

THE EAGLE

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



VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER 1

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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 subscribe@ocarg.org 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>.

JOTA ALERT! 20-22 OCTOBER

The 49th Jamboree On The Air will be the weekend of 20-22 October 2006. This is ham-Scouting's big chance to show what we can do. The Eagle will publish unit, District, Council, club, individual and any other news and schedules and frequencies related to JOTA. Last year, we published a special edition in October with mostly schedules and will do the same again this year if the demand warrants.

The 49th JOTA is now available for you at your radio scouting web site: <http://www.scout.org/jota> (follow the links from there to the JOTA library <http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/Jota/library.htm> for the news release).

JOTA sites to bookmark:

Boy Scouts of America International Division:
<http://www.scouting.org/international/22-218.html>

World of Scouting Movement:
<http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/Jota/jota.htm>
<http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/>

American Radio Relay League:
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html#frequencies>

Following JOTA activities, 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 Bookmarks:

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>



K2BSA CALLSIGN STILL AVAILABLE FOR JOTA

Per Ray Moyer WD8JKV, BSA JOTA Organizer, call areas 1, 2, 3, and 6 are still available for the K2BSA callsign for JOTA weekend. If anyone wants to use the K2BSA callsign, he may be contacted at RMoyer@netbsa.org .

EARLY JOTA SCHEDULES, CAMPOREES

Catalina Council Spanish Trails District will have their Fall Camporee on Oct 13-15 at the Double V Campground in Tucson Arizona. At the Camporee will be our JOTA a week early from the real JOTA. We should be on near 14.200 from noon to 5pm on Friday, 8am to 5pm Saturday and 8am to noon on Sunday. We will also be on several of the local repeaters.

Tom Fagan WB7NXH
ADC Spanish Trails District
ARRL Section Manager Arizona
WB7NXH@arrl.org

Our upcoming Council Camporee Oct 13,14, and 15 the Camporee will center around emergency preparedness. We are going to set up some radio's on the 14th between 9:00 and 5:00 CST and we are going to use K2BSA/Garland Scout Ranch as the call sign. I do not know what freq we are going to use so everyone will just have to look for us.

Wayne Hatfield KD5JJP hatfield_ice@bellsouth.net
Norwela Council
Shreveport, Louisiana

SCOUT CAMP CALLING PROTOCOL RESULTS

The new Scout Camp Calling Protocol (SCCP) was launched in the June issue of the OCARG Eagle, admittedly too late for most Council and Camps to either get the word out or implement. However, we have monitored the ScoutRadio Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadio/> and exchanged emails all summer. It appears that many, myself included call on the prearranged frequencies and schedules and were unable to make contact with other ham-Scouters and/or Scout Camps. At the same time, a number of Camp to Camp contacts were logged by various individuals. While the initial results might seem disappointing at first blush, we were working against a few factors beyond our control, not the least of them being poor propagation due to the bottom of Solar Cycle 23. I roughly estimate only about 20 camps had participating personnel; trying to match frequencies and times with this small number was not unlike finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. However, we did not anticipate instant success with inter-time zone contacts spread over the entire continent.

It is the plan of the various individuals involved and anyone else who would be willing to participate to polish a couple rough spots in the SCCP over the winter, e.g., maybe change frequencies, bands, or times a little. More importantly, a flyer will go out to all Councils well before the 2007 camp season begins alerting them to the SCCP. This will be accomplished through the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association (KARA) in cooperation with BSA National. In addition, further promotion will be accomplished through the ScoutRadio Group, individual ham-Scouters, and the various hard copy and online ham radio and Scouting news publications throughout the winter.

As fall and winter continue, the Eagle will continue to post updates on the SCCP.

de K2FRD

AMATEUR RADIO DEMONSTRATIONS AT A SUMMER CAMP

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dale Lamm NX8J sent in this article for the Eagle complete with photos. This is worthy of inclusion as a photo essay although we could not include all the images. He plans to expand the article and submit it to QST for later publication.

by Dale Lamm, NX8J

I have been involved with Boy Scouts since 1991, when the first of my two sons was in Webelos. Both are now adults. One is married and living in another city, while the younger of the two and I remain committee members of our local troop. We have enjoyed many campouts across Ohio and week-long visits to our council's summer camp, Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in the eastern part of the state.

