

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>.

SUITSAT SYMBOLICALLY SPLATS

After tremendous pre-event publicity including an *EAGLE* Special Edition, the SuitSat was launched from the International Space Station as scheduled on 3 February. For those who are not in the loop, the SuitSat is an obsolete Russian space suit equipped with a transmitter capable of transmitting on 145.990, in the middle of the 2-meter band. A message in five languages was to have greeted listeners along with telemetry on the suit's environmental conditions and a slow-scan TV transmission. The operation was hoped to last six to ten days until the batteries died. Part of the Amateur Radio at the International Space Station (ARISS), the SuitSat was intended to be a public relations event, especially for the benefit of youth.

However, it was quickly apparent shortly after launch that the SuitSat was in trouble from the beginning. Despite a world-wide listening network, virtually all reports with only a couple exceptions of the SuitSat signal fell into the "wishful thinking" category. <http://suitsat.org/>. It simply could not be heard on a handheld nor any other standard two-meter rig. The only persons hearing anything at all, and that very weakly in incomplete were equipped with specialized satellite antennas consisting of triple-stacked twenty-element beams.

Consensus among hams who attempted to monitor was that the SuitSat, with its environmental controls turned off to preserve battery life, actually had its batteries alternately cooked and frozen in the extremes of space. After a day or two, most hams gave up. On Saturday 4 February, NASA announced that SuitSat's batteries were dead. But, like the legendary Phoenix, SuitSat seemed to come back from the dead and a few stations continue to hear little pieces of SuitSat transmissions <http://www.capitalnews9.com/content/headlines/?ArID=167652&SecID=33> .

One of the most complete recordings was on 8 February from Richard Crow N2SPI of nearby Smithville Flats, Chenango County, upstate New York who was using a sophisticated satellite tracking antenna, according to a second-hand report from ARRL (URL and article not found). However, despite the fact only a very few people can hear SuitSat, it is being labeled "tremendously successful" by its project sponsor ARISS <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/06/0210/> .

de K2FRD

SCOUTS TO HIKE ILLINOIS' LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE TRAIL

From our correspondent Tim N9PUZ in Springfield, IL comes this ham-Scouting activity. Tim will send an after-event report:

FYI – April 29th is the Lincoln Pilgrimage hike from Lincoln's New Salem to Springfield, Illinois. The 19 mile trail is historically correct and follows the path Abe used on foot or horseback as he could rarely afford the stagecoach fare to and from Springfield.

Our local club (<http://www.svrc.org>) always provides comms for the event because much of the trail has poor to non-existent cellular coverage. This year in addition to 5 stations along the trail and 3 stations at the major camping areas we're going to do Amateur TV from the lunch stop half-way point to the end point so people can watch for their Scouts. The BSA discourages parents from trying to follow along in their vehicles because a) it adds a LOT of congestion and b) they get lost on the country roads. :-)

We will use the 444.90 MHz K9KGO repeater. The 3 camping areas are 1) New Salem State Park, 2) BSA Camp Illinek on Lake Springfield, and 3) Jim Edgar State Park near Virginia, IL.

de Tim McDonough, N9PUZ

SOME FUN WITH A LITTLE BRAIN TEASER AND PRIZES!

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN, our correspondent from Garland, TX sent this in:

THIS MONTH'S BRAIN-TEASER:

A friend of mine, Ted Shelly, K0DDB, President of WITCARS, the Winnebago-Itasca Travelers Club Amateur Radio Society, sent this link to me: <http://trunks.secondfoundation.org/files/psychic.swf> . It's a mystery and rather spooky. Follow the directions correctly and you'll be mystified! BUT -- it's a trick! Study it carefully and see if you can solve the mystery. The first 3 persons to identify the answer by March 1st will receive a Circle Ten Council patch. Send your solutions to:

Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, kr1zan@arrl.net (note: it's kilo-romeo-one-zulu-alpha-november).

