

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 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 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> .

KZ2BSA OCARG PLANS FOR FIELD DAY 2005 AT HENDERSON S.R.

The Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group (OCARG) started planning for Field Day 2005, to take place on the weekend of 24 - 26 June. It will operate as a 1A or 2A, (possibly 3A) club station using its callsign KZ2BSA at Henderson Scout Reservation (formerly Crumhorn Mountain Scout Camp) located ten miles south of Cooperstown, NY. Inspired by a Field Day '04 contact between VO2/K2FRD and K0BSA (Venturing Crew 373, Viking Council, Minneapolis/St. Paul MN), the latter operating as a club station, this will be KZ2BSA's first Field Day.

KZ2BSA has already obtained the Council's permission to operate at Henderson's ballfield. The field itself will be used only for antennas; stations and other activities will operate along the perimeter. It is conceivable that ham-Scout units may want to combine Field Day weekend with a campout; camping reservations should be made through the Scout Office (607-432-6491).

While KZ2BSA's Field Day activities are still in the early planning stages, initial information has already been sent out to various Council ham-Scouts and Scouters. More information will be forthcoming.

A few points (not in any particular order):

🍏 This is a golden opportunity for some publicity for ham radio, Scouting, and OCARG. Articles in local papers before Field Day should bring some visitors to our Field Day operation. Roadside signing will point the way up the mountain.

🍏 We will not go into competition for operating personnel with other local radio clubs. It is expected that most operators will not have participated during a previous Field Day; others may wish to remain with their respective clubs.

🍏 We should be able to take advantage of the GOTA (Get On The Air) station provisions in the FD rules since a number of new Scout Technicians and maybe some relatively inactive Generals might participate.

🍏 There may be a concurrent Webelos Outdoor Training session at Camp the same weekend. It may be that we can include them in a "show me" session. Also, the Camp Staff comes in on Sunday afternoon, so it may be a little busy at that time for Staffmen who are also working Field Day; it might be necessary to close down early, but we will not be physically in the Staff's way.

🍏 This is intended to be a FUN event for all participants as well as an educational experience. We are not going to play hardball.

🍏 Since there will be at least one Extra Class licensee on-site continuously who can serve as Control Operator, all participants will be able to operate in all modes on all bands no matter what their license class might be. This is a good chance to inspire new Techs to attain higher licenses.

🍏 Because this is OCARG's first Field Day effort, we need to put our best foot forward. Scouting uniforms of at least a Scout shirt or T-shirt should be worn although this is not mandatory.

🍏 For further information, suggestions, comments, and/or a request to participate, please contact Fred K2FRD at k2frd@arri.net.

TROOP 99 TAKES THEIR RADIOS CAMPING TO HENDERSON S.R.



L-R: Troop 99 - Derrick McHenry [KC2JIX], Bryan Price, Phillip McHenry, Nate Curtin, Ben Howard and Andrew Fritsch. Troop 52 – Scott Cordozzo and Brian Baisley. Attending Scouts not pictured were: Jesse Hornbeck, Alex King and Dillon Ives. Scouts are shown on the Training Cabin porch with the Troop 99 "Bear Pole".

Henderson Scout Reservation on Crumhorn Mountain was home to 11 Scouts December 18 and 19, 2004. Troop 99 of Sidney, NY (Otschodela Council) hosted troop 52 of Bainbridge (Baden-Powell Council) and the Scouts had a good time getting to know one another and working out some First Aid, knot and compass problems.

Weather was on their side as temperatures ranged from 15 to 25 degrees F, just cold enough to be dry and warm enough to keep Scouts out of danger.

Senior Patrol Leader McHenry [KC2JIX] and an assistant operator were able to clear traffic for the guest troop, for a neighboring troop [36 Davenport] and 2 for Troop 99 Sidney.

Scouts thank the home stations Judi KC2MYX, Al K2EZK and Tony N2GVB who listened for them and moved their messages home.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

WHO ARE THOSE "BSA" CALLSIGNS?

Curiosity sometimes leads one into strange waters. Such it was when a QRZ.com search on a callsign ending with "BSA" led to a search for websites for ALL "BSA" suffixes, at least for those with prefixes starting with W, WA, WB, WC, K, KA, KB, KC, KD, AB, and N. Interestingly, the National Council does not have a website specifically for K2BSA. Secondary searches on QRZ.com using "Boy Scout", "Scout", and, less productively, "Council" produced a few more callsigns related to Scouting, but not with "BSA" as suffixes.

The following URLs are only for BSA callsigns which have associated websites. There are many more BSA callsigns for Scouting units which do not have references for websites. Roughly half of all BSA callsigns are held by individuals with an unknown connection to Scouting. The list below is almost certainly incomplete since the searches may not have covered Scouting affiliations which use other Scouting words (e.g. "Packs") in their name, but not necessarily the search words. Annotations follow those URLs where the URL itself is not self-explanatory or requires amplification:

<http://www.qsl.net/w2bsa/>

<http://www.w3bsa.org> 404 error

<http://k1bsa.org/>

<http://www.k3bsa.org/>

<http://www.qsl.net/k5bsa/>

<http://www.flammer.com/troop566/k6bsa/> way out of date.

<http://www.aptsolutions.com/k0bsa/> Also <http://www.k0bsa.org/>

<http://home.tampabay.rr.com/n4bsa/> Not a Scouting site; barely started in 1999.

