

THE EAGLE

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



VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER 3

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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 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 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>.

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://ocarg.org>.

49TH JOTA NOW HISTORY, TIME TO REPORT

From all reports, the 49th Jamboree On The Air was the most successful ever! However, it is likely that this JOTA like most others is seriously under-reported. This undermines our credibility with non-ham Scouters and non-Scouting hams who might prefer JOTA be less noticeable on ham frequencies. It is recommended that all participating ham-Scouters file a report with their respective reporting organizations or national JOTA organizers, even if only a single JOTA contact was made.

Narrative or form reports should be made to ARRL and BSA if the operations were in the United States. Elsewhere, the National JOTA Organizer should be notified. It is very likely that JOTA participation is badly underestimated each year since reports are not filed. Reporting addresses:

ARRL Survey: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jotalog/>

Boy Scouts of America JOTA Organizer Ray Moyers WD8JKV RMoyer@netbsa.org

List of National JOTA Organizers (PDF) <http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/jota/njolist.pdf>

QSL FOR JOTA K2BSA/x STATIONS

From Ray Moyer WD8JKV:

We always have some confusion on where to request QSL cards for the JOTA operation. The answer is to the control operator for each call. The list for this year's operations is as follows:

Call Area 1 and 2 no K2BSA/ operations
Call Area 3 -Control Operator was AD3F
Call Area 4 -Control Operator was W4DF
Call Area 5 -Control Operator was K2BSA/5
Call Area 6 -Control Operator was WA6QYR
Call Area 7 -Control Operator was W7PAQ
Call Area 8 -Control Operator was KA8JJN
Call Area 9 -Control Operator was AD9T
Call Area 0 -Control Operator was KB0PPM

Ray - WD8JKV

[EDITOR NOTE: At Ray's suggestion, we will try to post the control operators for each K2BSA area before next year's JOTA.]

JOTA PUBLICITY

Frank Maynard NF8M sent us this URL for an article on JOTA in the Chicago area:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/lifestyles/118161.4_5_JO01_JEAN_S1.article

[ED. NOTE: In the finest Wood Badge tradition, Frank signed his note, "...And a good old Bobwhite, too.".]

JOTA REPORT FROM BROKEN ARROW DISTRICT, NJ

Joe Dunphy, brand new Technician Plus, KC2QGM, out of Clifton, NJ, and assistant scoutmaster Troop 12, Montclair, NJ, and commissioner of special needs units, Broken Arrow District (Essex County, NJ, ie Newark etc.) sent us this JOTA report:.

The Archdiocese of Newark's Catholic Committee on Scouting hosts its annual retreat on the same weekend as JOTA, and one of the active hams on the committee, Greg Nitkowski, N2BSA, helps head up the ham effort with his buddy Gordon, who has a van brimming with ham equipment. On JOTA weekend, the van had 40 m and 20 m FQ working , 2 m, and 70 cm, at the very least.

Our campsite was a spectacular view of New York City, from the Ft. Lee, New Jersey side of the Hudson River, at the base of the very busy George Washington Bridge. On the NJ side, the fall foliage was in nearly full color, and our site was at the base of cliffs of the Palisades. Hawks circled the site, on thermal currents, during the cool (mid 50's), windy (15 mph), but bright, clear sunny day. On the Hudson, we had a bit of a treat as the sailing sloop Clearwater, the one made famous by Pete Seeger and that does environmental lectures and appearances all over, beat against the Southeast breezes, sailing slowly down the Hudson. Spectacular!

From noon to 5 pm, I helped operate the station on the 40 and 20 m, plus there were a couple of scouts, around age 11-14, with licenses, also working 2m, 70 cm. Greg and Gordon has been working a station the evening before in the former Czech republic, a ham club run by former boy scouts who were now adults and hams as well. They were still on the air Saturday, looking for as many scout JOTA contacts as possible.

