

# THE EAGLE

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



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**VOLUME FOUR NUMBER 10**

**JUNE 2004**

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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, 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@arri.net](mailto:k2frd@arri.net) or [wa2wvu@arri.net](mailto:wa2wvu@arri.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 sent 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> . The *OCARG EAGLE* is mailed only via Blind CC ("recipient list suppressed") to cut down on your header's size and to avoid providing a ready-made list to potential spammers.

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## **Changes At The OCARG EAGLE**

As stated in the cover message, Steve WA2WVU and I have instituted a few changes in the *OCARG EAGLE*. First, we are sending the *EAGLE* out as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file attachment rather than as a text message. This saves a great deal of time in that we need compose it only once rather than twice (once each in message format and again in html for uploading to the OCARG website). This also eliminates the format problems associated with each recipient's type and client emailer, computer type, operating system, application capabilities, and operator experience; not everyone could open and/or read the message format with its rich text (styled) format, jpeg images, and hypertext links. PDF standardizes the format such that everyone sees the same thing. Many, if not most ham radio and Scouting organizations are now sending out their newsletters in PDF, so the *EAGLE* isn't creating anything new.

Adobe Reader version 6 is now available for all platforms at no cost at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat> (the latest Adobe Reader version is v.6). A word of caution: PDF files sent between differing operating systems (e.g. Mac OS X and Windows XP) under certain circumstances (e.g. third-party

emailer client such as Eudora) may generate what appears to be two files or attachments; one will be the original while the other will be a garbled "ghost". The latter may be discarded.

Adobe Reader 6 is capable of hypertext and hyperlinks within it's otherwise immutable text such that the links may be clicked onto and accessed. However, Adobe Acrobat Writer is required to create such hypertext and I do not presently have Acrobat, so the hypertext (in blue and underlined) doesn't work. We are working on acquiring Acrobat, but it will not be for several months, so the links will need to be copied and pasted into browsers to function.

Second, as may be readily observed, we have of necessity due to change in mailing modes made some substantial format changes in the visual appearance of the *EAGLE*. Most obvious is the change to Arial typeface, a sans serif font common in most operating systems, applications, and in Adobe. Headlines are in Arial Rounded MT Bold. Comments and suggestions are invited.

Third, Steve and I are still working out our editorial relationship. Steve works hard at his jobs while I am a retired "gentleman of leisure", so I have more time available for the *EAGLE* although I am now on the road fulltime and, in fact, am presently in Labrador running a solo mini-DXpedition. For now, I am assuming the position as Publisher while Steve remains Editor. Between the two of us, we should manage to get the *EAGLE* out on a regular basis.

de Fred K2FRD

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## JOTA 2004



It is never too early to start thinking about the 47th annual Jamboree On The Air, most commonly known as JOTA. This year, JOTA weekend will be 22 - 24 October (as always, the third full weekend in every October). JOTA offers the opportunity for amateur radio operators and Scouters worldwide to communicate with each other on the air while demonstrating both ham radio and Scouting to the public at large. While many Councils hold special JOTA Camporees and others offer JOTA as part of a regular District or Council camporee, JOTA may be conducted at any level. Many Packs and Troops run JOTA as part of their regular program while many individual Scouters and amateur radio operators open their homes for Scouts and Scouters to talk with others. Otschodela Council #393 in Oneonta, New York conducts a very active JOTA as part of its Foothills District Fall Camporee.

Not to leave other youth organizations out of it, JOTA worldwide is a function of all Scouting groups including Girl Scouts, Cadets, Guides, and Explorers and all youth groups are invited to participate.

We would like to hear more about your plans for the 2004 JOTA as they are developed. This is our chance to shine!

More online details are available at:

Boy Scouts of America (BSA):

<http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html>

World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM):

<http://www.scout.org/wse/jota.shtml>

American Radio Relay League (ARRL):

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>

More ARRL JOTA details:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/#scout>

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## TROOP 99 MOVES CAMPOREE MESSAGE TRAFFIC



**Scout Derrick McHenry KC2JIX, helps Scout Bryan Price compose a 'yellow pad' message home from their Camporee campsite May 16, 2004.**

Scout Troop 99, Sidney, New York (Foothills District, Otschodela Council) had its share of challenges sending traffic home from its campsite at the Otschodela Council Camporee at the Blenheim-Gilboa Power Project property between Grand Gorge and Middleburgh (Schoharie County, NY) during the weekend of 14 - 16 May 2004.

Their good friend John, KC2HTP was listening in Bainbridge near Sidney on the 3590 Khz ESS Empire Slow Speed net at 6 PM but nearby thunderstorms made even CW traffic impossible. Nat K2DYB, Net Control Station of Verona, NY, was able to relay a request from the troop for John to try again at 7 PM on 3540.

