two blocks  
past Newport Blvd. It's on the left.)

CLUB BREAKFAST: 1st. Saturday of each month, 8:00AM at:  
LE GRAND CAFE  
Mar 5th 2525 N. Grand Avenue  
Santa Ana, CA. (714) 997-5393  
Apr 2nd (1-1/2 blocks south of the 22 Freeway)

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CLUB NETS

BAND	MODE	DAY of WEEK	LOCAL TIME	FREQ MHz	OPERATOR
2 Meters	FM	Wednesday	2100 hrs.	146.550	W6HHC
15 Meters	SSB	Wednesday	2000 hrs.	21.375X	WB6IXN
15 Meters	CW	Thursday	2000 hrs.	21.175X	KB6NAX
(Listen for W6ZE, net control)			XPlus or minus QRM		



"....the PREZ SEZ...."

BY KEN/W6HHC

I thought that the speaker at our January club meeting, Julian Macassey N6ARE, was OUTSTANDING. I learned a ton of great information on NICAD batteries during his talk on "the myths and the facts". Many thanks to Ron/KB6E2P for arranging the program and to Lloyd/WB6ULU for suggesting the speaker. Our Program Chairman, Ron/KB6E2P, is always looking around for interesting speakers. So if you know of one, please give Ron a call at 971-7398.

It's that time of the year when its time for the OCARC to collect dues from members for the 1988 year. Dues again are \$12 per year (all additional family members can be full members for an additional \$6). If you forget to pay your dues, you will not get any more copies of the club paper, "RF", after March. So, pay your 1988 dues to Frank/WA6VKZ, our club Treasurer, at the February meeting. If you prefer, you can mail your dues to:

FRANK SMITH - WA6VKZ  
14382 RED HILL - #59  
SANTA ANA, CA 92688

There has been something different about your club paper, "RF", during 1988 ..... although you probably can't notice the difference. PACKET RADIO has been used very extensively in creating the "RF". Our Secretary, Mark/N6QMW, has been submitting his MINUTES to the Editors by 2 METER PACKET. Bob/AF6C has been down-loading ARRL Bulletins from a "Bulletin Board Station" on Pales Verdes. Chris/KA6IMP received the membership list and mailing labels via PACKET RADIO. I received a copy of "PAGE 2" for this issue from Bob/AF6C via 145.070 Mhz. I believe that this useful practice within the OCARC is a reflection of the tremendous popularity and recent growth of PACKET RADIO within Amateur Radio. I currently count six members within OCARC who have PACKET capabilities:

* Chris Breller	- KA6IMP
* Bob Eckweiler	- AF6C
* Will Galusha	- WB6GDZ
* Ken Konechy	- W6HHC
* Frank Smith	- WA6VKZ
* Mark Stanford	- N6QMW

If you're not on Packet Radio yet, you should look into it ... it has something for every HAM.

Finally, the OCARC still has a special need for a new Editor for our club newspaper. I need someone to take on this valuable job for the club. Being editor can be a fun job. It doesn't mean days of heavy typing ..... most of the job is just doing a "cut and paste" of material that other people submit to you. Why don't you try this job for a two month trial period ... it can be fun.

de Ken, W6HHC



## \*\*\* ON THE NETS \*\*\*

1/6 15m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in NG7D, YZG, VCT, & RE. VCT & RE inform the net that Ted, LJA, was bk in the hosp. fer minor surgery. YZG loses a DX contact cuz he worked a 'pirate' station! VCT rpts 2 earthquakes yesterday & today...4.1 mag. up north & 3.2 mag. near San Diego. NG7D joins a computer service, Q-LINK, fer Commodore users, & John gives us the solar report. RE, IXN, & VCT comment on COJ's recuperation frm pneumonia. IXN suspects that SCE uses aluminum alloy wire fer power lead-ins in many homes! RE prunes his apricot tree & uses traction to relieve his back discomfort. NG7D will experiment wid methods to remove RFI from mom's touch switch lamps! & YZG works Australia on 7.235 MHz net...Lu tells us of the AE3 call sign in recognition of the 200th anniversary of Europeans in Australia.

