

# THE EAGLE

BULLETIN OF THE  
OTSCHODELA  
COUNCIL  
AMATEUR  
RADIO GROUP



VOLUME FIVE NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 2005

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 Boy 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 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 six 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](mailto:k2frd@arrl.net) requesting membership. OCARG is an FCC-licensed Amateur Radio Club Station with the callsign KZ2BSA.

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 send a message so stating to one of the above addresses.

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

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## **PAUL ROGERS W2TFL, FRIEND OF HAM-SCOUTING, SILENT KEY**

Paul Rogers W2TFL, 90 of Walton, New York died Sunday 30 January 2005. Paul, a founder of the Walton Radio Club and a key member of the Sidney Amateur Radio Club was a patriarch of local ham radio and always there to pass along traffic on behalf of Scouts who were at campouts or camporees. He had been a ham for 74 years, holding an Advanced Class license.

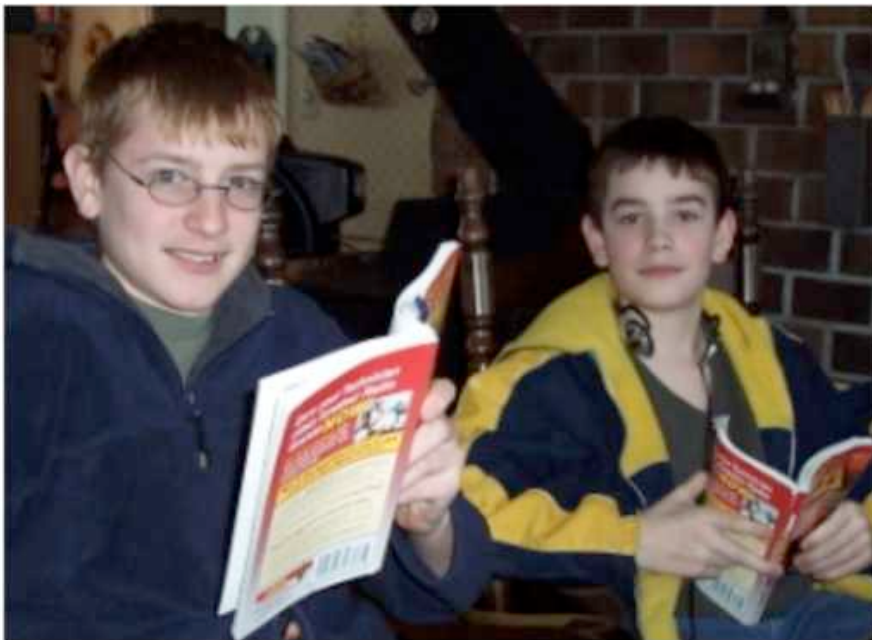
Paul was an inspiration to all of us including Jim WA2IAX whom he elmered and Fred K2FRD who remembers Paul from the old Sidney radio club in the early 1960s when Paul worked as an electrical engineer at Scintilla in Sidney. In those days, local emergency nets and traffic were handled on six meters using huge tube-driven rigs very much in the same manner as the two-meter band is used today. Paul would drive around in his old dark green Chevvie (I think it was) with a bumper-mounted six-meter whip which seemed like it was a mile long and make commo checks around the area in an attempt to learn the area's dead spots.

Paul leaves behind many nieces, grand-, great-grand-, and great-great-grandnieces and nephews. He will be sorely missed.

De K2FRD as reported by John Hampel AB2IC and Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

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## **TWO NEW OCARG HAM-SCOUTS AND ONE NEW HAM-SCOUTER**



**Troop 99 Scouts L-R:** Alex Latta and Jesse Hornbeck take a final look at their license manuals after returning home from passing their Tech Class License test.

Jim LeBaron's WA2IAX license classes with Troop 99, Sidney, NY (Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY) paid off at the end of January with two newly licensed ham-Scouts, Alex Latta now KC2NTR and Jesse Hornbeck now KC2NTS.

Jesse's dad Jeff joined them for the test and passed with high honors! He is now KC2NTT. These Scouts had been studying with weekly hour-long classes since October. The course included some bench measurements and demonstrations, a favorite being the pyro-maniacal, "Fuse Lab". Both Scouts had some exposure to radio during JOTAs and sent their names on cw to listening stations. Jesse made his first guest contact thanks to KB2ZNZ, OCTEN Net Manager, by checking in as a "guest operator". Alex got on the air during a recent campout in the snow when he was called by troop friend, AB2IC John Hampel. Jesse joins brother Connor KC2JJY who, with their father are now a true ham family!