K2KN and K2EZK [John and Al of Sidney] had kindly offered to listen for us on the 146.850 Oneonta repeater and actually tried to call the troop but the only repeaters accessible to the troop were 146.610 – PL 123.0 in Cobleskill and 145.230 in Stamford.

AB2B, Jerry from Schoharie called up the Cobleskill satellite of OCTEN at 6:40 PM and went back to Utica and asked George W2PIL of Sherburne to come over to the '.61 and take troop traffic. Luck still missed the mark when George's QNS from the Oneonta satellite did not include any Sidney QNI's! But, he was able to funnel the goods through the 146.685 Norwich machine and good 'ol Scouter pal K2FRD Fred of Guilford.

Got all this buttoned up and saved 2 messages for the CW attempt at 7 PM. Friend John was in there but the storms were still around and there were no messages to be moved by CW that night.

Messages were: three H & W-type reports from Scouts Bryan Price, Andrew Searles, and Josh McClenon along with a troop "Field Report" to the Committee Chairman from Field Senior Patrol Leader Derrick McHenry KC2JIX.

Many thanks to all who kept the 99th "In touch" with the outside world and those who made valiant attempts to do so!

de Jim WA2IAX

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## WA2IAX XYL AND SCOUTING MOTHER BECOMES KC2MYX

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, a frequent contributor to the *EAGLE*, very active Scouter who just earned the Silver Beaver Award, and Trustee of KZ2BSA has been accompanied through life by his wife, Judi who, in turn has shown infinite patience with Jim's Scouting and ham radio pursuits. Their son James is an Eagle Scout. Alas, Judi had never gotten

around to seeking her own ham license until very recently when, without preamble nor any reason given, on the Wednesday before the next Saturday VE session, she sat down with a Gordon West Tech study guide and began reading. At the VE session three days later, she scored 100% on her Technician exam. And four days after that, the FCC issued her license as KC2MYX. Jim is somewhat unsettled by the apparent omen of her callsign's suffix, "My Ex", but he's more worried that it also means that she can now respond to anything he says on the local 2-meter repeater. Judi is now studying her code to upgrade to General.

Congratulations, Judi KC2MYX!

de K2FRD

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## **GREG TOUSSAINT NOW HAS FATHER'S LEGACY CALLSIGN WB2WGF**

*EAGLE* readers will remember that longtime Scouter and strong OCARG supporter William Toussaint WB2WGF of Utica, New York, Land of the Oneidas Council unexpectedly passed away recently. His son, Gregory W. Toussaint vowed to earn his ham radio ticket and obtain his father's callsign as a legacy. Word received this past month is that Greg did, in fact take and pass his Tech exam and immediately applied for and was accepted for his father's callsign under the FCC's legacy callsign program and is now WB2WGF. He is studying his code and expects to upgrade in the near future. Congratulations, Greg!

de K2FRD

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## **NO EAGLE IN JULY, AUGUST .... MAYBE**

Due to extremely busy schedules during summer months, mostly due to Scouting activities, we traditionally have not published the *OCARG EAGLE* during June, July, and August. This issue is proving to be an exception, but it has been difficult: I am on a mini-DXpedition in VO2 Labrador, camped out in an isolated wilderness area replete with bears, and my satellite internet system is not receiving a strong enough signal to function. I am posting this edition from a public dialup computer in Labrador City, approximately 245 kilometers (152 miles) from my operations site. I made the commitment to publish a June *EAGLE* before I realized that I would not have onsite internet capability. While I am in the process of locating a larger dish for my system from a Canadian supplier, I have no guarantee that it will work, even if I can obtain one. Thus, I cannot promise an *EAGLE* for the remaining two summer months. However, I will be returning to the States in early September and should be back online shortly thereafter and will publish a September *EAGLE*. If, on the other hand, I secure a larger dish and can get back online up here in my very remote QTH, I will strive to get something out - count on it!

de K2FRD

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## **EDITORIAL: THE VIEW FROM UP HERE**

