

THE EAGLE

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



VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER 8

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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 thirty states and provinces, and eight nations. There are no subscription dues, no officers, no constitution, no other charges, no commercial advertisements, and no organized meetings. All communications are via email or ham radio. All that's required to subscribe to the EAGLE is an interest in ham-Scouting and an email to subscribe@ocarg.org requesting a subscription. 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> .

The online edition of the OCARG EAGLE may be found at: <http://ocarg.org> .

GREAT SOUTH BAY ARC HAM-SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (GSBARC), Lindenhurst, New York has supported Radio in Scouting for many years. There is an open invitation to attend any one of their weekly Saturday afternoon Open House sessions from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. See info at: <http://www.qsl.net/gsbarc/> . Field Day 2007 is scheduled for June 23, 24. Sit in with a licensed Ham during field day to Get On The Air, and experience the fun and excitement of making radio contact with other stations locally and around the world. Scouts are needed for Field Day setup and post field day activities. Pubic Service!

Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA has been supported by the Club for many years and is scheduled October 20, 21, 2007. Extended hours for Open House on that Saturday and additional hours on Sunday are possible, if arranged for in advance. There are 3 BSA registered Radio Merit Badge Counselors available to assist your Scouts in earning this merit badge. Educational opportunities exist for all class licenses. See our newsletter, the "Compass" by following this link: <http://www.gsbarc.org/compass.html> .

Their 2 meter FM repeater is at 146.685 mhz with a 110.9 pl. Weekly nets are published in the Compass and you are encouraged to "check-in".

If you would like to bring a Troop, a Patrol, a Den, a Venture Crew, Cadets, Juniors, or Girl Scouts for a formal

presentation and/or operating demonstration, please contact Tony, N2JZW by email: N2JZW@arrl.net, or by phone (eves and weekends) 631-422-6310.

de Tony Wevers N2JZW
GSBARC member
Scoutmaster Troop 175
West Babylon NY

JIM FAGAN KE7IDC AZ ASST SM FOR SCOUTING & YOUTH

Jim Fagan KE7IDC has been named the Arizona Section Assistant Section Manager for Scouting and Youth (ASMS&Y) effective April 2007. What might surprise some is that he is 12 years old. What is not surprising to those of us who have met and know him is that he is fully up to the task. Jim is already a First Class Scout after only one year in Troop 157, sponsored by the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ (Spanish Trails District, Catalina Council, BSA). He earned his Technician license in June 2006, has been participating in JOTA since 2000, and is Patrol Leader for the Bullrunner Patrol (combination of Bulldogs and Roadrunners). Also not surprising for this unusual young ham-Scout is his very first merit badges were Electricity, Electronics, and Radio. He has also been called out for the Order of the Arrow and will go through his Ordeal this month. Since he earned his license, he never misses a chance to show off what his radio can do at school or at Scout meetings.



It was my privilege to meet Jim at the Williams ARRL Arizona State Convention and Hamfest in July 2006, shortly after he earned his license. The Williams Hamfest is the big annual gathering for the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA). Jim, in Scout uniform stood proudly in the ARRL booth next to his father, Arizona Section Manager Tom Fagan WB7NXH as they promoted ham radio and Scouting. My intent as a "newbie" to Arizona (my first summer in

the state) for attending the Williams Hamfest, was to promote the same thing, so naturally we talked on ham-Scouting activities. Allen Pitts W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Director manned the booth right next to Jim and Tom. It quickly became evident that Jim is a team player with extraordinary talent and drive. Thus, it is only logical that Jim is a perfect choice to be AZ ASMS&Y. As his father (and now administrative boss) states, "It is amazing what I have learned from his perspective." Arizona is already a strong ham-Scouting Section and state (Tom is Assistant District Commissioner for Spanish Trails District) and there is little doubt in my mind that Jim will raise the awareness and participation level of ham-Scouting in Arizona even further.

de Fred K2FRD from information provided by Tom Fagan WB7NXH

OTTAWA DISTRICT, MICHIGAN FALL CAMPOREE 2006

The EAGLE is delighted to publish ham-Scouting activities at all organization levels at any time. Through sharing of such information, it is hoped that other units, districts, councils, clubs, and groups will be inspired by such examples and adapt these experiences to local use. Frank Maynard NF8M, our correspondent from Michigan files this report:

A few of us scouter-hams in the Clinton Valley Council (Pontiac, Michigan) Ottawa District have been setting up JOTA and special event stations and displays for a few years now in conjunction with twice-yearly camporees, so it came as no surprise when I was asked by Jack Miner, the coordinator for the Fall 2006 Ottawa Field Challenge to provide amateur radio support for the October 14 event -- but there was an added twist.

