

THE EAGLE

**BULLETIN OF THE
OTSCHODELA
COUNCIL
AMATEUR
RADIO GROUP**



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Scouting hams and hamming Scouters --

Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group (OCARG) is dedicated to the enhancement of the Scouting program through amateur radio and to the advancement of amateur radio in Scouting. Membership is open to any and all Scouters, amateur radio operators, Scouting and ham clubs and organizations, and all individuals, each with an interest in the Boy Scouts of America, World Of Scouting Movement, Girl Scouts of the USA, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and other youth organizations as they relate to amateur radio. While originally intended for Otschodela Council, Oneonta, New York, OCARG has expanded into a worldwide organization with members in more than twenty states and provinces, and seven nations. There are no membership dues, no officers, no constitution, no newsletter charges, no commercial advertisements, and no organized meetings. All communications are via email or ham radio. All that's required to join is an interest in ham-Scouting and an email to k2frd@arrl.net requesting membership. OCARG is an FCC-licensed Amateur Radio Club Station with the callsign KZ2BSA. The *EAGLE* in PDF format is best read with the latest version of Adobe Reader v.7 (activates hyperlinks) available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Copies of the *OCARG EAGLE* are sent to many interested persons in addition to OCARG members. If you feel that you have received this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, kindly sent a message so stating to the above address.

The online edition of the *OCARG EAGLE* may be found at: <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/ocarg.htm>.

TEACH RADIO MERIT BADGE OR TECHNICIAN TO SCOUTS?

From the ScoutRadio Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/> comes this information regarding a decision whether to teach Scouts Radio Merit Badge or Technician Class license:

If the materials are more licensing exam oriented and not just merit badge oriented, you might also want to put them on <http://www.hamradioinstructor.com/index.html>, which is the common point for storing sharable licensing instruction materials on the net. We also have a concurrent Yahoo discussion Group called "Ham Instructor". http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ham_instructor/.

There's lots of stuff there to download as well. The "cliff notes" to "Now You're Talking" are particularly helpful to the folks I've taught.

73, Gary Wilson, K2GW
Radio MB Counselor

(Shamelessly stolen from the ScoutRadio Group by K2FRD)

CONNOR HORNBECK KC2JJY CHAIRS PLANNING MEETING

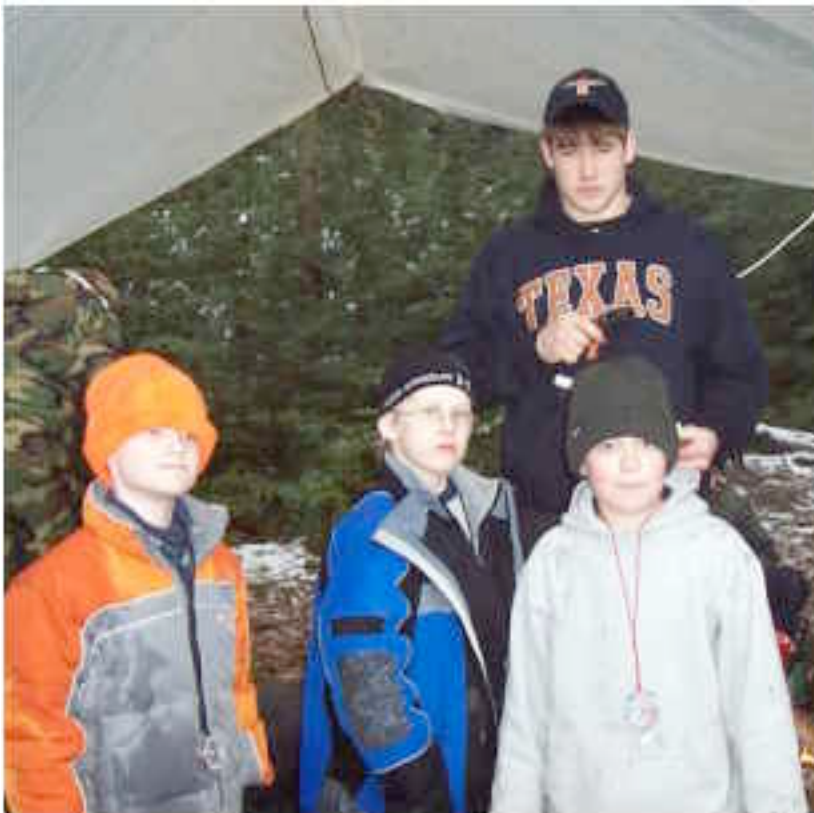
Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, our correspondent from Sidney, NY with wife Judi KC2MYX has returned from his Florida vacation and is once again generating welcome news.

