

THE EAGLE

SEASONS

GREETINGS

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 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>.

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://ocarg.org>.

Seasons Greetings to All!

The staff at the OCARG EAGLE and members of the Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group wish everyone a wonderful, safe, and sane holiday season and hope that the New Year brings you the best of your expectations!

NEW RADIO AWARD FOR SCOUTING'S 100TH

Several dedicated EAGLE contributors sent this news release including Paul Joosten PA5UL and Sjaak van Dam W4RIS, PA3GVR in addition to the original news release sent to the EAGLE. The award originates from Frank Heritage MØAEU (coordinator for the Brownsea Island Amateur Radio station):

The Scouting 100 Radio Award is awarded for contacting Scout stations during 2007, the Centenary year of Scouting. This is an International award - it is also available on a listener basis, with the same requirements as the operator award.

Objective: To help celebrate the centenary of Scouting through the medium of radio. To help publicise the Centenary, and to provide radio amateurs the opportunity of gaining another Award. Although not intended for profit, any surplus made will go to support Radio Scouting in developing countries.

Duration: The Award will begin at 00:00:01 on January 1st 2007 and finish at 23:59:59 December 31st 2007.

Bands and Modes: The Award is available through all bands and all modes, within the terms of the individual's radio licence. The Award is also available through Echolink and IRLP modes. The Award can be endorsed for any special modes or bands ie 'All satellite contacts'; 'all QRP contacts' etc. Activity for the Award should be focused around the Scout frequencies.

Requirements: Stations are required to contact Scout and Guide stations to count for points as follows: Each ordinary Scout station counts one point. Special Event Scout stations count 2 points. The World Jamboree, Gilwell Park and Brownsea Island stations count 5 points. Your logs should be verified as accurate by 2 other local radio amateurs. Normal log information is required with the following additional information: Name, Scout details and age of the operator of the station you contact. Your age should also be submitted when applying for Awards. Female operators send 'YL' as their age! You can claim points for contacting Scouts stations regardless of the callsign you are operating from... So if you are operating a club station, then the points still count for your total. Please note: only the person operating can claim the points for that contact, not everyone within earshot!

The Award is split into a total of five categories:

The Bronze Award: For achieving 15 points by contacting Scout stations.

The Silver Award: For achieving 50 points by contacting Scout stations.

The Gold Award: For achieving 100 points by contacting Scout stations

The Platinum Award: For achieving 250 points by contacting Scout stations.

The Diamond Award: For achieving 500 points by contacting Scout stations.

Awards for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards will be certificates.

Awards for the Platinum Award will be a plaque.

Awards for the Diamond award will be a crystal trophy.

Cost of the Award:

Bronze Silver and Gold awards will be £3.50 (GBP) posted to anywhere in the world.

Platinum Awards will be £15.00 (GBP) posted to anywhere in the world.

If you manage to qualify for the Diamond award, please apply for price.

Website: The Award is supported online by a website - full details of the award are available there. An Honour Roll of Award holders will also be published on the website.

Web Address: <http://www.scouting100award.org>

Contact: info@scouting100award.org

Further information can be obtained by contacting Frank Heritage M0AEU.

Email: frank@scouting100award.org

THE ABANDONED NEW TECH: WHAT CAN WE DO?

Editor's Note: Those of us who have been licensed for a few years have all seen it: After sometimes weeks or months of classes, studies, and practice exams, a new ham is born when s/he passes his/her Technician Exam and becomes a new ham. And then he or she is never heard from again. The problem seems to be that we Elmers tend to drop the ball with follow-up with the new people. Either we don't maintain contact with them to show them the "ropes" of on-air procedures and other hands-on activities or they don't have any equipment with which to operate. In either instance, the perception is that we don't care. While this is bad enough for adult new hams, it is especially true for youth, particularly Scouts who are of the age when they will move onto something else very quickly unless their interest is maintained. Lack of radios seems to be a major concern: no radio, no on-air activity, good-by ham-Scout. I'm as guilty as the next Elmer. I have one "loaner" rig, an old, decrepit, and very complex Alinco DJ-F1T handheld which I freely hand out to a new ham until s/he secures his/her own rig. However, I'm in this very quandary at the moment with four Tech students, only one loaner rig, and the nearest club over 60 miles away. What to do about the three others when they pass their exams in January?