Early this year, fellow scouter Bill Hannon N8PW and myself started a Venturing Crew centered on amateur radio. We are both members of the Canton Amateur Radio Club, which is the chartering organization. It was necessary to advertise our newly formed Crew 73. We decided to ask Council for permission to set up a station one day per week at summer camp and demonstrate amateur radio. This would accomplish two goals: help us to recruit new Crew 73 members, and introduce amateur radio to Scouts. Our district executive thought this was a good idea.

For six weeks in July and August, I visited Seven Ranges (RIGHT) on Thursdays, setting up before lunchtime and running the demo station till dark. Bill's working schedule prevented him from participating, so it was necessary to plan an operation that could be set up by one adult. Council suggested the station be located in a very visible spot within the camp. We chose the trading post, which turned out to be an excellent location. There is always heavy traffic through the post, as that is the only place in camp to get a cold slushie in the heat of the afternoon! With a constant camp staff presence, it was also possible for me to not worry



about finding a second adult in order to meet youth protection requirements.



A roofed in patio adjoins the post, so I did not need to concern myself with erecting a rain shield over the station. Electricity was available, but I chose not to take advantage of it, in order to demonstrate that amateur radio can do just fine away from a wall outlet. The entire station ran off a 12 volt automotive battery. I used my main home rig, an Icom 746 Pro, sometimes bringing along a second Icom 703 QRP radio just for fun. No laptop or other computer was used in 2006, but I am planning to use one for PSK and RTTY in 2007.

LEFT: Dale NX8J and Scouts during a demonstration.

Bill allowed me to use a 25 foot fiberglass mast that he owned. It is sectionalized, and very easy to erect

by one person. Only three lightweight guy cords were used, to prepare for the occasional summer thunderstorm. Several antennas were tried over the course of the six visits. In the end, the best strategy was to use an inverted V, nominally cut for the 40 meter band. It was directly fed at the center with 300 ohm twinlead. A Drake MN-7 antenna tuner with the accessory balanced output transformer was inserted between the IC-746 and the feedline.

RIGHT: Inverted-V Antenna used by NX8J and Scouts.

Balanced feedline cannot be routed near conductive objects, so I devised a simple method of elevating the line. Inexpensive fiberglass rods used to mark boundaries for the snowplow were modified by attaching a wire hook to each. I could easily stick these in the ground and drape the twinlead through the hooks. The antenna system loaded up fine on 40 meters, and was more than satisfactory on 20 meters. 95% of all QSOs were made on one of these two bands.

One week, I dragged along a three element 6 meter Yagi. It was mid summer, so I reasoned that there might be a chance for some sporadic E on the band. As luck would have it, I heard just one Texas station that visit but could not raise him with my 100 watt signal. The 6 meter antenna was a chore to transport and set up, so I left it at home the remainder of the summer.

Primary operations were with SSB. A Bencher paddle and an MFJ keyer were brought along. Most of the time, they were used to demonstrate Morse code off air.



Everything mentioned was made ready within 80 minutes of my arrival. On a good day, I could go from "vehicle parked near the QTH" to "first QSO in the log" in one hour.

That describes the essence of the technical details. How about the results?



Camp staff would announce the operation during the lunchtime program in the dining hall. The only other "advertising" was me building a station in the trading post's patio before lunch, and a tall fiberglass mast festooned with wires going up in the adjacent field.

LEFT: Camp Staffmen at the station.

I was very pleased with the number of Scouts and scouters that came by for a visit. Camp serves about 400-500 campers each week of the season. No fewer than 20 visited me in the afternoons I was present. A typical visit would be two or three boys, and an adult from their troop. This would last anywhere from 10 minutes to three hours, depending on their level of interest.

Visitors fell into two groups. Either they knew somebody who was a ham, or they were totally ignorant of amateur radio. For the second group, my strategy was to ask whether they owned an FRS radio. Most did. I then explained the progression from FRS to Citizen's Band, and finally to several classes of licensed amateur radio. They readily understood the concept of "more bands and power" in trade for "more study and observance of rules".