Connor Hornbeck KC2JJY of Troop 99 Sidney, NY (Otschodela Council) chaired a planning meeting for training of the troop's licensed Scouts, parents, leaders and unlicensed Scout runners in preparation for his Eagle project. This involves leading a drill in Chenango County, tying together selected Red Cross shelter sites with County EOC and the Red Cross HQ in Endicott and moving simulated messages among them. Topics to be covered were designated as: maps, procedures, site authority personnel, site-specific needs, equipment requirements, equipment operation, simulated messages, staffing and record-keeping. The first training meeting was called for May 13, Sat from 9 to 11 AM at the Congregational church, Sidney. Pictured are [Front] advisors Joe Dolgos KA2ZFM, and Ray Darling K2DAR, and [Rear] Conner and his dad Jeff KC2NTT



de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

KC2JJY MOVES TRAFFIC DURING CAMPOUT



LEFT: Connor Hornbeck KC2JJY, Eagle Candidate for Troop 99, Sidney, NY sends messages home from camp for 3 new Scouts Mike Roberts, Ethan Green and Josh Woodyshek. at their snowy overnight campout at Clark's Pond in the Arctic section of the Treaty Line State Forest.

As their first introduction to Amateur radio, Life Scout Connor, Troop 99, Sidney, NY (Otschodela Council) helped 3 new Scouts compose messages using the NTS "Yellow Pad" message forms complete with full headings. Words of, "Staying dry....having a good time..." etc. were welcomed by mom's back home particularly with the winter mix of rain and snow experienced by the Scouts March 25 and 26. Connor also "shadowed" an orienteering crew as a safety precaution during their 2.5 Kilometer compass course one K of which was pure dead reckoning. The troop extends its thanks to the trustee and staff of the 146.685 Norwich repeater station over which the traffic was sent. Also their thanks goes to the amateur stations KC2NTT, KC2MYX and K2EZK listening for them back in town.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

SHORTS: CAMP BUFFALO AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Check out the new web page for Camp Buffalo's Amateur Radio Station at <http://www.campbuffalo.com/radio1.htm> .

Camp Buffalo is located 9 miles north of Monticello, Indiana, home of Indiana Beach and the famous slogan, "There is more than corn in Indiana". The camp is located on the Tippecanoe River, which makes it a great place for the beginning or end of a canoe trip.

Jeff Burns
AD9T

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Careful EAGLE observers may have noted this month's EAGLE is a bit shorter than normal despite Jim WA2IAX's numerous contributions. While we attempt to make up any shortfalls of reader-contributed news with "borrowed" news from other sources or from good old fashioned go-out-and-get-'em street reporting, and we welcome ham-Scouting news from wherever we can find it, this beat reporting is not going to be possible to the same degree in coming months and possibly years. Without any intent on my part, I have gone back to work. This tiny RV park in which I winter each year recently fired its non-resident water system operator for a few unScoutly misdeeds and drafted me to be his replacement since water systems were a major part of my consulting business prior to retirement. Somehow, the word leaked (NPI) out and I was tagged for the part-time position. I am currently studying Arizona water law preparatory to taking my System Operator Certification exam on 20 April. Following that will be intense familiarization with the park's system followed by my delayed relocation to cooler climes in northern Arizona.

I do not know if there will be a May edition of the EAGLE. Normally, we cease publication for the summer after the May issue has gone out. Come September and my return here to the park, I presume my new job will have settled into some sort of routine so I may be able to get back to work on the EAGLE. If you don't hear from me on 1 May, presume there will be no May EAGLE and I hope everyone has a great summer and will write about your adventures for the next EAGLE year!