Besides the customary HF station, demonstrating the capabilities of amateur radio, spreading the word about Scouting to fellow amateurs, and allowing scouts to get on the air, we'd be providing enroute communications for a six-mile hike along a portion of the Chief Pontiac Trail, which terminates at the camporee site.

A unique event-within-an-event, the Field Challenge involved Scout patrols camping overnight at nearby Proud Lake Recreation Area on Friday night, then packing up and hiking out with their gear for the six-mile trail segment ending at Kensington Metropark group camp site, the home base for the event. Besides being a memorable on-the-trail experience, the event also provided some training for those scouts and adults who were preparing for this summer's Philmont treks. For those not hiking, other activities were set up at the base camp site, including equipment displays, orienteering instruction, canoeing, GPS and geocaching demonstrations, and more. The weekend camporee was attended by over 300 scouts from the Ottawa District, which encompasses nine communities in the southwestern quarter of Oakland County.



The Chief Pontiac Trail marks the route once walked by Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa Indian tribe as he explored the area that is now northwest of Detroit. The trail has been mapped and marked by the Chief Pontiac Trail Committee, a volunteer group of scouters operating a credentialed hiking trail program with outdoor experiences for all age groups. There is a backpacking program offered for scouts and other youth groups in the 13-and-up age group, and a Little Brave program designed for younger scouts and groups. The CPT Committee also constructed and maintains Fort Pontiac, a replica fort at Clinton Valley Council's Camp Agawam, with historic fixtures such as an adobe oven, blacksmith shop, bunkhouses and other period features to create a unique living history-themed campsite. It's available for Scouting units to use year-around.

Studying maps of the trail and meeting with organizers, it was determined that we would need radio operators in seven locations: one at the Proud Lake trailhead, one at trail's end at base camp, and five enroute, with approximately a mile between checkpoints. Message traffic would consist of routine reports as each hiking patrol arrived and left at each checkpoint, as well as any necessary health and welfare traffic in case of any injuries or other difficulty.

Two-meter FM was chosen as the mode of operation, and simplex was used because the stations were fairly close together and to avoid tying up the local repeater for several hours of mostly stand-by time. Local hams who frequently operate simplex were asked about channels to avoid besides the calling frequency, and so it was decided to use 146.58 MHz for minimal impact.

[RIGHT] Hikers from Troop 407 of Novi, Michigan, in front of the WB8BSA tent at the end of the six-mile hike.

It was also planned for each patrol to have a FRS radio with them, and to have a FRS radio at each checkpoint, in case any hikers ran into difficulty between checkpoints. A call went out to scouter-hams as well as to members of the nearby South Lyon Area Amateur Radio Club, with great response.

In addition to 2-meter FM, we also made plans to set up an HF station to demonstrate radio to interested scouts and adults and to connect with other scouters and interested hams over the air. Using WB8BSA, the club call of the Clinton Valley Scout Radio Club, we listed the operation as a Special Event with ARRL.



It was determined that the station would be located at the trail's end, and conveniently atop a hill which overlooks the terrain of most of the hike route. Some preliminary checks with mobile stations showed that we would have no trouble communicating with a typical handheld transceiver from any of the checkpoints, and even though the hike communications was handled as a directed net, it was possible for the checkpoints to work each other if need be. Checkpoints were chosen in all but one location to be at road crossings, so operators could remain in their cars and use mobile rigs instead of having to rely on handheld radios. The presence of the checkpoints at road crossings added a dimension of safety for the hikers as they crossed the roadways.

With equipment needs determined, work began to assemble the gear we'd need to perform dual tasks with two stations. Two club members brought their HF and VHF rigs, antennas, coax, ropes, a 40-foot push-up mast to support the HF antenna, and a 24-foot painter's extension pole, which served as the support for the 5/8-wave 2-meter ground plane antenna. While a generator was available (the site has no electric power anywhere), ample power for the entire day was supplied by a 12-volt car battery. The camporee organizers set up a dining fly for our use, and on Friday evening we began flying ropes into trees to haul up the G5RV.

Saturday morning dawned, and our first shift of operators were on duty bright and early, with coffee and snacks provided by the camporee's quartermaster and delivered to the checkpoints. The 2-meter groundplane on the painter's pole went up quickly and once it was shear-lashed to the dining fly support pole, we were on the air for the hike support operation by 0800. The first hiking patrol stepped off soon afterward. Assembly continued on the HF station and antenna, and within an hour or so, we were making our first contacts on 40 meters.