1/6 2m phone net - IXN can barely hear OP's abve QRM & QRN! He calls JSV to confirm W6ZE/HHC's check-ins. HHC, operating at AF6C's QTH, checks in AF6C, RE, QMW, YZG, NGO, & FOW/M on the 55 freeway. FOW tells us we might be able to reach him in Sun City via the Arrowhead repeater on 145.24 MHz. YZG hears Alaska on 2m, but didn't work the OP. RE plays the Westlink tape, & AF6C goes to San Jose next week. JSV raked leaves all morning. He also bought 'Paper Clip' word processor wid no printer file fer his printer! QMW queries abt history of OCARC. (see IXN, Mark!) NGO booms in loud & clear at AF6C's QTH. 1/7 15m CW net - W6ZE/DK checks in IXN & RND. Ken still has his TVI problem & RND & IXN offered suggestions for a possible cure. RND worked several OP's over New Years on 'straight key nite'. (Got a nice QSL frm N6LUB.) IXN relates COJ's bout wid pneumonia to the OPs, & RND suggests toroid coils, and a gud ground near the rig. In the meantime, DK limits 'power out' to 10 W! 1/13 15m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in IMP, RND, & LAB. RND gets bk frm Xmas Utah visit just in time to miss the 'Siberian Express'! John also tells us abt microwave clothing that protects hams, etc., frm microwave radiation! IMP & nØne's escrow closed, & they move to Bellflower come Sat! IXN relays EZP's info abt Fri. Club meeting to net. LAB gets bk frm vacation in New Mexico. LAB has been at same QTH fer 20 yrs; & IXN at his present QTH fer 19 yrs! Jane is 'jumping up & down'! She just received news that the Condo has been sold! IMP works Moreno Valley repeater on 146.655 MHz frm Tustin. 1/13 2m phone net - W6ZE/HHC checks in RE, AF6C, JSV, IMP, BPX, & BRD wid LAB & IXN on the side. IMP will get a tower & beam at new QTH, after nØne gets a new washer & dryer! HHC mentions 'NICAD batteries' as topic of Fri. meeting. BPX spent a warm afternoon wid the roses & 'winter grass', & AF6C gets bk frm San Jose after visiting his YL! OP's compliment Bob on Jan. 'RF'...gud job, Bob! JSV & EZS plant amarillo bulbs, & JSV has an intermittent wid his HF rig. HHC & JSV attend HAMCON meeting, & NGO recommends SAKI to cure the H3NV flu! AF6C queries abt time of a computer swap meet & IXN has valuable ref. materials for a permanent editor of 'RF'! RE informs net of LJA's condition; plays Westlink tapes; & informs net abt late ARRL bulletins. JSV tells net abt seismic instruments installed at Parkville on the San Andreas to measure a predicted +6.0 mag. temblor. BRD, Mark, listens to net news wid interest! 1/20 15m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in ULU, DK, NGO, RE, RND, UL, ISY (dick). RE & JSV will help RE erect 2 downed ants. for a handicapped OP. UL wud like to hve his call corrected on rosters frm 'VL' to 'UL'! DK is experiencing some rig truble...he requests info. frm RE on Centennial '200' call signs. NGO created some RFI on his telephone. RE changes to the 'rainspout' ant & his sigs improve at IXN's QTH. RND eliminated the RFI on his landline when he purchased a better phone! UL offers to do front page of 'RF' in 2 colors after April...QMW!...take note! RE informs OPs abt the Hosp. Disaster Net which simulcasts on 224.06 MHz & 146.97 MHz every 3rd Thurs. of the month at 8:00 pm! SIY informs us of upcoming testing session at West Coast ARC Center at Talbert & Bushard in FV. Ph: (714) 775-6095; cost: \$4.55 fer test material 1/20 2m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in TLY, NR6V, SDU, IMP, BPX, RE, JSV, & YZG. JSV takes ailing rig to Kenwood, & gives OPs directions how to get there!...405 to Alameda, right (N) on Alameda to Dominguez, left on Dominguez to black & silver bldg. on right! YZG tapes 'Top Guns of Future', & RE plays the Westlink tapes. BPX & Marge plan to celebrate Wyatt's



