

# ***THE EAGLE***

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



**VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER 9**

**MAY 2007**

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](mailto: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> .

The online edition of the OCARG EAGLE may be found at: <http://ocarg.org> .

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## **LAST EAGLE FOR THE SEASON**

As is our practice every year, the OCARG EAGLE ceases publication for the summer months and will resume publication in September. We have found that ham-Scouters are very busy during the summer since they are preparing for Scout or other youth camps, attending Scout and youth camps (don't forget the SCCP!), taking their units on summer Scouting and other youth activities, traveling with their Scouts and youth, and of course, conducting amateur radio Scouting and youth operations.

A reminder to all: please take notes of your summer ham-Scout function and take LOTS of pictures. And please, please, please send them to us for fall publication. Reading about others' ham-Scouting experiences provides ideas and motivates the rest of us to continue our amateur radio activities with Scouts, Scouters, and other youth organizations.

Also, please see the critical article on Page 4 regarding the EAGLE's future.

de K2FRD

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## OUR OWN JIM WA2IAX HONORED FOR HAM-SCOUTING

[EDITOR'S NOTE]: As most EAGLE readers know, Jim LeBaron WA2IAX is a founding father of the Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group, a monthly contributor to the EAGLE, Trustee of OCARG's KZ2BSA callsign, Elmer to more new ham-Scouts than I can count, and earned the Silver Beaver for his ham-Scouting efforts among many other contributions to Scouting. Similarly, Ray Darling K2DAR was at the time President of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association (= CVARA, Chenango County, upstate NY) which sponsored the K2BSA Special Event in 2000 celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Troop 1, Unadilla, NY (**Otschodela Council #393 Oneonta, NY**), the longest continuously chartered Boy Scout Troop in the United States. This Special Event led to the organization of OCARG with Ray as one of our strongest supporters and who has been with us since the very beginning. I consider both to be very special friends. Ray is also a DXer of note, a Charter Member and Founder of CVARA (I'm not sure of the date, but sometime in the 1960s), Trustee for CVARA callsign W2RME which may be heard every Field Day, and Trustee for WC2AGO, Chenango County RACES callsign; Ray is the very active Chenango County, NY Emergency Coordinator. Ray sends this report and we are extremely proud to publish it. - de K2FRD:

April 29, 2007 was a day to remember one of our own as well as a renowned leader in the area of Boy Scouting. Outstanding in his position as counselor, instructor, troop leader and friend, this gentleman has distinguished himself also in an avocation known as Amateur Radio. Experienced in traffic handling, operating under adverse conditions, in strange surroundings and under considerable stress in many instances, Jim has shown us the true meaning of public service along with his concern for the youth of our community.

**[RIGHT] Jim LeBaron WA2IAX (left) is presented with Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association's prestigious Ham of the Year Award by Ray Darling K2DAR, President of CVARA.**



It was my pleasure as outgoing President of CVARA to present James LeBaron, WA2IAX, the Ham of the Year Award for his dedication and leadership in the furtherance of CVARA, Inc., Scouting, and his continued support of the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Submitted by:  
Ray Darling, K2DAR  
Trustee, CVARA, Inc.

[MORE EDITOR'S NOTE: CVARA's Website is <http://www.cvara.net/>, ably managed by Tom Matthewson KA2MYD who is also the long-term editor of CVARA's newsletter, the BUGLE.]

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## LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE A SUCCESS, S/E STATION N9L

History:

In 1831, 22-year old Abraham Lincoln moved to New Salem, IL to work as a store clerk and mill hand. While living in New Salem, Lincoln taught himself grammar, literature, mathematics, surveying and law. Law books were not available in New Salem, so Lincoln borrowed books from John Stuart in Springfield. Because Lincoln could not afford the stagecoach fare to Springfield, he walked to Springfield or borrowed a horse, often hiking to Springfield and back in a single day. In 1837, Lincoln became a law partner to John Stuart in Springfield.

The 19-mile Lincoln Trail begins near the lodge at Lincoln's New Salem State Park and ends at Robert A. Stuart Park in northwest Springfield. Mr. Stuart was a well-known local Scout and a descendant of Lincoln's law partner. In



**[LEFT] Ben Kiningham, K9IDQ shown operating N9L just outside the main visitors center at New Salem State Park**

1995, volunteers from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency began providing logistical support to the hike as an Earth Day project. The Boy Scouts remove lots of trash and about 32 pounds of aluminum cans from the trail each year. Springfield area hams have provided communication support for the event since 2005.

In addition to logistical support Amateur Radio activities at the 2007 Lincoln Trail Hike featured operation of a Special Event Station – November Nine Lincoln (N9L.). Through the operation of N9L the Sangamon Valley Radio Club hoped to promote Amateur Radio to the Scouts and their leaders and to raise awareness of the Scouting program to the rest of the Amateur community.