Because the hike time was estimated to be a minimum of four hours, the operators for the later checkpoints wouldn't be needed until later in the morning, so as they reported and checked in, we were able to give them an estimate of the expected activity at their stations. Likewise, once the last patrol had stepped off and passed each checkpoint, that station could secure its operation, shut down and go home, or come and join us at the headquarters station to play radio and have another cup of Jack's fine coffee (his stovetop Coleman drip brewer was next to our dining fly). As the day progressed, members of the host Troop 179 from Farmington Hills, Michigan, delivered a sack lunch to each of the radio operators on the trail.

The eight patrols, including a total of 60 adult and youth hikers, stepped off at roughly 20-minute intervals. The first patrol came in to headquarters just after 1300 and the final patrol reported in by around 1600. Only one patrol got lost on the trail and missed a checkpoint (but checked in at the next one after realizing where they went astray), and there was only one injury, that being a blistered foot to a novice hiker who had just purchased his boots the day before and hadn't broken them in yet. (The checkpoint operator notified net control, who contacted the nearby first-aid officer to go by car and retrieve the boy and his adult leader from the checkpoint.)



[LEFT] Frank, NF8M and Pat KD8DZB operating WB8BSA.

As the patrols came in, everyone was interested to see the station and find out where the call letters WB8BSA that they heard at each checkpoint were coming from. We were able to give them their segment and total hike times and compare them with patrols that had already come in.

The headquarters station was manned by two amateurs, one who would operate the radios and the other who gave explanations and information to visitors. At times the radio operation got quite busy, with one conversation on HF and others on the 2-meter net, but everything was successfully sorted out.

The 2-meter station was taken down shortly after the last hikers returned, while the HF station remained in operation for another hour or so. By 1730 we had shut down, packed out our gear, and removed the antennas and support ropes, leaving no trace of our having been there, as is our custom.

Everyone involved was glad to have been of service to such a worthwhile event, and the participants and camporee organizers were appreciative of our efforts. Planning is underway for next year's fall event, to be held October 12-14, and we will again be involved with a special event station and most likely operational communications as well.

Amateurs who took part were KB8JIU, KD8DZB, W8NFR and K8VJ from the SLAARC, KA8JJN, WD8JZI, KE8HR and KC8TVG from the CVSRC, and NF8M, who is a member of both clubs.

One benefit of our participation in district-wide events such as this has been to increase awareness of amateur radio among the scouts and adults. I've heard of several scouts who have become licensed recently, in many cases having first come into contact with amateur radio through one of our events. Several adults have expressed an interest, and we are forming a volunteer examiner committee within the WB8BSA club. In addition to spreading the wonderful hobby of amateur radio, we also have an increasing pool of operators who can assist at future events.

de Frank Maynard NF8M

TR 99 SIDNEY, NY PRODUCES SIX NEW HAMS!

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX has been keeping the EAGLE informed of the progress of his current license class for Troop 99, Sidney, NY (Foothills District, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY). They took their Tech exams on Saturday 24 March 2007 with the following results as reported by Jim WA2IAX:



[LEFT] L-R (Front) Ethan Green KC2RGG, Carl Ayres KC2RGJ. (Rear) Seth Green KC2RGF and Jeremy Maxwell KC2RGI. Seth and Ethan's dad, Dan KC2RGE and Jeremy's dad, Ron KC2RGH also joined the Troop 99 "C-Corps" as licensed operators.

Troop 99 Scouts, who had been attending "Tech Class" at Troop sponsor: the "First Congregational Church" of Sidney, NY, were happy to receive their new callsigns, posted April 4 th. 2007. They join eight other TR99 licensed members, parents and leaders. Thanks go out to Paul DeAndrea WB2JOW who served as a substitute instructor and also to the VE team of Ken Cassidy WN2WNC, Ray Darling K2DAR, Stan White WB2PPN, Bob Benton N2RXK and John Witkowski WA2QQF from the Chenango Valley ARA, Chenango County, NY. Scouts are planning their first "Club" meeting Apr 12 to build some roll-up J-pole antennas.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

[EDITOR'S NOTE: With a total of 14 ham-Scouts, parents, and adult Troop leaders (about 25% of its youth membership), Troop 99 is one of the most active Scout Troops in amateur radio in the northeast. This is all a result of the Elmering conducted by one person, Jim LeBaron WA2IAX who may have mentored more new ham-Scouts than anyone else, at least of whom I am aware. One person CAN make a difference!]