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On The Nets...cont'd:

birthday this Fri. by going to a Church luncheon! IXN barely hears IMP in Bellflower, but other OPs hear him fine. Chris wonders abt ant. ordinances in Bellflower! NR6V has a cold & AF6C is wrestling wid the flu! TLY has gud sigs frm over in Irvine. His rig is a 28-R Yaesu. IXN can't hear SDU tonight, & HHC is working. 1/21 15m CW net - W6ZE/DK checks in RND & IXN, wid other Club members strangely absent! RND has been 'goofing arnd wid the rig, & IXN & DK go over measures taken by DK to eliminate his RFI problems. All OPs copy FB. Join us in the CW fun, OPs! 1/27 15m phone net - W6ZE/IXN checks in NG7D & RE. John & Alex both watch their ants. sway bk & forth in the past wind storms, & John's 30m coil on the Butternut is 'out of whack'!...And 80m has been open to the E. coast the past two evenings. IXN mentions methane explosions in local sewers & RE thanks JSV, IXN, IXN's brother, Lee, fer helping him erect WA6RVS's blown down antennas! 1/27 2m phone net - W6ZE/AF6C checks in BPX, IMP, FIT, SDU, QMW, NR6V, RE, & YZG. Gud to hear FIT, Ron, a past Pres. of the Club, in there wid us! BPX exercises the weed hoe during the warm WX, & QMW has been giving 'packet' a rest. FIT has been exercising by raising & lowering his tower...4 times already! IMP copies RE thru the hum. IMP & nØne have completed unpacking & they have 'umtine' boxes to get rid of! Nice to hve Joe, NR6V wid us agn. We all hope to 'eyeball' wid Joe at a Club meeting. YZG goes back to work at Perkin-Elmer fer a couple of days, but likes working 20m bk to the E. coast better! RE plays the Westlink tapes, & Alex tells us that Chinese broadcasting on 7 MHz is QRT tnx to Japanese efforts! IXN loses SDU in the QRN, so Foster's net comments were not recorded.

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EARLY MOONBOUNCE EXPERIMENTS IN PUERTO RICO  
by DOUG BLAKESLEE, N1RM  
( via Nittany Amateur Radio Club Newsletter)

K3BIE reported on a recent moonbounce expedition using the 140 ft antenna at Greenbank, West Virginia in a recent issue of the NARC Newsletter. This recent moonbounce operation was not the loudest moonbounce ever ... in contrast to the KP4BPZ operation in 1965, it was but a "peanut whistle".

Some history. Sam Harris, the long-time VHF editor of CQ magazine in the 1950's, who also wrote the VHF column for QST in the middle 60's, had moved to Puerto Rico to work at the Cornell's Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory. HAM radio tests were arranged for two weekends in 1965 using the 1000-foot dish, which the natives called "El Radar". Sam wanted to promote interest in moonbounce communications; so he arranged things so that almost anyone could hear a signal via the moon by using a 40 KILOWATT transmitter. It did work. I can attest that a simple converter for 432-MHz and an 8-turn helix antenna received KP4BPZ just fine in Connecticut on the second weekend of tests.

Doug DeMaw, then W1CER ... now W1FB, was at Arecibo for the first weekend of operation. He risked becoming a "silent key" by climbing out onto the antenna at KP4BPZ (some 1500 feet above the valley floor) to take the Cover Photo that appeared on QST for September 1965. This issue also had an article which described the first weekend's contacts.

At the time, nothing was said in the article about transmitter power, probably to avoid undue interest from the FCC. Anyone working the math of an earth-moon-earth path understood that a 1000-foot diameter dish alone could not explain the strong signals. As Harris is dead for many years, I suppose there is no harm in telling the rest of the story.

No doubt that the recent Greenbank operation was fine, but 1500 WATTS and a 140-foot antenna is no match for "El Radar".

... tnx to Bob/WA6IXN



"RF"

ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEB 88

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MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING - 2/8/88

The Board Meeting on February 6, 1988 was called to order at 9:06 am in the Le Grand Cafe, Santa Ana by the President W6HHC. Board members WA6LAB and WB6GDZ were not in attendance. The Treasurer's report by KA6VKZ shows \$507.88 in savings and \$152.90 in checking accounts. KB6EZF has two possible speakers for the February meeting; SCE on RFI prevention, and Lorraine McCartney on CW operation. EZF also reported on the progress of selecting frequencies for the HAMCON security. Ron will try and get clearance from the repeater operators. EZF is also trying to find a 220 MHz frequency for club use during HAMCON. W6HHC asked for volunteers for RF after April. None were obtained. KI6UL, Bob, offered to handle the printing chores for RF. VKZ reminded all present that the Area 3 ARES/RACES net meets on 146.580 on Monday nights at 6:30 pm. All interested Hams are invited to participate. W6NGO announced that the problems with the club generator will be solved by Field Day! KA6IMP has been posting the club meeting times on local Packet BBS's. Lu, K1YZG will check with World Radio magazine and find out what needs to be done to get the club listed in the "Radio Club" section of the magazine. EZF believes now that the club is involved in ARES/RACES activities, a need for equipment such as a repeater is needed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Stanford, N6QMW, Secretary.