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, a very active Elmer, mostly of Scouts sent me the following discourses on this problem. In email format, the discussion admittedly addresses only some of the issues. I have left off the names and callsigns of the contributors since I do not have permission to reprint their messages here, but have retained the bulk of their messages including extraneous comments. The sequence is the first on top with subsequent responses going down.

However, I would like to see some further discussion and others' experiences with this problem. Please send me your thoughts at k2frd@ocarg.org.

de K2FRD

Subject: Retaining new hams, etc.

OM Bill: Thank you for coming to the Lake Placid Hamfest. I am well aware that's quite a haul for you. In the Adirondacks we know we are well off the beaten track (and mostly like it that way) but that means we are out of many loops and appreciate it when someone such as yourself takes the time and trouble to come up here.

You and I had started a discussion about the problem of newly licensed hams, mostly Techs, never getting on the air at all and what to do about it. You itemized some good points. As I recall we got interrupted, I was one of the VEs and tests were starting, I don't remember why we couldn't finish the conversation.

In any case your points sounded good and I wanted to follow up with you on the subject, both as to the points you made and any others that pertain, and some discussion about what might be done over the long haul.

While I can't quote chapter and verse my recollection is I may have seen some discussion on this issue in QST in the past. All well and good. But I wonder if some form of the discussion -- the problems and what to do about them -- is now or could be in the future in some sort of more permanent form, such as a video, that could be used by clubs and the League to foster getting new hams on the air. Periodic articles in QST probably get lost in the shuffle.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you that a newly licensed ham who is pretty much lost to the hobby for whatever reasons may be a ham gone forever. That ham is not going to upgrade or take a stance on spectrum protection or get involved in club activities or Field Day or help recruit additional hams. That ham isn't even a potential future ham as an unlicensed person might be, with rare exceptions.

Having said this, there may be a chicken and egg syndrome that feeds into it and I am one of the guilty parties. That is, for many years in our small local club my elmer and I were the prime and almost only program presenters. Interest in upgrading was nil, interest in homebrew projects was nil or close to it, and interest in others presenting programs was nil or close to it. We grew weary and eventually bowed out; of all the issues perhaps the extreme lack of any interest in upgrading beyond Tech is what was the most frustrating; here in our little tri-lakes area the number of hams on the air is very small, almost all VHF and thus the opportunities to meet new hams and make new acquaintances is also small, a classic case of everybody knowing everybody else's life stories, leaving little new or interesting to talk about. The saddest aspect is that without upgrading the fun and excitement of HF and possible world-wide communication is not there and they have short-changed themselves. This in spite of the fact we have bent over backwards to try not to act superior in any way just because we have higher class licenses.

I guess what I am asking is if there could be possibly two things:

- 1.) A video or other specific media presentation that addresses new hams and says now that you have your license, what next? Would the League consider a publication that could be mailed out by local clubs to hams licensed in the recent past who have not been heard on the air?
- 2.) Perhaps even more important is something similar that might target existing long-term hams and discuss what we/they can do to snag new hams and retain them. We have tried nets, kids nets, fox hunts, asking new hams to assist in local events such as canoe races, and project building classes. We have had some limited success asking for help with local events.

My hunch is these are generic problems across the board and that many areas of the country face the same

issues. Whatever the League can do to address these problems will obviously help not only the League but local clubs and in the long run the hobby.

Fellow Hams:

This is very good stuff. I am going to save this one for future reference. The problem is quite true with youth who are so busy with super-organized activities that there is not much time for hamming and very few parents want to get involved with this kind of thing and some don't want any involvement with anything!

I only have Scouting to thank for keeping a couple of our folks somewhat on the air but nowhere near enough. Schedules are very hard to keep because kids don't have watches or don't look at them or forget when the sked was supposed to be.

I am starting to think about Echo-Link or the like which might help solve the inactivity part but certainly not the "will not upgrade" nor the "Not interested in the tech" aspect but might at least keep them in the loop to a degree.