73, Frank

EDITOR'S NOTE: I tried it and will admit it stumped me for a little while. It took some figuring, but it's solvable.

de K2FRD

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY: TWO 100TH ANNIVs ALMOST HERE

The subject of two 100th Anniversaries in Boy Scouting came up on the ScoutRadio list: the 100th of Baden-Powell's founding of Boy Scouting in 2007 and the 100th of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010. While the timing is a little tight for next year for planning international ham radio events to celebrate the occasion, several ideas and comments were forwarded for both next year and for 2010. Here's a couple of them. In future issues, we will attempt

to keep everyone apprised of activities and will welcome any suggestions to celebrate both events. Certainly, the World Scout JOTA Coordinator BSA National Scout Coordinator should become involved.

From Frank Krizan KR1ZAN:

Take a look at the World JOTA Organizers web site: <http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/> . Since 2007 is the 100th anniversary of Scouting and the 50th anniversary of JOTA, it's proposed to have a world-wide link up via Ham Radio on August 1st. It's not a weekend -- it's a Wednesday. But, it's in the summer. Hopefully there will be youth available who aren't in school. Better WX, too, in August.

8 a.m. at Gilwell Park will be in the early morning hours in the U.S. But, we can still have a fun day with stations all over the U.S. operating as part of their own sunrise ceremonies. Might make this a QSO party day (12 hours) or a sprint (4 hours--think about CONUS time zones).

The K2BSA Amateur Radio Association is being rejuvenated and is considering taking on this date for a national event. We'll keep the ScoutRadio group apprised of our plans. Your comments are most welcome.

73, Frank KR1ZAN
President, K2BSA Amateur Radio Association (KARA)
Garland, TX

And from Gary Wilson K2GW:

Don't forget that February 22nd is Baden-Powell's birthday (and also his wife Olave's, who was the first Chief Guide) and commemorated as "Thinking Day" by Girl Scouts/Guides worldwide. See http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/international/world_thinking_day/

Now since it's B-P's birthday, we usually have our Wood Badge Dine-in that day, but I've seen other folks do events on the air for Girl Scouts that day in past years.

As for 2007, why don't we come up with something like a mini DXCC, an award for working Scouts in ten different countries. I'm making it easy, since we're at the bottom of the solar cycle and you want folks doing phone on a wire antenna to reasonably get it.

For 2010, how about a BSA WAS as a similar idea?

73
Gary Wilson K2GW

HORN-TOOTING, K2FRD STYLE

It's not often I get to toot my own horn these days, so when the occasion arises, I don't mind tooting it a little since I know nobody else is gonna do it for me. As many know, I've been a fulltime RVer going on three years, running away from NY Yankee winters and am spending my third winter in the Arizona desert where S**W is a four-letter word and there are more days of sunshine and fewer days of rain (120 straight days without rain as of 15 Feb, breaking the old record of 101 days) than anywhere else in the United States. I live in a tiny (40 units on 40 acres) semi-boondocking (no hook-ups, we provide our own electricity) RV park in the middle of the desert. Almost all residents are retired or retired/disabled, so the prospects for recruiting new amateur radio operators was pretty grim. Or so I thought. Last fall, a "younger" (one year less than me) resident, Stan Warner learned I was a ham operator and mentioned he had always wanted to get his ham license, but didn't know the how's and wherefores. The wheels started turning.

I ordered a "Now You're Talking" from ARRL and set him into a self-study mode in November for the Technician license. Periodically, I'd check in with him to deliver practice exams downloaded from eHam and to answer any questions he might have. Stan's a pretty bright boy and picked up on a lot of the technical information quite quickly, so most of my "lessons" consisted of explaining our unique jargon such as Q signals and two-meter versus HF operational procedures and giving a couple demonstrations on my 2m and HF rigs with explanations of my various antenna systems. But, Stan's major problem was that he worried considerably about passing the exam despite not having failed a single practice exam. With his analytical mind, Stan calculated that he would miss 68 of the 450 questions in the Tech Question Pool and would flunk the exam if the randomly generated actual exam contained a high percentage of the 68 questions. No slouch in probability theory myself, I calculated the odds were less than one in one thousand that any exam would contain enough of those 68 questions for him to fail the exam.