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ARRL BULLETIN 10 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 25, 1988  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

THE ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET IN FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT, ON JANUARY 22 AND 23, 1988. AMONG THE ACTIONS TAKEN WERE THE FOLLOWING.

THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER WERE REELECTED. NEWLY ELECTED AS ADDITIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS WERE GEORGE WILSON, W4OYI, AND CLYDE HURLBERT, W5CH.

ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE DIRECTORS FRENAYE, K1KI, GRAUER, W0FIR, NATHANSON, W8RC, AND STAFFORD, KB6ZV.

THE BOARD ADOPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DX ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT DXCC PROGRAM, WITH THE ADDITION OF ENDORSABLE SINGLE BAND DXCC AWARDS FOR 80, 40, AND 10 METERS WITH STARTING DATES OF NOVEMBER 15, 1945. THE FIVE BAND DXCC AWARD WILL BE ENDORSABLE FOR ADDITIONAL BANDS, NOT INCLUDING 10, 18, OR 24 MHZ AT THIS TIME. APPLICATIONS FOR THESE NEW CATEGORIES OF DXCC CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. THE DATE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

A FUND RAISING PROGRAM FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE ARRL HEADQUARTERS STATION, W1AW, WAS APPROVED AND WILL COMMENCE WITH AN ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN APRIL QST.

THE DIVISION OF THE WEST INDIES SECTION INTO TWO SECTIONS COMPRISING PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, RESPECTIVELY, WAS ORDERED BY THE BOARD.



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MINUTES OF OCARC CLUB MEETING - 1/15/88

The general meeting was called to order by W6HHC at 7:37 pm. on January 15th. After the salute to the flag by the 23 members present, roll call was taken. All board members were present except WB6GDZ. W6HHC then presented a plaque to retired President N6JSV, Jim, and thanked him for a "job well done" in 1987.

VP KB6EZP, Ron, introduced our speaker for the evening; Julian Macassey, N6ARE, who spoke on the subject of nicad batteries. Julian's material covered such subjects as: when to recharge, why not to use rapidchargers, and what we can expect in the future from storage batteries. Julian also informed us that despite what most of us have been told, it is not a good idea to fully discharge nicad batteries.

Following the presentation, the Treasurers report was given. \$674.26 was given as the total in the club Treasury by WA6VKZ. No new business was discussed. W6NGO reported that the generator project is still underway, but is still having trouble getting rid of the smoke problem. AF6C commented that the generator fund should be started up again. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund should see Frank, WA6VKZ. It was pointed out that VKZ and NGO donated the generator trailer to the club. HHC again asked for volunteers for editor of the RF. Ken pointed out that as far as he knew, the January RF (with BoB/AF6C as Acting Editor) was the first edition that used PACKET transmitted material. HHC also gave a brief overview of the club responsibilities concerning security for HAMCON. Members were informed that Past President Ted Glick, K6LJA, recently underwent exploratory surgery, and is doing well. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Stanford, N6QMW, Secretary.

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ARRL BULLETIN 10 (from ARRL HEADQUARTERS) - cont'd

ARRL WILL FILE COMMENTS IN THE FCC PROCEEDING TO AMEND PART 15 OF THE FCC RULES, DOCKET 87 389, OPPOSING THE INTRODUCTION OF INTENTIONAL RADIATING DEVICES INTO THE AMATEUR BANDS, OPPOSING RELAXATION OF PRESENT RESTRICTIONS ON UNINTENDED RADIATION FROM ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND SUPPORTING A REQUIREMENT FOR GREATER EDUCATION OF END USERS OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AS TO THE PROBLEM OF RFI.

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT REPORTS IN THE MEDIA OF A POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMATEUR RADIO AND HEALTH HAZARDS, THE BOARD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION EMPHASIZING THE LEAGUES PAST AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS FIELD WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEPLORING INACCURATE AND IRRESPONSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF SCHOLARLY WORK THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE NEWS MEDIA, CAUSING UNFOUNDED ANXIETY AND CONCERN.