I think drills seem to be a drawing card. Con [Scout Eagle Project] planned and executed a great drill up on Chenango County where the Red Cross benefitted from knowing we could tie their shelters together and also move to/from their Binghamton area HQ. I think the young folks got quite a kick out of being "big deals" at that.

We should talk more about this.

I don't want to dump the problem off on the League particularly but I think it is a problem they are and/or should be vitally interested in as their whole future is hanging in a precarious balance now; the League has something like 100 employees, I am a big league supporter and want to see it thrive and survive in the face of relentless pressure from all sorts of angles that weren't the case some years ago. I was struck at the hamfest that of course Bill seemed like and no doubt is an intelligent guy, I wish I could remember what his hurried suggestions were. Without the League we would be sub-optimally positioned on the creek and challenged as to means of propulsion.

Another thought: the industry should present a "bare bones" rig for 2M. We have droned on about how even adults cannot program their HT's because of their complexity. A "kit" might even be better...you know...rig, P/S, antenna. One stop shopping.

I could give the "kid net" a better try with a telephone-tree call-up just before sked time. Our kids depend upon parents to tell them when its time to do something.

Maybe, too, it is time to come full circle on the code. I am guilty of not pushing it with our guys. The younger teens might take to this again. Remember our first buzzer at age 10? How our dads got ticked off 'cuz we ran wires over to Stevie's house and woke up his sister at 3 AM? They seem to like wig-wag flag signaling.

I am sending these to my great "desert rat" friend and fellow **Scouter Fred Stevens K2FRD/?** somewhere in AZ. He publishes a great "Scouting/Hamming" on-line newsletter and this may spark a discussion topic among those who work with youth. Hope of interest, Fred.

So, click on here and send me your comments, suggestions, and experiences: k2frd@ocarg.org .

de Fred K2FRD

REPRINT FROM JAN 2001 SCOUT RADIO (UK) NEWSLETTER

I am pleased to reprint this 2000 JOTA report from the old printed Scout Radio Newsletter from United Kingdom, no longer in print. Archived copies of RSN in PDF are available at <http://website.lineone.net/~scoutradio.news/> .

[page 2 Scout Radio Newsletter - January 2001] Courtesy Malcolm Bell G4CXT]

43rd Jamboree On The Air 2000

by Richard Gaskell, G0REL – UK National JOTA Organiser

UK Vital Statistics

Active UK stations – 96+

Reports received – 50

Scouts & Guides participating - 3500

Radio Amateurs – 380

Visitors - 470

Although fewer stations applied for Special Call signs and there were fewer visitors overall those who did join in the 43rd JOTA weekend had a great time. This year we tried asking stations to send in two slightly different reports, one from the Radio Amateur responsible for the station and one from the Scout Leader. The Radio Amateur who didn't know a Beaver from a Baloo and the Scout who couldn't tell a band plan from a balun could send information about the two sides of the event which could be combined to give a clearer picture of the whole.

RIGHT: Scouts at GB2COS during JOTA 2000 under guidance of G7BQY.

The percentage of reports returned is encouraging and all are included in the National report. Asking stations to list the Radio Amateurs who had assisted gave a very clear picture of how many take part and how long they have held licences. We owe them all our thanks.



Almost all stations, even some of those restricted to VHF operation, managed contacts with JOTA stations outside the UK. Many stations comment on the positive views of Scouting apparent in many non-JOTA contacts and how many have links to the movement, past or present.

Many stations renew old contacts. GB4YOU managed to find three of the four Icelandic stations active, chatting to the operators from the 1999 National Jamboree. Others forge new links. GB2EDS were particularly pleased to contact 9H1SVS, a Maltese Scout group, because they had Scouts originally from Malta in the shack.

Scouts on the Island of Jersey were joined by Scouts from the mainland. GB0MKS in Milton Keynes had their best contact with Mark in Indiana who didn't know about JOTA but woke his three Scout sons, put them on the radio then sent them off to collect the rest of the troop!

Several stations spoke with MX0WSM, the speed boat museum at Windermere, while GB0GDS has contact with RV6LMG/AM, an aircraft over Siberia. Generally good weather across the UK and excellent radio conditions made life easier for those setting up stations in unusual circumstances.