**[LEFT] Members of the Jacksonville Illinois Law Enforcement Explorer Post provided security at New Salem. Here they are visiting N9L and learning more about how Amateur Radio is used to provide community and emergency assistance.**

N9L was operated from four separate locations: N9L / New Salem, N9L / Panther Creek, N9L / Illinek, and N9L / Stuart Park. New Salem State Park is the beginning of the 19-mile hike and is also one of the three major camp grounds used by the Scouts. Other campgrounds are BSA Camp Illinek on Lake Springfield and the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Park near Virginia, Illinois.

Due to propagation conditions the weekend of the hike N9L did not contact a huge number of stations and there was a lot of



but we did consider the operation a success. Many Scouts visited the campground stations and there was a lot of interest in Amateur Radio from Scouts and adult leaders.

de Tim McDonough, N9PUZ  
n9puz@arrl.net

**[RIGHT] A group of Scouts from Portage, MI looks over the station and does some guest operating.**



**[LEFT] Steve Upchurch K9WAV from the Sangamon Valley Radio Club works a station in the Florida QSO Party from N9L.**

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## **THIS IS MY LAST EAGLE AS EDITOR; HELP WANTED**

It is with deep sadness I must announce that after more than seven years on the job, I will no longer be able to function as the OCARG EAGLE Editor-Publisher effective with this May edition. On 23 April, I was diagnosed with an oral cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in the very back of the roof of my mouth. It is rare in this location, will be difficult to treat, and the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) Prescott Medical Center here in Prescott, Arizona is looking very closely at Agent Orange as a causative agent, not the first time I have had a malady due to my extensive exposure to the chemical defoliant while in Vietnam. I must spend the majority of time fighting this cancer; indeed, few other activities have occupied me in the past three weeks (it is 14 May as I write this) and I have not yet even begun the radiation treatment (chemotherapy and surgery are not currently indicated) with most of my time to date taken up with more tests, scans, doctor consultations, scheduling, phone calls, waiting for phone calls, and lighting fires under the bureaucrats of three local medical facilities.

The EAGLE needs a new Editor. It is not an easy task and is not for the faint of heart, but it is for someone who doesn't mind a challenge. It needs someone who is dedicated to amateur radio in both Scouting and youth. Cumulatively and typically, I spend usually about ten to up to twenty hours per month on each EAGLE edition. It has been a labor of love, often frustrating when no articles come in the mail, but I know of no other venture in ham radio and Scouting which has been so satisfying and rewarding for me. Other requirements for the position include a fair amount of communications and writing skills (spelling, grammar, punctuation, ability to edit other persons' work without losing the "flavor" of their authorship, an eye for composition, and tact and diplomacy) and computer skills such as word-processing, image conversion, manipulation, and compression, format and text conversion (e.g., from Word, RTF, or Appleworks formats, text to PDF) and document compression, email programs, procedures, problems and mass mailings, and troubleshooting when things go wrong. Managing the subscriber list is often frustrating. **A strong sense of deadline orientation is necessary wherein other activities must take second place to EAGLE production and mailing.** Maintenance and hosting of the OCARG EAGLE's website <http://ocarg.org> will likely be a separate function to be determined later.

The EAGLE with a subscriber list approaching 200 in some 40 states and ten nations is truly an international publication. It does not require the Editor be from any particular location or country but does require a reliable internet connection, preferably broadband (high speed), but this is not essential (the EAGLE's first three years were sent out via dialup). While it is not yet official nor implemented, the EAGLE has been potentially selected as an official publication at higher levels.

The new Editor would have complete journalistic freedom to change format, presentation, article solicitation, reporting means, and almost everything else. The only restrictions might be that it would retain the title of OCARG EAGLE and OCARG's callsign KZ2BSA until that point when a major change in administration and management might occur. For this and domain and copyright reasons, I would retain Publisher title and responsibilities until administrative changes occur. Otherwise, the new EAGLE Editor would have complete artistic license.

Interested persons please contact me at [k2frd@mac.com](mailto:k2frd@mac.com) . We can work out any and all details. The above is not cast in concrete. I will be available to provide technical assistance... I hope.

Please let's keep it going!