I don't have the full log handy, but here's a partial list of the locations of contacts made by N2BSA: The Netherlands, Sorrento, Italy, Brazil, several southern and western US states, the US Virgin Islands, some station in Poland that we had difficulty getting good translation on, and an 18 wheeler with a mobile rig just heading by highway from Atlanta, Ga., to his company home base in Albuquerque, NM., who was delighted to make contact with young scouts just getting their feet wet in the ham radio world.

Gordon had a wireless computer set up by the transceiver, linked to the website QRZ.com, so once the scouts made

contact with a station, they could call up the FCC license information on the operator, and look to see if there was a picture of the ham shack posted on the site. One station operator in Georgia, whose c/s I unfortunately do not have handy, was especially gracious in giving some digestible antenna and equipment hints to the new scout hams, and in my opinion acted as a great ambassador for ham radio.

Greg Nitkowski tells me that some 100 scouts got an introduction to ham radio, and JOTA contact cards, at the event, which they can now bring back to their units for advancement on the cub and scout side of the house.

One of our other commissioners, Paul Kelm, has been trying to start up a Boy Scout Troop dedicated to Ham Radio in Livingston, NJ, and at JOTA I had the pleasure of talking to Paul on the air on 2 m--who was selling Popcorn for Popcorn sale at a local grocery store.

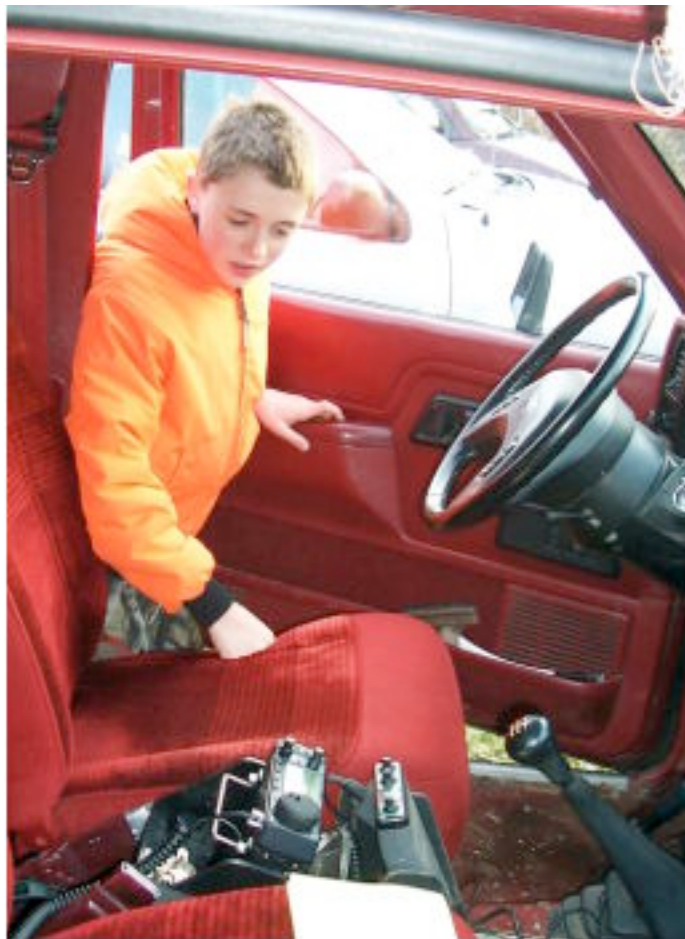
In the evening, after church services, the local Order of the Arrow dance team, from Jersey City, performed three traditional dances for the scouts. One was the welcome dance. The last was a hoop dance, which results in the five dancers supporting 12 separate hoops in fan-shaped patterns. According to their leader, the team placed number 5 nationally in its OA category, and that actually witnessing a successful hoop dance was truly a rare event. Once the hoops were fully displayed, the team then disassembled the hoops, and concluded the ceremony by lighting one hoop each on fire, jumping through the hoop, jump-rope fashion, a couple of times, and then kneeling down, holding a flaming hoop with arms raised--at night, to add to the visual effect--against the background of a dark Hudson River, the blazing lights from Spanish Harlem, and the necklace of bright lights adorning the George Washington Bridge at night. A memorable night for the scouts, hams and potential hams of the future.

de Joe Dunphy, KC2QGM, New Jersey, USA.