ARRL prints an outstanding brochure, the "Hello" handout you may have seen in a recent issue of QST. ARRL supplied me with many of these, and they were handed out to anyone who wanted one, as well as a two page FAQ about our Venturing Crew.

RIGHT: Visiting ham N2BEG with Scouts during demonstration.

Another visual aid that was very successful was to bring along some of my "better" QSL cards. Without fail, people enjoy flipping through a deck of QSL cards. I was sure to "stack the deck" by putting cards from young people and scouters near the top. At home, I printed out the biographies of young hams I've worked, information gathered from the QRZ web site. This was useful in explaining that you didn't need to be a white-haired rocket scientist to become a ham.



It was important to get across that ham radio is not all fun and games. A copy of QST was on hand, the one with a picture of hurricane Katrina on the cover. This was the perfect prop to use when explaining that hams "give some back" by stepping up during a disaster. My SKYWARN credentials and some publicity from the NWS were also in plain sight.

We don't get many hurricanes in Ohio, but we do worry about tornados and blizzards. Scouts were interested in what hams do during a weather watch. During one of my visits, they got to see first hand. A line of severe thunderstorms was approaching, and the county SKYWARN net was activated. We monitored the progress of the squall line, but fortunately nothing serious arose.

We made many QSOs over the course of my camp visits. New York, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, California, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are in the log. So are Germany, Equador, Honduras, France, Slovenia, Canada and Montenegro. During foreign contacts, I stepped in and did the talking if there was no third party agreement. Otherwise, much of the dialog on our end was by Scouts.

When calling CQ, we would often say something like "CQ CQ CQ from NX8J portable at boy scout camp". That was a cue for scouters to come back, even if we were not the strongest signal on the band. We have W2FSR in the log, many hams who were Scouts in their youth and a few former Scoutmasters and committee members.



LEFT: Crew 73 and NX8J sign with equipment.

Everybody was thrilled one day when we made contact with NI5G, a former scouter who spent time with his son at Philmont Reservation in New Mexico. He had a few stories to relate to the three boys present. Also, lucked onto a chat with NE1C, who is another Venturing Crew advisor from Massachusetts. He told me that NE1C stood for "New England's #1 Crew!". One week, a visitor to our operation said he had been a Navy Communications Officer on the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. I really enjoyed interacting with each person who came to visit.

A published protocol for contacting other Scout camps is new for 2006. We made it a point to listen at the published times, and were able to make a few QSOs using the protocol. Sometimes, we could tell there was someone on frequency, but they were too weak to understand. I am glad I used the full 100 watts of the IC-746, and not a QRP radio.

The six visits were a success. Camp staff was always very helpful. The local Order of the Arrow Lodge has asked me to set up at the Fall Fellowship in late September. A fall camporee is scheduled the same weekend in October as JOTA, and they are expecting me.

Scouts within our council were sold hard on Crew 73, and I am hopeful that more youth will check us out. About half of the Seven Ranges campers are from out of council. I pushed them to drop in on a local radio club meeting. They were told to look at the ARRL web site to discover information about clubs in their city.

Lastly, I was able to use the experience as a preparedness exercise in setting up temporary HF stations. It did not take very many trips to discover what items to leave at home, and what to pack. If there's ever a ham contest where the goal is to get a good HF signal on the air in as short a time as possible, I am pumped and ready to go!

In closing, I will leave you with a story that made the entire summer worth it. On my very last visit, a 15 year old Scout showed up about 3:00 PM with some other boys. His troop was from out-of-state. After the others (who were all quite bright and interested) had their fill and left, this boy stayed behind for more. He really wanted a ham license. I had the newest ARRL study guide on hand, so we randomly selected questions from the pool. He was able to guess about half of them correctly, just based on what he had heard that day and on common sense.