THE BOARD ENDORSED CONTINUED AND EXPANDED PARTICIPATION BY ARRL IN THE NASA MANNED SPACE PROGRAM, AND RATIFIED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR THE DEFENSE OF AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES IN THE INITIAL AMOUNT OF 105 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THIS BULLETIN, WHICH SUPPLEMENTS ARRL BULLETIN NR 9, CONTAINS JUST A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF AN EVENTFUL MEETING. THE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING WILL APPEAR IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF QST.

"RF"

ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEB 88

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PROPAGATION FORECAST BULLETIN NR 3 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 18, 1988, TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS:

SOLAR CYCLE 22 IS NOW WHERE CYCLE 21 WAS WHEN ITS SOLAR ACTIVITY FIRST ROSE RAPIDLY. SO FAR IN JANUARY, CYCLE 22 IS FOLLOWING A SIMILAR PATTERN, THOUGH WITH NOT QUITE THE VIGOR OF ITS PREDECESSOR. ON JANUARY 10 THE SOLAR FLUX REACHED 127, ITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE MAY, 1984. WHEN THE SUN WAS IN THE SAME POSITION FOUR WEEKS AGO THE SOLAR FLUX WAS 91, 36 POINTS BELOW THE JANUARY PEAK.

ACTIVE SOLAR AREAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS JANUARY PEAK ARE NOW AROUND THE WEST LIMB, OUT OF SIGHT. THE SOLAR FLUX DROPPED TO 120 ON THE 17TH, BUT NEW ACTIVITY HAS DEVELOPED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, SO NO LARGE DIP SEEMS IMMINENT. AREAS OF THE SUN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MODERATE ACTIVITY PLATEAU IN LATE DECEMBER WILL BE WITH US LATER THIS WEEK. JANUARY SEEMS WELL ON THE WAY TO A NEW MONTHLY FLUX HIGH, AND ONLY A MODERATE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IS NEEDED TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

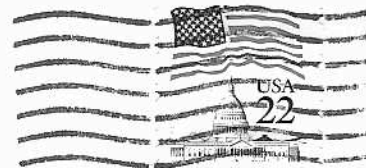
RAPID RISES IN THE SOLAR FLUX USUALLY COME FROM NEW ACTIVE AREAS, AND THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES. THESE TEND TO AFFECT HIGH LATITUDE COMMUNICATION ADVERSELY. THIS HAPPENED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, BUT PROPAGATION ON TRANSEQUATORIAL CIRCUITS WAS VERY GOOD AT TIMES. AS PROOF WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING INCREDIBLE STORY. EARLY IN THE EVENING OF THE 15TH WE NOTICED THAT AUSTRALIAN BEACONS ON 28.280 AND 28.262 MHZ WERE COMING THROUGH WITH EXCEPTIONAL STRENGTH. THERE WAS NO UNUSUAL DX ACTIVITY ON 28, SO WE SWITCHED TO 21 MHZ. NOTHING EXCITING WAS HEARD AT FIRST, BUT AT AROUND 2200 UT WE HEARD A UK4 MARITIME MOBILE ENJOYING A CHAT WITH A FRIEND. THE UK4 WAS BOUND FOR THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. HIS FRIEND WAS VR6KB. YES, PITCAIRN ISLAND, YET THERE WAS NO NOISY PILEUP, JUST TWO FRIENDS CHATTING AWAY, AND WITH STEADY S5 SIGNALS IN FLORIDA. I LISTENED FOR NEARLY AN HOUR, WONDERING AT TIMES IF I WAS DREAMING. FINALLY, AT ABOUT 2245 THEY SIGNED. WITH ALMOST NO HOPE FOR SUCCESS, VR6KB HAVING DROPPED TO S1, I CALLED HIM AND BACK HE CAME. WE HAD A BRIEF CHAT BECAUSE SIGNALS WERE DROPPING OUT, BUT ID HAD A QSO IM NOT LIKELY TO FORGET SOON. MORAL, WATCH FOR RARE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE DX WHEN THE K INDEX DROPS SUDDENLY, AFTER A GEOMAGNETIC STORM. YOU JUST MAY HEAR SOMETHING EXCITING BEFORE THE PILEUPS TAKE THE FUN OUT OF TRYING. THE AUTHOR WISHES TO THANK THE MANY LISTENERS WHO ANSWERED MY REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPAGATION BULLETIN CONTENT. THESE WILL BE ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY SOON.

AMERICAN SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR JANUARY 7 THROUGH 13 WERE BETWEEN 48 AND 65 WITH A MEAN OF 55.1.

ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 3454

TUSTIN, CA. 92681



FIRST CLASS !!