Scouts have plans to continue meeting, monthly, to train on two HT's donated by the family of longtime friend of 99 SK John Gallagher K2KN. They hope to brush up on phonetics, net procedures and traffic protocol also. There is even some interest in learning cw!

Our very sincere thanks to Wendy Slough KB2NCW and her kind staff of VE's who welcomed our folks at their test session at the Marathon Hamfest on Jan 15 2005.

Be Prepared                      Troop 99

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX as updated by K2FRD

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## **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>

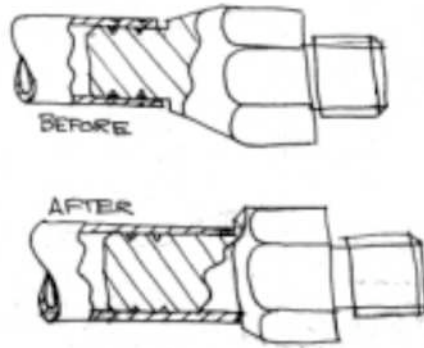
Enter: last name; Scroll down to `HA` (Amateur Radio); NO `Wildcard`

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

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## **FIX FOR MFJ TELESCOPING WHIP ANTENNA**

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX's Tech Corner:



The MFJ-1956, 12 foot extended whip antenna is great for me because I was able to top off a couple of conduit sections to make a great 20 foot vertical on the rear of our camper. It tunes 80 CW at the low end very well with an automatic tuner up there at its base.

The home-made conduit sections are connected with quick-release air line fittings. The MFJ-1956 is attached to them using a bayonet-type of connector which has 3/8-24 threads. Found new at hamfest.

All works well unless you fail to latch an air line fitting in a big wind storm and the whole thing comes down across a fence! The base of the whip is machined brass, with a male-threaded 3/8-24 stub at the outer end and a tennon at the inner end with circumferential grooves that accept crimping of the bottom [largest] tubular element of the telescope.

Unfortunately, this is the weak link; this is where it broke in two! The tennon was quite short and just pried itself out of the tube!

To save the thing, the tube was cut off back where it was still cylindrical using a Dremel cut-off wheel so as not to distort the tube diameter. The end fitting was turned to give a longer tennon. Both were sanded to accept soldering. The inside of the tube was sanded with a split wooden dowel and a strip of fine paper slid into the slot.

A 300 watt soldering iron was used to solder the pieces together, leaving a generous fillet at the base end of the joint.

MFJ certainly does not recommend dropping the whip on a fence in a wind storm. However, I think the solder job not only saved the antenna but might be a stronger design for the initial build.

WA2IAX can be reached via New York State [NYS] traffic nets at 10 AM [3670 Khz] or 7 PM [3677 Mhz.] or [jlebaron@mkl.com](mailto:jlebaron@mkl.com).

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

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## **KZ2BSA OCARG CONTINUES PLANNING FOR FIELD DAY 2005**

KZ2BSA and OCARG continued planning for Field Day 2005 as reported in last month's *OCARG EAGLE*. What is needed at this time are commitments from more Scouts and Scouters to operate during some part or all of the Field Day weekend; we need this information as soon as possible to determine logistics requirements such as generator size and numbers of radios to be dedicated for the event.

Send any comments or questions to [K2FRD@arrl.net](mailto:K2FRD@arrl.net).

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## FONTS FOR HAM RADIO

You may have noted a few slight changes in this month's *EAGLE* appearance, e.g. the presence of the ``slash zero`` (Ø) within the text. Thanks to Pete's DX-Newsdesk, we now have available to us several new font faces of utility for ham radio operators.

Pete's DX-Newsdesk is an online and email compendium of news of interest for DXers worldwide and is published by Pete Rayer G2SWL. See for details: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/petes-dx-newsdesk/> .

These fonts are available from: <http://www.k8zt.com/zero.html> and include:

Arial Slash Zero  
Andale Mono Ø  
Ham Ø  
Monaco Ø  
Technical Ø

And, of course, Morse Code:

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These are only a few of many type faces for amateur radio.

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## UPCOMING VE SESSIONS

Because the *EAGLE* has an international readership, there is little point continuing to list upcoming Volunteer Examiner sessions only on a local basis. However, 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> . We will post the comparable website for other countries on a monthly basis if we can locate the URL.

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## SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"An individual step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual."

- Lord Robert Baden-Powell

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

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

[http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/sir\\_robert\\_baden-powell/](http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/sir_robert_baden-powell/)

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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](mailto:K2FRD@arrl.net) .

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

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