Something about his responses to my questions about his life made me suspect he lived in a non-supportive household. I explained that by hooking up with the amateur community he would make many new friends, young and old, just as with Scouting. Some he would never see, others he could see at every club meeting. I could tell that this was important to him, and my hope is that he finds a supportive ARC in his hometown.

de Dale Lamm NX8J

NEW ARRL POSITION: ASST SECTION MGR FOR SCOUTING

by Rudy Stuteville KA4PLH

Name here is Rudy Stuteville KA4PLH. I have been appointed the Asst. Section Manager for Scouting and Youth; this is a new position in Virginia and I feel proud to have been asked to serve. The ARRL would like to see Scouting more involved in Amateur Radio, and Homeland Security has ask Scouting to become more involved in the security of our nation. This is a great way for the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club to get more youth in our area involved in our great hobby. Boy Scouts have two merit badges that go hand and hand with this movement, Radio and



Scout Matt Norville tries his luck at 20 meters

Emergency Preparedness. So the Virginia Beach Amateur club is going to set up a station for JOTA we will be working on Radio Merit badge, maybe a crystal radio and other amateur displays. One of the things I plan on showing is a Fox Hole Radio. When I was a young scout I read an article in Popular Science about a radio that the GI's in World War Two made out of a razor blade. I made this radio and it worked, I was hooked. I had not thought about this in 30 years. Well what a project to show young scouts. Well off to the local Wal-Mart, do you know you can't find double edge razor blades anymore. I start looking in old boxes in the house and the garage for razor blades because I use to use them. Well can you believe it I found a package of Gillette Blue Blades and the ear phones packed away in the top of the garage. Well all I need now is the plans, I know you can find anything on the internet. Well there it was called Fox Hole Radio, the Popular Science article call it a Gillette Blue

Blade Radio. <http://bizarrelabs.com/foxtimag.htm> Now to make one. I am not sure how many of these precious blades I am going to be willing to share. I know one will have to go to my grandson who is a brand new Tiger Cub. May share one or two with my son. If you want to build one good luck in finding blades.



Yaesu FT-817 with custom stand

I went with my troop to Camp Pipisco this summer. Pipisco is located on 900+ acres on the James River in Spring Grove, Va. I set up a QRP station using my Yaesu FT817 and a PAC12 antenna. I was planning to try out the Scout Camp Calling Protocol, well one week of trying 20 and 40 meters I had no success. But next year



Power Supply

should be great more people should know about it. I set up at the mess hall one night with a staff member who is also a ham. We set up the FT817 and a 2 meter rig belonging to the staff member, both rigs were only 5 watts. Well we had scouts show up and had a great time, no luck on HF but the scouts got to talk to hams on the local 2 meter repeater. They had a great time. Well another leader showed up with a 50 watt 2 meter radio and we were able to get out to the Richmond, Va. repeater.



2 meter Ringo Ranger

I was able to make one good contact over the week, a Canadian amateur who was doing Island on the Air and I made it through the pile up with 5 watts, a great time was had by all.

Rudy Stuteville KA4PLH rueonamo1@cox.net
Asst. Section Manager, Scouting and Youth
Virginia Section

CONNOR KC2JJY'S EAGLE PROJECT ON EMCOM

Connor Hornbeck KC2JJY, member of Troop 99, Sidney, NY, Otschodela Council, Oneonta, NY completed his field work for his Eagle Project. In cooperation with the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association lead by CVARA President and County Emergency Coordinator Ray Darling K2DAR who also served as Connor's mentor for his Eagle Project, Connor acted as Net Control Station for a simulated emergency activation with the American Red Cross (Southern Tier Chapter, Endicott, NY). The exercise was conducted in the Chenango County, NY Emergency Operations Center in Norwich, NY. Further details will follow in a later article when Connor finishes his project write-up.

Instrumental in assisting Connor through the intricacies of emergency communications were Ray K2DAR, Joe Dolgos KA2ZFM, Bob Root WA2TDO, Chuck Davenport KC2BXO, and Stan White WB2PPN from Chenango County ARES, and Jack Smith KB2YEN and Ford Drake AB2HS of the STARC and Broome County, NY ARES.

Traffic got passed with the expected hiccups. It was a great leaning experience for all, particularly the unlicensed Scouts who were quite diligent and serious about their work when allowed to be guest operators.

LEFT: Mentor K2DAR Ray, NCS KC2JJY Con and Logger Carl at EOC Norwich 20AUG06.