<http://www.n7bsa.org/>

<http://webhost.btinet.net/~mthurn/> WA0BSA

<http://members.aol.com/ka2bsa/> Our own Tr 73 Voorheesville, NY

KA5BSA - Callsign available.

KA7BSA - Callsign available.

KA8BSA - Callsign available.

<http://www.buckscountybsa.org/> KB3BOY

<http://scouting.arrl-nh.org/> WB1BSA

<http://www.geocities.com/bsatroop850/> WB5BSA

<http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/ocarg.htm> KZ2BSA (of course)

Here are the QRZ.com searches; in the long lists, some callsigns may have been missed:

<http://www.qrz.com/callsign?callsign=NAME&search=Boy+Scout&simple=on>

<http://www.qrz.com/callsign?callsign=NAME&search=Scout&simple=on>

<http://www.qrz.com/callsign?callsign=NAME&search=Council&simple=on>

In conclusion, while most of the "high end" 1x3 BSA callsigns are used by Scouting affiliations and many of these have websites, the numbers drop with the 2x3 callsigns as more individuals rather than units hold, for example, the KAs and KBs. Undoubtedly, there are more ham-Scouting units or Scouting individuals holding out-of-sequence BSA prefixes (e.g. WG, KT) and other Scouting-related suffixes (e.g. CSA, GSA).

de K2FRD

THE WA2IAX FUSE LAB

Regular contributor Jim LeBaron WA2IAX again puts his inventive mind to use in this educational demonstration of the dangers of using the wrong fuse to protect equipment:



L to R: Clip leads [AWG 16 or greater] coming from a 12 V. battery [18 Ah]. They are stapled to a board to ensure they will not contact each other during "power up". A straightened steel Christmas tree ornament hanger held between the clips. A small bottle of gasoline. A paper "Rig". A 1 ml medicine dropper. A wad of dryer lint about the size of a cigarette but half as long. A "5 a fuse". A "30 a fuse". A folding ruler to give scale to the picture and some spare lint and hangers. Note that all are contained in a shallow steel pan with another such pan at the ready to quench a fire should one occur. A fire extinguisher is handy near also.

Tech question **TOA03** asks, "What would happen to your transceiver if you replace its blown 5 amp AC line fuse with a 30 a fuse?" Here is a fun way to demonstrate the answer to a Technician candidate class.

Fuses are made by cutting a 1 X 5 inch piece of aluminum foil [.001 in. thick, household variety], folding it in half the long way and cutting notches in each side so as to leave about 1/16 wide material in the middle for the "5 a" and about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. for the "30 a". These are flattened out again and tucked around the ends of a couple 1 X 3 inch cardboard forms; use the excess foil to double fold at the ends of the forms to give the clip leads a cushion to contact. This will avoid the foil failing at a sharp point-contact of a clip.

The hanger [.027 in. dia by 2 3/8 long, must be steel wire] is straightened out and clipped at its extreme ends by the clip leads. This will give the most resistance.

Have your extinguisher and second steel pan ready.

Just before the demonstration, the lint is soaked with 1 ml of gasoline and tucked loosely around the hanger. The paper "rig" is placed over the hanger-lint-cliplead area.

Attach the "5a" fuse in series with the battery and the "rig". The fuse blows. Attach the "30a" fuse. At first there is an orange light inside the "rig". Then smoke leaks out and, as the paper ignites, flames lick out of it. Most impressive.

Immediately muffle with the second pan.

Disclaimer: This demonstration must be done outdoors away from any flammables. It must be accomplished by an adult with a second adult in attendance to ensure students are at a safe distance. A fire extinguisher and metal

enclosure to contain and muffle the fire must be at the ready. Students must be held at a safe distance from the demonstration and must be warned that the apparatus will be hot both during and after the demonstration.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

[Editor's note: isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol may be substituted for gasoline.]

HOTMAIL HEADACHES CONTINUE

From the number of bounced emails for the last two months from Hotmail.com addresses and from the same problems with various Yahoo Groups email lists I own or moderate, it seems that Hotmail (now owned by Microsoft) has installed an out-of-control spam blocker (Spamcop) which is unable to differentiate between legitimate messages and spam. To a lesser degree, this same problem exists with MSN.com. If those with Hotmail accounts happen to read this article, you might be advised to switch to another web-based emailer such as Yahoo.com (not Juno.com - same problem) or a more standard address or alias such as ARRL.net or RAC.ca.

The problem lies less with the spam blockers installed than with the technicians who establish the blocking parameters. Many, many ISPs and emailers are able to block much/most spam without interfering with normal communications.

de K2FRD

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.arrrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> . We will post the comparable website for other countries on a monthly basis if we can locate the URL.

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 quotes are available from the following sites:

<http://twc-woodbadge.freeservers.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@arrrl.net .

Subscriptions are free; there is no spam, no ads, no solicitations. Each edition is addressed via Blind CC to reduce the size of recipients' headers and to prevent spammers from receiving a ready-made spam list. Subscribe to: [OCARG EAGLE \(k2frd@arrrl.net\)](mailto:k2frd@arrrl.net). OCARG's mailing list is NEVER sold nor otherwise made available to spammers. Since the *EAGLE* is a subscriber contribution newsletter, a message is sent out about the first of each month requesting news.

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

<http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/ocarg.htm> .