TROOP 99, SIDNEY, NY HAM-SCOUT CAMPING

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, our faithful and frequent contributor and KZ2BSA Trustee files this report:

Troop 99, Foothills District, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY Ham-Tech-Class Wannabe Karl Ayers [LEFT] listens to the November CW Sweepstakes on a mobile unit at the Troop's November campout on Idumea Brook, Otsego county New York. The "pileups" always prompt the question, "How can you read just one of them?"



He has been listening to a loaner Neophite receiver and plans to attend the Troop's post-Christmas Licensing class.

Two messages were passed to other Scouts in Troop 88 Nov. 4 th . from the campsite to their homes. Thanks to K2EZK and WA2GRS for listening and delivering the traffic.

Troop 99 is chartered to the First Congregational Church in Sidney NY and Troop 88 to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, also of Sidney.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

MORSE CODE OSCILLATOR FOR SCOUTS

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN sent this message to the ScoutRadio Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/> in answer to a question on simple code oscillators for Scouts. Given its simplicity and utility for ham-Scouting, it is republished here:

I did a search on Google for "Morse Code oscillator circuit" and the first hit was <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/10/30/1/> This is a relatively simple circuit and sounds relatively good. For older scouts, it could even be a construction project.

73, Frank KR1ZAN
President, K2BSA Amateur Radio Association

TROOP 88, SIDNEY, NY HOLDS RADIO MERIT BADGE CLASS

RIGHT: Al Mongardi K2EZK shows his DX QSL cards and awards to Scouts L-R: Kevin Davie, Tim Walts, Dakota Finch, Dallas Butler, Paul Ferrante. Charlie Walsh, Brian Conran and Shawn Innes.



Troop 88, Chartered to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Foothills District, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY has completed 2 of 6 classes toward their Radio merit Badge. K2EZK, DXCC

awardee many times over, showed the group his excellent collection of QSL cards and awards for his extensive DX work.

This lesson is applied to the requirements to: [1.d] "Discuss why some radio stations are called DX and others are called local." And [7.1] "Describe some of the activities that Amateur Radio operators can do....."

Additionally, the differences of block diagrams and schematic diagrams were explained; as were the symbols and definitions for resistor, capacitor, diodes and transistors, etc. and their and uses. [6.a – d] Scouts studied propagation: line-of-sight, ground wave and the curvature of the earth along with ionospheric bounce or skip. [2.a] They explained the difference between a receiver, a transmitter, a transceiver, an amplifier and an antenna [4]; as well as an open, closed and a shorted circuit

Scouts have also talked on CB radio and checked in to a local 2M ARES net while explaining the differences between broadcast and 2-way radio as well as between broadcast and "hobby" radio. [1.a & 1.b]

TR 88 also made up their own callsigns and reported them to the group using the phonetic alphabet and naming a real city within their chosen call region numbers. [1.c]

Scout Connor Hornbeck KC2JJY [TR99] worked with the candidates on Tech Class requirements and privileges [7.4] as well as callsigns and phonetics. [1.c]

Other instructors are Gus Mark WA2GRS and Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

MINI-EDITORIAL ON “SCOUT FREQUENCIES”

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN sent me this message and URL:

<http://www.scouts.com.au/main.asp?iStoryID=1937> for what Australia has done with the “World Scout Frequencies” ... they list the WOSM frequencies and then they have “Australian Frequencies”. They also list SSTV and PSK-31. I like that. The Australians don't seem to give much credit to CW, because they don't list Australian CW freqs.

de Frank KR1ZAN

Given that the FCC has made significant changes to modes and band changes in its recent “Omnibus” rules change, it may be high time that WOSM consider upgrading the Scout frequencies used during JOTA, SCCP, and other ham-Scouting events. For example, the 20m Scout CW calling frequency is still listed as 14.070, right on top of the well-established PSK spectrum. <http://homepage.mac.com/k2frd/JOTA.htm> .

de Fred K2FRD

WA2IAX BATTERY TO BATTERY RECHARGE TOOL

Jim LeBaron, WA2IAX, a retired Electrical Engineer and inveterate tinkerer of note has come up with this improvised tool :



LEFT: Bulb seriesed between battery leads.