73, Yours In Scouting and youth,  
Fred Stevens K2FRD

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## **HAM SCOUT HELPS WITH ORIENTEERING REQUIREMENT**

The safety factor of Ham radio was in place during Troop 99, Sidney NY's (Foothills District, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY) Orienteering campout at Melondy Hill state Land in Broome county April 28 – 29, 2007. Under Permit from DEC Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd, the troop braved intermittent showers to help 3 First class Scout candidates complete requirement 2.a, "Participate in an Orienteering Course of at least one mile...". SPL Hornbeck KC2NTS kept in touch with the course designer and continued his leadership by helping younger Scouts with meals and camp protocol. The three Scouts who completed the wet, rough terrain course were Chris Omahen, Mike Roberts and Trey Crawford. A "Field Report" and two personnel messages were sent from camp and one message reply was received. No cell phone coverage was available from this site. Thanks for home stations KC2MYX, KB2EZR and KC2RGE for passing the traffic.



[LEFT] SPLD [Senior Patrol Leader of the Day], Jesse Hornbeck KC2NTS, [right] keeps in touch with Orienteering Course leader during Troop campout. Fellow Scouts [L-R] Chris Omahen and Mike Roberts wait their turn to run the course.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

## NORTHERN NJ FLOODS ACTIVATES HAM-SCOUTER

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Joe Dunphrey KC2QGM recently upgraded to General Class and already found his expanded privileges proved useful during recent flooding in northern New Jersey. His report:]

According to the Herald News (4/22/07), the flooding of the Passaic River displaced more than 1,500 persons, with 200 evacuated to shelters, even though one of the pre-planned shelters close to the river, School 28, got flooded out, and officials had to re-work the plan. And the Paterson Fire Dept had to pull some 100 people from cars stuck in the waters. The headline says "City: Job Well Done." Some 100 CERT team members in Paterson alone helped considerably in aiding the 200 evacuees, and CERT team members from the other side of the Passaic River in Hawthorne also lent a hand.

[RIGHT]: Lodi, NJ, where the Saddle River flooded downtown. The Passaic River is West of this. [Photo courtesy of Reuters.]

One of the things that stuck out in my mind was the Herald-News map graphic that showed that the flood had reached the 100-year flooding mark. Another is the statistics in the Metro Red Cross Chapter Disaster Operations Center in Fairfield that showed the individual measuring points:

Ramapo River @ Pompton Lakes	---2.35 feet above flood level
Pompton River @ Pompton Lakes	-- 3.05 Feet above flood level
Passaic River @ Pine Brook	--- 3.26 feet above flood level
Passaic River @ Little Falls	--- 4.69 feet above flood level
Rockaway River @ Boonton	--- 1.8 feet above flood level
Pequannock River @ Macopin	0.3 feet above flood level

At the briefing, I learned that National labeled the NJ 4/07 Nor'easter Floods as Disaster Response 523-07. Northeast NJ is home to about 1.2 million Jerseyites. On Saturday's (4/21) net, it seemed that all the ham radio operators using the ARCSquared net could hear the net, but the one radio in the Paterson shelter suffered low volume of transmission, quite probably due to the antenna. It took about one hour of troubleshooting to narrow down the problem, and the logs were turned in reflecting the traffic and the troubleshooting.

At the time the radio was brought back, about 23 families remained to be placed from the Passaic County Community College (PCCC) temporary shelter. The shelter manager was an experienced ham also, and was helpful in co-ordinating the troubleshooting effort.

A briefing on Sunday indicated that, as things moved into the recovery stage, there would be a service center at a bank in Paterson from 8AM-8PM, and south of us, assisting the floods in Bound Brook, there would be a service center at Winemakers in Somerset, and Church St. in Bound Brook.

The Metro EOC must have had 150-300 mostly national Red Cross Disaster Relief workers at any one time, managing the mass care operation, distribution of clean up kits, food and water at the warehouse, and loading up the Emergency Rescue Vehicles (ERVs) for bringing food to the people affected by the flood. I appreciated in particular seeing the radio, electronic, and IT setup, both at the temporary fixed station on the third floor, and the



mobile commo van, with the satellite dish, antenna farm, and phone bank. It gave me a much better idea of what the communications possibilities would be available to us, if we had needed to scale-up operations further.

Monitoring of the arcsquared net continued through the night, but activity was minimal. The NCCC people filled us in on their mission, and the skills that program brings to bear on disaster relief.

All told, I logged 27 volunteer Hours, which should be credited toward the Montclair Chapter. I attended the orientation briefing, and if John at the Montclair chapter needs confirmation, I signed their sign-in sheet, as well as the sign-in sheet by the Radio room.

When I left, I left the power on for the radios and battery rechargers, in case there was a need to use the net, so at the end of the activity, someone should check the room again.

The General License class was quite helpful to me personally, and I am surprised that passing the test proved to be so useful in such a short time from test day. Please extend my thanks again to your ARRL VEC's.

de Joe Dunphy, Clifton, KC2QGM. 20:00 Hours 4-22-2007.