Meantime, I had a bigger problem: finding a Volunteer Examiner Session somewhere within reasonably driving distance from our desert home. Reasonable in Arizona where the speed limit is 75 mph means 200 miles or more,

but searches on the ARRL exam site should almost all the Arizona exams in winter were in Phoenix. Both Stan and I would rather have root canals than drive in Phoenix traffic, so I extended my search outward via Yahoo Group's mobilehamradio group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mobilehamradio/> which provided me with a date and location: the annual W5YI VE exam at the Quartzsite, AZ Hamfest on 25 January; W5YI exams do not appear in the ARRL exam search webpage.

By the time 25 January rolled around, Stan had taken some 20 or more practice exams, but was still nervous as we drove the 60 miles to Quartzsite where the annual RV Fest was well underway with thousands of RVers and RV salespeople crowding the roads and desert. A chilly and breezy morning in the desert with the exam held outdoors, not an ideal situation for concentration, I left Stan in the capable hands of the RVing examiners and waited around the campfire ragchewing with the other RVing hams. About 20 minutes later, Stan walked out, the first of about 15 examinees to finish. A smile on his face, he knew he had passed. A little while later, the examiner officially notified him that he had passed, missing only two questions, but Stan wanted more: which questions did he miss? Nope, can't tell you that for some reason known to no VE, so Stan would have to be content with knowing he was now a ham!

I dropped Stan off at his RV and clicked on the FCC License Search (below) to make sure it was still valid. This was a Wednesday, so despite the results being electronically transmitted to the FCC, I didn't expect Stan's new callsign to be posted until Friday at the very earliest and most likely Monday or Tuesday the next week. I checked again on Thursday noon and again about 1700 the same day, just for practice, then did a double-take: Stan already had his callsign KE5HDC! (Stan, also a fulltime RVer uses Texas as his legal mailing address.) I wasn't expecting next-day service, but I dropped everything to take the news over to Stan. I guess we were both like kids with new toys because we were both pretty exhilarated.

Three weeks later, Stan KE5HDC is the proud owner of a new Kenwood TS-271 60-watt two-meter rig using a homebrew J-pole mounted above his trailer. From our location, there's only a single repeater we can reach, but it's part of the linked Arizona Repeater Association, so he can talk to hams as far away as San Diego and to drivers along nearby I-10. To keep his interest up, I loaned him my spare TS-50 HF rig and ARRL Antenna Book and he's setting up a Beverage antenna to do a little HF Short Wave Listening.

RIGHT: Eagle Scout Stan Warner KE5HDC and his lovely wife Helen at their Arizona desert home in the same park as the Editor. Note the 2m J-pole strapped to his ladder. And clear blue skies where no rain has fallen in 120 days.



If readers want to help keep Stan's interest in ham radio at his current peak, you might want to send your sample QSL card to: Stan Warner KE5HDC, Snowbird West RV Park, PO Box 633, Salome, AZ 85348.

So what does this have to do with ham-Scouting? Plenty. Stan is an Eagle Scout with all the characteristics thereof including curiosity, persistence, a thirst for adventure, and always on a quest to learn new things. I think that his new license will satisfy a number of these traits so common to so many of us.

And me? I feel like a proud new papa! And still trying to nail 3Y0X Peter I Island. And there's another Park resident who is now interested in ham radio. You're never too young nor never too old to learn!

de K2FRD

HAM-SCOUT EMERGENCY PREPARATION: GO-KITS

More from Frank Krizan KR1ZAN:

From the January 25, 2006 edition of the Contest Rate Sheet, published by the ARRL, comes the following entry related to "Being Prepared":

"Thinking about putting together an emergency "go-kit"? You know you should - here's a Web site to help put the shopping list together: <http://www.races.org/gokit.htm> - the "every day" kit would suffice for short-term use."

de KR1ZAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Steve KB1DIG and Kim KB1DGR have a go-kit site with additional tips regarding the survival aspects of Emergency Preparedness: http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/ham_fire.htm and other tips on go-kits: <http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/hamgear.htm> .

This is a subject which is near and dear to the hearts of ham-Scouts: emergency preparedness. I'd like to see more articles along this line. - de K2FRD

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 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> .

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"Trust should be the basis for all our moral training."

- 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/

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