Had a low 12 V battery while camped up in the Adirondacks [Northern NY State]. Was doing some canoe race communications and general "keeping-in-touch" with gracious ham friends in the area and needed to be sure the Gel-Cell stayed up to the job. After reading the Tech License manual again [prepping for another Boy Scout Class Wish we could use the same manual for a few years before it gets changed again.] I read I could just mate it up to the car battery and it would charge back up! Oh oh; there was a cautionary note, however. Best to have some kind of current-limiting device between them in case one was very low in voltage. High current might be encountered during the "re-fuelling" process. Hmm. Didn't have any resistors along with us in camp. Found a spare auto bulb and soldered [with gas-stove-heated copper iron] a couple wires

to it. Then I wondered how I could hook it all up between the hot battery leads without messing up my neat Anderson Power-Pole terminations. Hence the "Powerstick". Found a stick that could be whittled to about the size of the tongue on a Power-Pole connector. Cut a small notch in the end, stripped and bent a piece of solid AWG 20 around the end and back far enough to get some black electrical tape around it. Took a little fussin' with the thickness of the wood to get it to mate nicely with the contact shoe of the REAL Anderson, but the thing worked. Well, there was no danger this time....battery was down to just about 11.5 V. Not as much fun as feared: i.e. Brilliant bulb, hot wires, flame, sparks etc. None of that. There may, indeed be very little danger with this kind of set-up but I would advise one to take caution when trying such a stunt. '73 and "Be Prepared" to all OCARG subscribers.



ABOVE: Powerstick close-up.

de Jim WA2IAX, Sidney, NY Troop 99.

UNATEGO SHELTER '06 FLOOD EMCOM DEBRIEFING, PT 2

As reported in last month's EAGLE, Jim LeBaron WA2IAX was activated for shelter duty (run similar to a Red Cross shelter, but was not ARC) at the Unatego High School during the disastrous floods in upstate New York in late June 2007. These are his lessons learned and kudos:

Personal lessons learned:

1. I needed to ask name of Shelter Manager for all shifts up front.
2. I should have brought own personal hygiene items.
3. I should have brought own maps, although maps of school district were on walls, county and topo maps would have helped.
4. Needed contacts for use of phones, fax, PA system up front. I should have asked right away rather than wait 'til needed. PA would have helped for "East Sidney Dam OK" message.
5. Should have brought tel. and fax numbers for all EMS, police, sheriff, hospitals, pharmacies, veterinarians, other shelters and command centers in case. Should have brought the Basile N2NQH County Resources list and a phone book. These useful when phones were in working order. Sometimes they were not.
6. Might be good for a ham to shadow Corps of Engineers at Ea. Sidney Dam if enough staff available.
7. Learn which pharmacies have emergency RX protocols.
8. I needed more food if I were to be totally self-sufficient.
9. Should have brought Clorox for water purification if needed to be self-sufficient.
10. Could have brought 115 VAC to 12 VDC supply since commercial pwr. was available.
11. Would have been handy to bring yellow sticker note pad for telephone messages to shelter administrators.
12. Should get tel. and fax no. of radio room upon arrival if phones work at all.
13. Might have considered handing out FRS radio[s] to shelter manager[s] for us to monitor in the radio room. They could call us if needed. Hams should use very sparingly; these folk very busy.

Personal good luck:

1. Glad we had AM/FM receiver for monitoring WCDO; great job by Rob, Ray and colleagues.
2. Had sleeping bag, ground pad and spare clothes. Used all 2 nighter. Had ARES dog tag.
3. Spiral notebook worked well to keep notes on all tactical traffic plus telephone and H/W duties.
4. All repeaters and simplex programmed in all rigs ahead of time.
5. Used roll-up J-pole for all Transmission. KC2JUJ used his "fan vertical" when I was relieved.
6. Had 50 W 2M rig with big gel cell. Handy when .85 went down briefly and had to use .64. 5W HT not enough power to access .64 reliably.
7. Had spare Li-Ion [for HT], NiMH AA's, alkaline AA's and patch cord for HT from gel cell.