GX4PSG were so impressed with their G4HOL aerial they sent full instructions with their report. It might be kind to pass on this information to GB4CDS who wondered if their aerial was effective as they thought the bands quieter than usual.

JOTA is often combined with other activities including camping and pioneering, DF hunts and radio fox-hunting, challenges and awards but for the young Cub or Scout the highlight is talking to another Scout in another troop far away.

We are lucky that our Scouts and Guides are allowed to talk to Scout and Guide stations in some thirty countries during JOTA and the Guides Thinking Day (Founder's Day) on the Air (TDOTA) in February. It would be even better if this facility could be extended World Wide.

LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE PLANNING PROGRESSES

From Tim Mc Donough N9PUZ comes continued progress reports on the ham-Scouting event organization:

Just a long term reminder...

April 28, 2007 is the BSA Lincoln Trail Hike [Illinois].

Last Spring I applied for a special event call sign in the SVRC's <http://www.svrc.org/> name for the Lincoln Trail hike. We were issued November Nine Lincoln (N9L) for the weekend of the hike and Lincoln Pilgrimage. I'd like to really do up a neat radio related event in conjunction with the hike in addition to providing logistical communications as we have in the past years. Sometime after the first of the year I'll organize a get-together for some brain storming.

Things already discussed...

- HF Special Event Station

- Certificate for any Ham-Scouters checking in on HF or VHF/UHF (Would be neat to get some Scouts and/or leaders with HT's on the trail itself.)

- Amateur TV from about a mile before the finish to trails end. (We aborted this in 2006 due to rain.)

I attended the Sangamon Valley Radio Club's Board Meeting to briefly discuss the plans for our special event station during the 2007 Lincoln Trail Hike.

The club will do QSL cards for the event and we will generate a special certificate for each Scout or Adult Scouter that contacts the station during the hike.

To encourage interest in radio in general it was suggested that we extend the certificate offer to Scouts who are not Hams that make contact with us via FRS (Family Radio Service.) I think this is a good idea, we'll just have to identify a good way to get their contact information so we can send the certificate and a blurb on Amateur Radio from the ARRL.

de Tim N9PUZ

SIDNEY, NY TROOP 88 CONTINUES RADIO MB CLASS



LEFT:Candidates:L-R: Kevin, Zack, Shawn [SPL], Paul, Vinnie, Matt, Eric, Brian, Dakota and Isaac show off their wig-wag flags.

Troop 88, Chartered to Sacred Heart Catholic church, Sidney, NY (Foothills District, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY) has 6 Scouts (of 10) who have completed all classroom work toward their Radio merit Badge.

Scouts enjoyed class breaks working with audio oscillators and a good 'ol J-38's. Other "Lecture Relief" activities included practicing wig-wag code with flags. A very ingenious "cheat sheet" for wig wag is available from wa2iax@arrl.net . The sheet shows a "follow the flag" kind of truth table where Scouts

can trace the left-and-right motions of a transmitting flag with their finger; resulting in the correct received letter. This was prepared for TR99 by Capt. S.I. Munichika, USAF Ret.

The only remaining requirements are field work; visiting a radio station [ham, in this case] and carry on a 10 minute QSO, logging the contact[s].

Dec. 16/17 is planned as a camp-to-camp "Sked" with Troop 99 camping at their summer camp, Camp Henderson, and Troop 88 at the Sidney, NY Youth Reservation at Cope's Corners. The remaining requirements can be met there.

Stay tuned for a "Field report".

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

SHORTS

ALLEN PITTS W1AGP, ARRL MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen Pitts W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager suggests a visit to the ARRL Public Information Office website <http://www.arrl.org/pio> for helpful information for anyone involved in media relations such as a Public Information Officer or Public Information Coordinator. 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.

Importantly, there is plenty of information on the ARRL's very successful **HELLO** program on the main page.

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.hts>

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

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

Canadian new licenses are searched in a different manner since specific callsigns 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 (US) AND CE (CANADA) 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 (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

"No bubble is so iridescent or floats longer than that blown by the successful teacher."

- Sir William Osler, "Life of Sir William Osler (Farewell Dinner, May 2, 1905)"

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