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## **TR 99'S KC2NTR PROVIDES COMMS FOR WEBELOS**



[LEFT] L-R Bryan Price, Tom Hoskins, Dillon Gifford, Seth Arnold, Trail Boss Dillon Ives and Radioman KC2NTR Alex Latta show the results of their trash pick-up conservation project under direction of Park Sup't Ron Healt at Oquaga Creek State Park May 12, '07

Pack 88 (Sidney, NY, Foothills District, Otschodela Council) Webelos Tom Hoskins, Dillon Gifford, Seth Arnold along with their dads were guests of Troop 99 for an afternoon/evening of advancement opportunities. The first was a trash pickup in the campsite areas of Oquaga Creek State Park located near Afton (Chenango County), NY. Sup't Healt gave the scouts trash bags and safety gloves and they gathered about 80 lbs. of litter from the sites. Next, the group split up into 3 patrols,

2 starting 1.5 miles east and the other starting 1.5 miles west of Clark's Pond and hiked to the pond to cook dinner. Requirements earned were: Fire; safety, building and extinguishing, Cooking: say grace, help cook, help clean up. Discussion: Tell why we share camp duties, gear, clothing and why we eat in groups. Scouts then packed up and continued their hike toward each others cars. Along the way the required identification of 6 different trees was earned as well as the finish of the 3 mile hike. While on the hike, radioman Alex Latta KC2NTR kept in touch with the adult radioman from the opposite patrol each 15 minutes to check safety of the groups.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

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## **BELLS, WHISTLES & BADGES (formerly SHORTS)**

This section is intended to provide temporary and permanent helpers for individuals, units, higher youth organization levels, and ham-Scouters who are looking for specific information on amateur radio in Scouting or other news of general interest which is brief in nature. We gladly welcome any additions and/or updates.

## **WOSM PA3BAR UPDATES WEBSITE**

From Richard Middlekoop PA3BAR, JOTA World Coordinator and webmaster of the World of Scouting Movement:

Your radio-scouting web site has been updated with new info on:

- centenary scout radio stations.
- World Jamboree amateur radio.
- HB50S activities for the 50th JOTA
- logo's and poster for the 50th JOTA.

You will find all this and more at <http://www.scout.org/jota> .

With best 73,  
Richard Middlekoop PA3BAR  
WOSM World JOTA Coordinator

## SCOUT CAMP CALLING PROTOCOL (SCCP) UPDATE

The Scout Camp Calling Protocol (SCCP) developed in 2006 and updated for 2007 is a means for Scouts at one Scout Camp to contact other at other camps via ham radio for purposes of fulfilling the requirements for Radio Merit Badge, demonstrations of emergency communications capabilities and of amateur radio itself, passing message traffic back home, and just ragchewing. Unlike JOTA, the SCCP works on a schedule. The SCCP is available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/files/SCCP/> and <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/SCCP.pdf>

Scouts and ham-Scouters are encouraged to download, print, and distribute copies of the SCCP to their home Councils and Scout Camps.

## ALLEN PITTS W1AGP, ARRL MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen suggests a visit to the Emergency Radio homepage <http://www.emergency-radio.org/> to obtain a sense of the significance of amateur radio during emergencies and disasters. As Scouters, we are always concerned with living up to our Motto, "Be prepared" and as ham radio operators, we likewise attempt to be prepared for the unexpected.

he also recommends a visit to the ARRL's Public Information Office page this month where the "30-day Blitz" from 24 January to 23 February is on-going in an effort to spread the news of the removal of the code requirement for all ham radio licenses: <http://www.arrl.org/pio/> .

A monthly visit to the ARRL Public Information Office website <http://www.arrl.org/pio> is recommended for helpful information for anyone involved in media relations such as a Public Information Officer or Public Information Coordinator or for current events within ARRL and amateur radio. 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.

More from Allen regarding the DAYTON HAMVENTION:

Things to look for coming out at Dayton are:

- 1) new video PSA on EmComm
- 2) new "talk on a disk" CD with all the files, video, audio, ppt etc, that one needs to go with the brochures and make a bang-up presentation to non-hams



## 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).

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## AND NOW THE FUNNIES...

Submitted by Ken Cassidy WN2WNC:



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## 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> or at the W5YI site (often not listed in ARRL Exam Search): [http://www.w5yi.org/exam\\_locations\\_ama.php](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>

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## SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"We have forty million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse."

- Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), *The Lesson*

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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@ocarg.org](mailto:K2FRD@ocarg.org) . 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: [subscribe@ocarg.org](mailto:subscribe@ocarg.org) . OCARG's mailing list is NEVER sold nor otherwise made available to spammers nor anyone else. 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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