General suggestions:

1. Routes to Shelter; problems getting there. Needed to know what roads were open; particularly to hospitals and neighboring towns. Most inquiries were for this. I know this would be extremely difficult to determine and keep updated.
2. Tactical callsigns ...could use more often; ...still needed to ID via full callsign ea. 10 min. per FCC.

Applause:

1. Had excellent location for radios and antennas. Right in H.S. office.
2. Excellent hosts; school administration, custodians, Unadilla FD, clients, shelter staff; all wonderful folks. Note: Dr. Furlong, Judy Pitel, Clint Hall, Dave Welch, Greg Relic
3. Excellent food, sanitary, showers, even personal hygiene items supplied by shelter staff.
4. NCS great job of leading the effort and diplomatically handling casual check-ins. Particularly N2KGC and WB3CUF. Fine job by newer hams; took direction from NCS very well... I learned a lot too.
5. It was great to have spotters on river-level stations.
6. Great that pets were allowed at our shelter. Extreme morale advantage.

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX via email to K2FRD

SHORTS

ATTENTION OCARG EAGLE YAHOO SUBSCRIBERS

It appears that the OCARG EAGLE subscription list crossed a magic threshold this past month. A number of Yahoo addresses bounced back to us with the reason for bouncing listed as "too many recipients", a common bounce notice for messages sent with multiple addressees. This is a spamblocker technique which is over-utilized (putting it kindly and in words suitable for a Scouting publication) and fails to consider that organizations and institutions with legitimate reasons might want to send, say bank statements and meeting notices to multiple addressees without the need to send each message separately.

The EAGLE is sent to multiple addressees in several mailings via BCC since Mac.com also has limits on the numbers of addressees in a single message. Subscribers with Yahoo addresses have now been separated from the main lists and now are all in a separate address book. What I do not know is Yahoo's limit on numbers of Yahoo addresses which may be included within a single address book. What I need to learn from Yahoo subscribers is if they are, in fact receiving the two mailings sent each month. Obviously, if Yahoo blocks the EAGLE for this reason, subscribers will not receive this notice, but I would like to hear positive news, i.e., Yahoo subscribers are actually receiving the EAGLE.

THIS IS KNOT FUNNY (sri)

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN, President of the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association sent us a note regarding the ARRL's note regarding the website <http://www.animatedknots.com/> which demonstrates through animated drawings the methods for tying 78 different knots in six categories. While the website is of a general nature, it is of specific utility for both hams, Scouts, and Scouters.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2006/10/27/1/?nc=1>

ALLEN PITTS W1AGP, ARRL MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen Pitts W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager suggests a visit to the ARRL Public Information Office website <http://www.arrl.org/pio> for helpful information for anyone involved in media relations such as a Public Information Officer or Public Information Coordinator. 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.

Importantly, there is plenty of information on the ARRL's very successful **HELLO** program on the main page.

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> or at the W5YI site (often not listed in ARRL Exam Search): 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>

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

"A professor can never better distinguish himself in his work than by encouraging a clever pupil, for the true discoverers are among them, as comets among the stars."

- Carl Linnaeus as quoted by Benjamin Daydon Jones

EDITOR NEEDS FEEDBACK

As the OCARG EAGLE subscriber numbers grow, so does the amount of news available for each month's publication as more ham-Scouters contribute very welcome material. We would like to learn from readers what might be the best means for presenting this information, particularly with regard to indexing each month's edition. Below are some alternatives presented to us. Please send any thoughts, opinions, and/or ideas to Fred K2FRD at K2FRD@ocarg.org.

1. An index to the pdf page number at the beginning of each edition.
2. An index as a separate page in pdf at the beginning of each edition.
3. An index within the cover email containing each edition's pdf version.
4. No index at all.

Any other ideas for improvement of the EAGLE.

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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.

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