I'm sitting here at my small camper trailer's dining table, now overrun with HF radios, tuners, laptop computers, non-edible mice, CW keys, and wires and cables connecting them all, observing out the window at the surrounding wilderness of still-frozen lakes, snow-spotted black spruce-carpeted low hills that go on forever, and the sow bear and her single cute little cub who have come into my campsite to pillage my already-pillaged "front yard" covered with antenna and mast parts and the tools to put them together. My little mini-DXpedition to Labrador has come to a screaming halt since I had seven bears (three mama bears and four baby bears) in my camp yesterday, all looking for porridge or something else to eat since spring is very late up here and the bears' normal forage has not yet been supplied by Nature. I have a rifle for protection against wildlife and the Canadian permit to use it, but it's only a .22, not exactly a bear gun. So far, I have been able to scare them off with a couple shots across their bow, but as soon as one runs away, another takes its place in their never-ending quest for sustenance. I wonder how long before one decides that since I haven't supplied them with anything that resembles food, maybe my cat Nuisance or even I might make a tidy tidbit. It's not something I lose sleep over since I am confident in my abilities to survive wilderness situations, learned from Boy Scouting and practiced for many years in my career as a wildlife biologist in such places as Alaska, the Yukon, and North Cascades of Washington State, in none of which I have ever had to kill wildlife in defense.

Labrador is the mainland part of the Canadian Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and is HUGE! It's the size of New York and New England combined, about half the size of Texas, yet has only 28,000 people clustered in two "cities" and along the coast. The interior is mostly devoid of humans and is over 98 percent undeveloped unspoiled wilderness, largely due to its inaccessibility except for the single unpaved Trans-Labrador Highway and the car-killer

Quebec Route 389 which leads a daring driver to Labrador. There's darned few people north of me, I'm closer to the North Pole than to Florida, and I'm more east than virtually everyone else in continental North America. Its climate is Arctic-influenced and the lakes will stay frozen until the first of July. A person like myself can lose himself up here. I'm camped out at the end of a hydropower company's access "road", the end of the line. Weeks may go by before I see anyone if I choose to remain here. It's populated with the aforementioned bear, wolves (from tracks in the snow, they've also been in my campsite), caribou (I had a couple of hunter-killed heads for which I was harvesting the antlers for a flint-knapping friend - a possible bear attractant), Bald Eagles, Moose, and Common Loons (I hear their ghostly calls in the evenings), not to mention the record-sized trophy brook trout. It's wild country and unforgiving of mistakes or bad judgement. I love it!

Yet I hate winter: it brings out my arthritis, it costs too much money to heat my now-sold home, it hurts to haul firewood or even wade through snowdrifts to check my mail, and the winter before last in upstate New York almost killed me. I have spent the last seven months driving to warm parts of the U.S. trying to avoid winter. So, why am I up here?

Two reasons: amateur radio and Boy Scouting. First, Labrador is considered an uncommon ham radio entity and its VO2 prefix in CQ Zone Two is arduously hunted. I provide the means for DXers worldwide to make the VO2 Zone Two contact since there are only a couple resident Labrador hams who work DX; they are too busy hunting, fishing, trapping, and otherwise living the Labradorian life to get on the radio very much. And second, my experiences in Boy Scouting as a Scout, an adult volunteer Scouter, and as an enthusiastic Scouting supporter has culminated in my intense appreciation for wilderness locations, especially when it is one of the last unspoiled areas in the world. Just being here in this scenic location, unspoiled by man's machinations is reason enough for me to make the trip worthwhile. Which leads me in my convoluted fashion to my point....

Scouting is an outdoor program. As we used to say, "Three-fourths of Scouting is outing.". My old Troop 90 of Sidney, NY camped every month of the year; if for some reason, a campout wasn't planned for a particular month, I would lead whoever wanted to go on a campout in my capacity as Senior Patrol Leader. In those days, it was acceptable for non-adult leadership to take the Troop camping. For four straight years until I graduated from high school, Troop 90 held a campout in some of the most unholy weather known to mankind, and in some great locations where we learned what Nature had to offer and what the out-of-doors was all about. Virtually all of us grew up to be outdoor enthusiasts and advocates with the self-confidence to comfortably survive and thrive in the out-of-doors. Yet these days, I hear of Troops losing membership, of kids in the unit who are bored with no motivation, and of poor attendance at meetings, and Scoutmasters who wonder what the problem might be. Scratch the surface and I find: THEY DON'T GO CAMPING! In fact, for many Troops, the entire camping program is their annual week at Scout Camp. The rest of the year is spent in monotonous administrative meetings with an occasional special program consisting of maybe a magic show or guest speaker with his Power Point™ program about his business trip to Chicago.

This isn't Scouting. Scouting is outdoors. Scouting has always been outdoors since its inception. And it always will be outdoors. And the Troop which has no camping program should be disenfranchised.

You want good meeting attendance, happy fun-seeking members, and Scouts who are motivated to learn a healthy respect and appreciation for the outdoors? TAKE THEM CAMPING!

de K2FRD

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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/arrivec/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**

"The Patrol method is not just one method in Scouting; it is the only method." - Baden-Powell as interpreted by Vince Lombardi

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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) or [WA2WVU@arrl.net](mailto:WA2WVU@arrl.net) .

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