

Scouting Hams, Hamming Scouters--

Welcome to the first of what I hope will be many info-letters from OCARG - Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group. Initial membership and recipient list is as above or below: Scouts and Scouters registered in Otschodela Council, Boy Scouts of America or with an interest in Council ham radio activities who are amateur radio operators. If I have missed anyone, I apologize and request their name, callsign, and e-mail address (if applicable) be sent to me.

However, there are no restrictive requirements to "join" OCARG; anyone with an interest in Boy Scouting and ham radio may be added to the list. Conversely, if you want your name removed from the list, please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP:

I'm not sure if my e-mail program (Eudora 3.1) includes all the addresses in a grouped mailing. If not, here's the list (in no particular order):

Rudy Ault, N2JZK, Sharon Springs  
 Dorothy Ault, KB2LGA, Sharon Springs  
 Tom Roy, WA2EFE, Worcester  
 Walt Gauthier, KC2BKD, Gilbertsville  
 Rich Stamets, N2WXY, Oneonta  
 Mac Blue, N3YDR, Oneonta  
 Jim LeBaron, WA2IAX, Sidney  
 Jerry Batik, K2TNN, Stamford  
 Kevin Kiel, KB2EZR, Sidney  
 David Brush, KC2GGM, Sidney (Scout member)  
 Mike Leidy, KC2GGL, Sidney (Scout member)  
 Fred Stevens, K2FRD, Guilford  
 Steve Campbell, WA2WVU, Greene

Again, if there are any errors on the above list, the fault is all mine. Please send any corrections.

PURPOSE:

OCARG's sole mission is to promote amateur radio within Otschodela Council, BSA. This is an informal association: no dues, no constitution, no officers, no posted mailings, no meetings except on-air nets, no hamfests, no committees, no responsibilities beyond those imposed upon the individual by the individual, no nuthin'. Unless the membership directs otherwise...

AFFILIATION:

Future affiliation with either ARRL or a local club is not yet determined. Arguments for and against affiliation have been presented; there are positive and negative aspects. Cost is a definite negative factor: to become League-affiliated, we must become incorporated as a non-profit organization. Legal fees alone are about \$600 although this could be somewhat mitigated by use of a Scouting lawyer. An advantage of affiliation would be the ability to obtain an OCARG callsign for our own special events and JOTA. Comments?

K2BSA SPECIAL EVENT

The germinal idea of OCARG originated during the K2BSA Special Event for the 90th anniversary of Troop 1, Unadilla on 19-21 May 2000. The operators, both Scouters and non-Scouters, had so much fun that we mused, "Why don't we do this again?" Although the K2BSA Special Event was sponsored by the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association (CVARA), a number of non-CVARA hams dropped by the "canvas shack" to lend support.

We made 274 contacts in some 38 states and 15 countries, made a lot of new friends, and developed the concept for OCARG. Participating hams include: Walt, KC2BKD; Jim, WA2IAX (Control Operator); Steve, WA2WVU; Kevin, KB2EZR; Ray, K2DAR; Tom, WA2THS; Deborah, KC2FOY; John, WA2QQF; Tony, N2GVB; Gary, N2GAR, and Fred, K2FRD. If I missed anyone, I sincerely apologize. Many other hams dropped by just to say "Hi".

The long-awaited K2BSA QSL card is finally printed and most have been sent out as of this date (12 Aug 00).

OCARG NET

We have received permission from Bill, AA2RM of the Oneonta ARC to use the OARC repeater (146.850 MHz) for an OCARG net call. The only condition would be that we avoid the OCTEN and OCARES net calls. Other than this, we may

hold our own net any time we want. Just for starters, I might suggest the first Tuesday of each month at, say, 1900. More frequent nets are a possibility, depending upon the wishes of OCARG and the need, e.g. just before JOTA.

OARC's repeater is about as centrally located within the Council as we're going to find. I believe most persons on the list can reach it; Steve, WA2WVU might have some problems from Greene. If you can't reach it, please let me know via e-mail or on the Norwich repeater (146.685) or Walton (147.315), both of which I monitor.

Purpose of a net call will be to exchange information regarding Group activities such as JOTA (see next column), upcoming events, changes in Group structure, report Scouting contacts, and/or anything else of mutual interest which will promote and enhance our purpose.

I suggest we start with a net call on Tuesday 5 September 2000 at 7pm. We'll throw the balloon up and see if it sails.

#### JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

The 43rd annual Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) will be conducted on 20-22 October 2000. This coincides with both Districts' Fall Camporees; Foothills District Camporee date was set around JOTA.

The purpose of JOTA is similar to that of Scout Camporees and Jamborees everywhere: for Scouts, including Girls Scouts, to meet and exchange information and perhaps become friends. Further, JOTA introduces youth to amateur radio. The purpose is not to make maximum contacts. JOTA is sponsored by Boy Scouts of the World, headquartered in Geneva, and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

Foothills District will conduct its fourth JOTA this October at its Fall Camporee in Hancock. Foothills hams involved include (but are not limited to): Jim, WA2IAX; Jerry, K2TNN; Kevin, KB2EZR; Steve, WA2WVU; and Fred, K2FRD. No information about Deerslayer District and JOTA has yet been received.

#### LEAGUE SCOUTING NEWS

The most recent (10 August) ARRL weekly newsletter states that the League will be devoting considerably more time and assets into its Scouting Division. No word yet on details nor what this will mean for OCARG.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL, BSA

Ray Moyer, WD8JKY is the National Council liaison for amateur radio and, as such, was our contact person during our K2BSA Special Event in May. I have not yet made contact with Ray and will not do so until I receive some feedback on this infoletter. However, I've included him in this mailing to keep him fully apprised.

#### LAST GASP

Please feel free to send me any comments you might have on OCARG and on this newsletter. You can let me have it with both barrels; I have a thick skin.

Fred  
K2FRD  
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Guilford, NY 13780