RED CROSS HOLDS LICENSE CLASS, KC2QGM UPGRADES

Joe Dunphy KC2QGM of Clifton, NJ upgraded from Technician-plus to General, passing the test on 31 March and is now KC2QGM/AG although by this time this reaches print, his upgrade will have arrived. The Metro Chapter of the Red Cross in Fairfield, NJ, hosted a one-day review for the General License, and conducted the test right afterward. Pass rate was 10/12 when Joe left and one guy was still retaking the exam, as he missed by only one.

The one-dayer was conducted by an engineer who graduated from Stevens Tech, and has long experience. Lots of slides, with appropriate illustrations. Next step for Joes is to become a VE, so he can give Tech exams to Scouts even at summer camp.

Joe would like to include his thanks to the Metro New Jersey Chapter of the American Red Cross. Joe is an EMT and Heavy Rescue Technician, teaches CPR and First Aid for the Montclair Chapter of the Red Cross, and actually when the 9-11-2001 World Trade Center incident took place, did some volunteer work running around between the Montclair, Metro, and various Bergen County red Cross chapters. It appears the Metro chapter is interested in getting more Red Cross Volunteers to hold ham licenses in the event of disaster and of course having youth groups participate would add to the pool of potential trained radio volunteers in the event of emergency.

From a message from Joe, "I saw the mention of ARRL's having section managers for Youth Groups. And I would like to point out that the Red Cross has an agreement with the Boy Scouts that recognizes training, such as merit badges. This might make a great topic for a future article, because, at least at the local level, neither the Boy Scout Councils nor the Red Cross chapters seem to know exactly how these agreements translate in real life. It would seem that the First Aid Merit Badge, for instance, would lead to a Red Cross First Aid/CPR card. Without having to take the same training twice."

73s Joe Dunphy, ASM Troop 12 Montclair, NJ, and Unit Commissioner for Special Needs, Broken Arrow District,

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2007 SPOTLIGHTS YOUTH

Wednesday, April 18, is a special day for radio amateurs around the globe. That's when the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <http://www.iaru.org/> and its member societies representing more than 150 countries around the world celebrate World Amateur Radio Day 2007, commemorating the founding of the IARU 82 years ago. The theme for this year's celebration is "Amateur Radio: Allowing youth to connect the world."

Despite the Internet and cellular telephones, Amateur Radio continues to attract people worldwide by providing free international communication and friendship. Because it does not rely on, nor need, established telecommunication infrastructure, Amateur Radio can reach every corner of the world -- and even into space!

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss> program offers an opportunity for students to experience the excitement of Amateur Radio by allowing them to converse with ISS crew members about their scientific research, the space station, the human spaceflight program and everyday life in space -- a unique educational experience. With the help of Amateur Radio clubs and individual operators, orbiting astronauts and cosmonauts speak with young people around the world via ham radio, showing schools, teachers, students, parents and communities how Amateur Radio energizes youngsters about science, technology, and learning.

IARU member societies, Amateur Radio satellite organizations and a sizeable contingent of Amateur Radio operators -- including those from clubs at Johnson Space Center, Goddard Space Flight Center and Marshall Space Flight Center -- work behind the scenes to make these educational experiences possible.

Youth programs also are available through Scouting, as many thousands of Scouts in the US and elsewhere get together over the airwaves each year during the third weekend of October for Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) <http://www.arri.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>. Participating Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio, offering these young people the exciting opportunity to make friends, exchange experiences and share ideas with their peers in other countries, sometimes without leaving home.

Since 1958 when the first JOTA took place, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many JOTA contacts foster pen-pal relationships and links between Scout troops that last for years. Numerous scouts and leaders hold Amateur Radio licenses, while others participate in JOTA at stations provided by local Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs.

Young radio amateurs also form organizations of their own. One example is the World Wide Young Contesters (WWYC) <http://www.wwyc.net/>, made up of radio amateurs under age 30 who enjoy participating in international contests. Several members of the club qualified to compete in the World Radiosport Team Championship last July in Brazil.

While radio amateurs have been in the news repeatedly for providing communication during disasters and emergencies, the lion's share of their activities remains the excitement and joy of contacting distant and remote areas of the world, learning directly about each others' regions and lives and trying different ways to contact other hams in far-flung places. In addition, some leading engineers and technologists have cited lessons learned through their practical, hands-on experiences as Amateur Radio operators for inspiring their career paths.