Information and photos de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

WIGWAG MORSE CODE CONTEST IDEA BY JIM WA2IAX

EDITOR'S NOTE: The ever inventive and imaginative mind of Jim LeBaron WA2IAX is always at work. Jim has come up with an idea for a contest for Scouts sending Morse Code by WigWag. This concept could be applied at the upcoming fall camporees. Please see "message" in Scoutmaster Minutes. Please send any entries to the Editor K2FRD@ocarg.org



LEFT: Alex KC2NTR Demonstrating code message sending via wig-wag using the attached chart.

We have not practiced this in over a year. I wonder if there were any troops who would like to join a contest to see who could send and correctly receive a message over the greatest distance in say, 15 minutes? We could have the message composed by our distinguished "Eagle" editor.

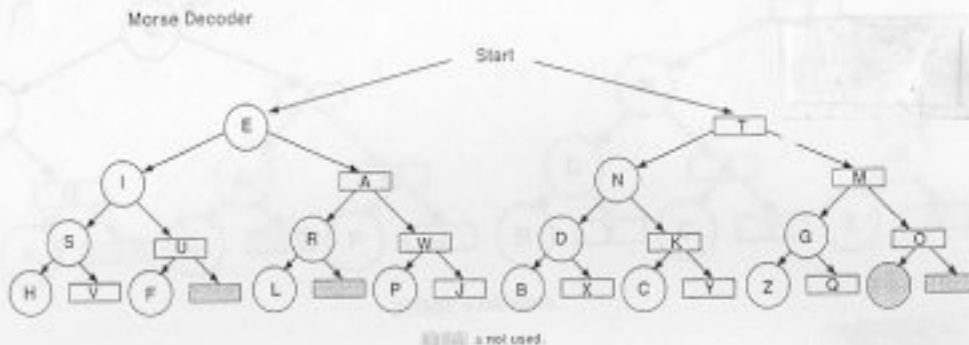
Troops could sign up with the Eagle and then they could receive their message from the editor at a pre-determined date. Perhaps 2 months from then they could submit their message with an article about their experiences including the distance sent/received. Pictures, copies of marked up maps would be encouraged.

Trustworthy is the watchword here as Scouts would be on their honor to report the correct distance. Optical devices would be permitted, binoculars, telescopes, spotting scopes etc. I'm sure we would get reports of several miles although we have never tried this at any real distance.

Maybe we should limit the size of the flag to 24 in. square per my old Army red-square-on-white-field and vice-versa flag. But, we don't want too many rules. Idea is to generate Eagle articles not a big competition although you could offer a new Ford F-350 diesel dually to the troop who wins if you want to. [ED. Note: Not likely. How 'bout a 150? :-]]

Use this part for receiving

To use the decoder, you simply follow the arrow(s) down the tree, left or right depending on whether you receive a dot or dash. For example, if four dots (...) were being sent, you would place your finger on the 'E' dot when the first dot was received then, at the next received dot, trace down and to the left to the 'I' dot continuing with this procedure to the 'S' dot and ending on the 'H' dot. Four dots = 'H' simple, eh? What about -.-? Easy. Start at the 'T' dash and move down-left to the 'N' dot then move down-right (right for dashes) to the 'K' dash and finally down-right again to the 'Y' dash. -.- = 'Y'.



LEFT: WigWag Morse Code patterns. It was invented as far as I know by a friend Capt. Stacey Munichika USAF Ret.

Use this part for sending

A RL -.-	E R .	I RR ..	M LL --	Q LLRL ---	U RRL ---	Y LRLL ----
B LRRR ----	F RRLR ----	J RLLL ----	N LR --	R RLR ---	V RRRL ----	Z LLRR ----
C LRLR ----	G LLR ---	K LRL ---	O LLL ---	S RRR ---	W RLL ---	
D LRR ---	H RRRR ----	L RLRR ----	P RLLR ----	T L -	X LLRL ---	

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

ALLEN PITTS W1AGP, ARRL MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen Pitts W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager suggests a visit to the ARRL pio 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.htm>

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/acf/> (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

"An individual step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual."

- 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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Further information regarding Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group may be found at: <http://ocarg.org> .

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