73 de Fred K2FRD

WA2IAX'S MOTORHOME RF FIX - FOR TECHNOPHILES

PREFACE: Those of us who live or travel in Recreational Vehicles ("RVs" = motorhomes, 5th wheelers, travel trailers) have special problems when working ham radio be it HF or VHF. Stray RF, radio frequency interference (RFI), and electro-motive interference (EMI) are common problems and not easily overcome. Our own or neighbors' generators or generator-inverters, internal inverters, ignition noise from nearby vehicles, and even household appliances' EMF are all picked up, transmitted, modulated, distorted, or amplified by the surrounding metal sides and RV's frame. Jim LeBaron WA2IAX recently ran into this problem with his Class A motorhome during his extended trek to Florida. His report:



**LEFT: Choke coil:
Six in. dia. and 8
turns of coax at the
tuner**



**RIGHT: Choke coil:
Six in. dia. and 9
turns of coax at the
transceiver**

Motorhome camping is a lot neater if you bring along some HF gear...HF gear that works is even better. After a nice bargain at the Rochester Hamfest on an Icom AH-4 auto-tuner I went about tricking out the Winnebago...ladder mount mast...MFJ telescoping whip...couple of homebrew tubing sections hooked up with air line quick-disconnects....etc. But, although the tuner did a good job of tuning up the IC-706, even on the low end of 80M, I got reports of "RUFF TONE" from NYS CW net guru Art W2YGW. It would behave well if it was only run at 20W or less. Do understand; I am much more of a nuts and bolts guy than an expert RF sleuth. I had made extensions to the 15 ft. cables [feedline and 4-wire control cable] so I could spot the operating position at the table. I thought it might be something weird about those extensions but Icom [who was very kind and willing] thought it was OK and suggested putting ferrite beads around on things and/or shielding. I put ferrites every 3 feet along the control cables and the coax cables as well as on the DC supply cable from the battery bank across the camper from the table. Well, Mouser gained a little income from my purchases of split ferrites but, sorry, no improvement. The AH-4 pamphlet said to be sure and have a good ground or counterpoise but, I thought, "A big vehicle, with the tuner grounded well to the ladder and that to the frame would satisfy that". Also, around campgrounds, I was a bit leery of counterpoises on the ground. I have "Clotheslined" enough kind folks with various 80M dipoles strung or sagging too low. Art suggested coax coil chokes and our good old buddy Gus WA2GRS came through with diameters and turns data. This morning on NYS/M [morning session of New York State CW traffic net, when I cranked up to 80W, Art reported "STILL SOUNDS OK". Aha! His fist was even sweeter music than usual. Thanks for everyone's advice and help.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

WATCHING FOR A NEW LICENSE? HERE'S THE BEST WAY

The following URL takes one directly to the FCC's license lists. If one knows a new or upgraded license is due to be issued, one may check in frequently at this site and beat the standard license databases by anywhere from eight to 24 hours: <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/genmen/licensee.htm>

Enter: last name; Scroll down to `HA` (Amateur Radio); NO `Wildcard`

Then (next page): click on ULS Database. Look for name(s), new call sign.

Canadian new licenses are searched in a different manner since specific call signs may be requested upon examination. Use the Royal Amateurs of Canada homepage <http://www.rac.ca/> and <http://www.rac.ca/acl/> (search by Province).

UPCOMING VE SESSIONS

Knowledge of dates and locations of VE sessions is important to those ham-Scouts and Scouters who wish to earn their amateur radio license or upgrade their present license. For persons in the United States, this information is available at <http://www2.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> or at the W5YI site:

http://www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php .

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"If you make listening and observation your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk."

- Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Editor's note: These Baden-Powell quotes are available from the following sites:

<http://twc-woodbadge.freesevers.com/bpsays.htm>

http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/sir_robert_baden-powell/

The OCARG EAGLE is published monthly on or about the 15th except publication is suspended for the summer months. If you feel you have received this newsletter in error, please send an email to K2FRD@arrl.net .

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Further information regarding Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group may be found at:
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