MK QTC, the Polish Radio Amateurs' Journal, sponsors the international World Amateur Radio Day Award with the support of PZK, the Polish Amateur Radio Union -- that country's IARU member society. Radio amateurs qualify for this award by making at least 10 QSOs on HF or 5 QSOs on VHF between 0000 and 2400 UTC on April 18.

Send a log extract, including a list of QSOs, to The Radio Amateurs' Journal MK QTC, Suchacz-Zamek - Wielmozy 5b, 82-340 Tolkmicko, POLAND, by June 30. Include \$5 (US) or 5 Euros. Shortwave listeners may obtain this full-color award by submitting the same numbers of reports.

Since 1925, the IARU has been instrumental in coordinating and representing Amateur Radio activities around the world. Learn more by visiting the IARU Web site <http://www.iaru.org/>. -- The IARU E-Letter

BELLS, WHISTLES & BADGES (formerly SHORTS)

This section is intended to provide temporary and permanent helpers for individuals, units, higher youth organization levels, and ham-Scouters who are looking for specific information on amateur radio in Scouting

or other news of general interest which is brief in nature. We gladly welcome any additions and/or updates.

SCOUT CAMP CALLING PROTOCOL (SCCP) UPDATE

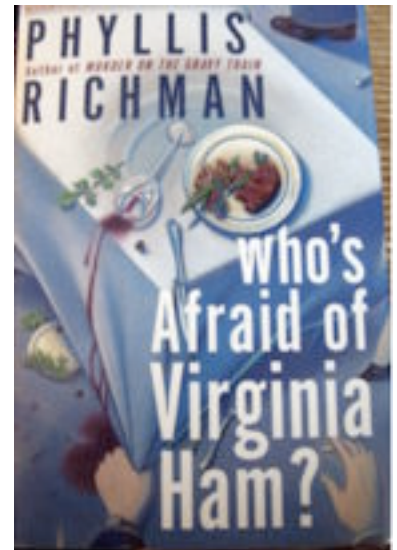
The Scout Camp Calling Protocol (SCCP) developed in 2006 and updated for 2007 is a means for Scouts at one Scout Camp to contact other at other camps via ham radio for purposes of fulfilling the requirements for Radio Merit Badge, demonstrations of emergency communications capabilities and of amateur radio itself, passing message traffic back home, and just ragchewing. Unlike JOTA, the SCCC works on a schedule. The SCCC is available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/files/SCCP/> and <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/SCCP.pdf>

Scouts and ham-Scouters are encouraged to download, print, and distribute copies of the SCCC to their home Councils and Scout Camps.

NEW BOOK FOR YLs?

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, ever the Eagle eye for new and unusual happenings, sent in this tidbit:

New Book for YL's? Must have missed this one. No advertisements in QST. Published by HarperCollins Publishing in 2001. You'd think we would have heard of it. No mention of Virginia's callsign either. Might be a good idea to search QRZ...



ALLEN PITTS W1AGP, ARRL MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen suggests a visit to the Emergency Radio homepage <http://www.emergency-radio.org/> to obtain a sense of the significance of amateur radio during emergencies and disasters. As Scouters, we are always concerned with living up to our Motto, "Be prepared" and as ham radio operators, we likewise attempt to be prepared for the unexpected.

he also recommends a visit to the ARRL's Public Information Office page this month where the "30-day Blitz" from 24 January to 23 February is on-going in an effort to spread the news of the removal of the code requirement for all ham radio licenses: <http://www.arrl.org/pio/> .

A monthly visit to the ARRL Public Information Office website <http://www.arrl.org/pio> is recommended for helpful information for anyone involved in media relations such as a Public Information Officer or Public Information Coordinator or for current events within ARRL and amateur radio. Of particular interest are back issues of **Contact!**, the newsletter of ARRL PIOs <http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/#current> . This information is of especial use for ham-Scoutmasters and many of the rest of us ham-Scouters who might be a little weak when writing news releases or making contact with the media to cover ham-Scouting events.



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://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/genmen/licensee.hts>

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/arrivec/examsearch.phtml> or at the W5YI site (often not listed in ARRL Exam Search): http://www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php.

Canadians wishing to obtain their ham license need to find an Accredited Examiner. These may be found at: <http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/examiner.htm>. Further licensing and non-Canadian operating information is at: <http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/arast.htm>

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him, I may think aloud."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), *Spiritual Laws*

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