

OCARG OSCILLATOR

Please let me know your preference(s), or submit a couple of your own.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Don Prestidge, KC2GZU received a new Kenwood TM-261A for Christmas from his family. After wading through the Owner's Manual and with a little help from K2FRD, Don is now active on 2 meters, working off a J-Pole, and may be found on 146.955, 146.850, and 147.315 (this Walton Repeater is now back in service, albeit needing new batteries). Listen for him most any evening or on the Western Catskill Net (146.955 or 147.315) Wednesday evenings.

LOOKING FOR A PRO-TEM EDITOR

Your friendly OCARG Bulletin Editor is changing his QTH to CQ DX in Labrador, Province of Newfoundland, leaving in very early June 2001, not returning until late August or September or whenever. I'll be QRT with the Bulletin during that period and am looking for someone to take over. Clearly, if no one does, the Bulletin will also be QRT for the duration. It requires about five or so hours per month to put this newsletter to bed - not really all that much work; the readership provides most of the news. Any Volunteers? I'd really like to keep it going.

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OVER THE COUNTER...

TIPS FROM A MASTER GADGETEER - JIM, WA2IAX

I always need to post memory aids for things like "Q" signals, traffic handling "pink card", net rosters, repeater channels, frequency allocation charts, ARRL numbered radiograms, international prefixes...etc. I used to have a lot of sheets and scraps of paper hanging on nails up above the rig. The wrong one was always underneath all the others. When I started shuffling for the one needed, they all fluttered to the floor!

I saw a neat thing at the Grand Union the other day that I sort of copied and it was a big help. They have a 3-ring binder (although only about 5 1/2 X 11 instead of the usual 8 1/2 X 11) mounted nearly vertical, next to the cash register for quick look-up of prices on produce and the like. Their price lists are typed up and mounted in heavy clear plastic sheet protectors with punched holes. This allows the check-out clerk to flip quickly through the sheets to find the price of an item.

My thing is just a "try out" model made out of sticks and corrugated cardboard mounted to the front edge of a shelf above the station table. It really helps when someone checks into a CW net and sends "QNP NCS.." and you don't know what QNP means and immediately make a lid out of yourself. Maybe the final model could be a cut down standard binder or, one I saw that was 5 X 8 1/2 or so at Office Max. I was given some vinyl envelopes (6 X 9) called "Sturdi-Kleer" by Angler's Roslyn, Flushing, NY that work well because they're quite stiff.

It was quite easy to change the size of a list or chart so it would fit in the envelope by selecting a reduction percentage on the computer scan/copy function.

Hope this helps somebody. '73 Jim WA2IAX Troop 99

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LICENSE CLASSES AND VE SESSIONS

KA2BSA with the help of SMARA will be offering a full 12 week No Code Tech Class. Classes will begin on February 18th 2001, ending on May 6th 2001 (weather permitting).

Cost: \$ 25.00 includes study book and other materials
Make check payable to SMARA
Place: Schenectady Museum
15 Nott Terr. Heights. (Off Nott Terr.)
Schenectady, NY 12308
Time: Sunday afternoons from 2-4pm

This class is part of a continuing education program, focusing our attention to bringing youth into the hobby but not limited to kids. Anyone is able to participate in the class. The class is limited to the first 25 people to sign up. Sign up by calling Ray N2ZQF at (518)765-2069 or John KA8GRH at (518)382-7890 ext. 283. To guarantee study books for the first night, payment must be received by Feb. 1st 2001 Class is offered to both children and adults.

Send payment to:
SMARA
PO Box 6143
Schenectady, NY 12306

An exam session will be scheduled at the completion of the class.
Exam fee will be \$ 10.00

ONEONTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (OARC) will sponsor a Volunteer Exam session on Monday 22 January 2001 at the Elm Park Methodist

Church (West end of Oneonta) starting at 6PM. Fee will be either \$6.75 or \$10.00, depending on whether the new FCC guidelines on VE reimbursement will have been implemented. Please bring proof of identification and Social Security number. Contact Bill, AA2RM at (607) 746-2777 or on 146.850 for further information.

MARGARETVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC) will sponsor a VE exam session on Saturday 17 March 2001 at 2PM at the Margaretville Telephone Company. Fee will be either \$6.75 or \$10.00, depending on whether the new FCC guidelines on VE reimbursement will have been implemented. Please bring proof of identification and Social Security number. MARC VE Liaison is Mary Bourke, KC2AAP bourke@catskill.net, (845) 586-3186 OR (845) 586-2324.

AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES
SPONSORED BY THE MARGARETVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
TECHNICIAN AND 5 WORD PER MINUTE CODE
STARTING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2001
RUNNING 10 WEEKS
6:00 - 8:00 PM
MARGARETVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, SWART STREET, MARGARETVILLE, NY

INSTRUCTOR: KB2DCE LESTER BOURKE SR
TO SIGN UP PLEASE CONTACT LESTER AT (845) 586-3186 OR (845)586-2324. PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE IF NO ANSWER
OR E-MAIL AT:
bourke@catskill.net

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS JANUARY 26, 2001. DUE TO LIMITED SPACE

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS. THERE WILL BE OTHER CLASSES HELD. KEEP WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

The first hour and a half will be devoted to study of radio theory and the last half hour will be code practice. Cost for the 10 weekly sessions is \$19.00 to cover the cost of text book. Instruction is free.

-submitted by John AB2IC

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ONLINE AT OCARG

PSK-31 seems to be taking over the digital airwaves. And, no wonder! It costs very little in equipment: cabling between the computer and HF or VHF rigs is all that's needed plus a software program. It requires only 31 Hertz bandwidth (that's HERTZ, NOT KHz - you have a wider bandwidth when you sneeze!) and operators are bragging about worldwide QRP contacts on noisy bands! For Scouts and other operators who are looking for some HF or VHF DX, this is a great way to go! Software programs are widely available for Windows operating systems for either relatively little cost (\$89 or less) or for NOTHING. Unfortunately, there's only one or two programs for us Macintosh addicts (Black Cat Systems) and that costs at the high end of the financial spectrum. However, for you Microsoft types, here's some Web site addresses to check:

- <http://www.packetradio.com/psk31.htm> . Start with this one. They have complete cabling for almost any non-Macintosh radio/computer system for \$25 and 17 links for software.
- <http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html> .
- <http://www.qth.net/> on left side, select PSK-31 from list. This is a regular email List for users to exchange information, tips.
- <http://www.ac6v.com/opmodes.html#PSK31> .

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NOTES ON OTSCHODELA COUNCIL, BSA

It suddenly dawned on this lowly Editor that many recipients of this newsletter neither belong to Otschodela Council nor even live near the Council's geographical boundaries. The following information is intended for those who are not familiar with the Council.

Otschodela Council #293, Boy Scouts of America is comprised of three upstate New York Counties: OTSege, SCH0harie, and DELAware. The area is strictly rural and pastoral with a population of about 139,000; the largest municipality is Oneonta, pop. 14,000, located about 70 miles WSW of Albany. The predominant economic base is agriculture, particularly dairy production, followed by government, education, light industry, utilities, tourism (the National Baseball Hall of Fame is in Cooperstown, Otsego County), and services.

The Council serves approximately 2700 Tigers, Cubs, Webelos, Scouts, and Explorers with about 1100 adult Volunteer Leaders. Divided into two geographic Districts and a Council-wide Exploring Division, the Council is staffed by four Professionals, including the Council Executive. One of the smallest Councils in membership, Otschodela has avoided the national trend toward mergers into "mega-councils" by continuing its healthy financial structure and maintenance of its high membership levels at 22 percent of total available youth.

Henderson Scout Reservation, formerly Crumhorn Mountain Scout Camp, consists of about 600 acres around Crumhorn Lake on top of Crumhorn Mountain within the Town of Milford, Otsego County - about 12 radio miles NE of Oneonta. It's 50 nationally-renowned Camp Staff members serve about 1000 boy-weeks during a six-week Camp Season, including Webelos Week. Several Staffmen have been repeatedly selected to instruct at various National Camp Schools. About half of the Boy Scout Camp attendance is by out-of-

Council Troops who attend Henderson/Crumhorn for its unusually high quality Program. Almost all of its Program Area Directors and Senior Staff have been on Staff for between 15 and 40 years. Lean-tos, cabins, lodges, campsites, and a heated section of the Dining Hall are available to Scout Troops, other youth organizations, and individuals for a nominal fee during the off-season for Scouting purposes, outdoor recreation, and/or access to the nearby Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown (ten miles). The Camp celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1998.

Otschodela Council is justifiably proud of its tradition of high quality service to youth. And, this Editor is proud of his 35 years of Scouting service, most of in the Council, most recently as a District Training Chairman and Camp Staff member (16 years; the last few as Fishing and Radio Program Directors).

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SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP

The Oneonta Amateur Radio Club (OARC) is spearheading a two county Amateur Radio Special Event on 24-25 February 2001. This will be an excellent opportunity for some newly licensed Scouts to gain some experience on HF and with contesting.

SPECIAL EVENT: HF World Wide / Two County Contest

Preliminary information follows:

BACKGROUND:

New York State's Delaware and Otsego Counties are a rare DX for many world wide US COUNTY Hunters.

GOALS:

- Provide an opportunity for world wide hams to get confirmed contact with New York State's Delaware and Otsego Counties.
- Provide an opportunity for local hams and clubs to work together. Club membership is not required.
- Enrich the activities of the local Amateur Radio operators.

DATES and FREQUENCIES: See Feb. QST under Special Events, February 24th and 25th, 2001

- 10 M voice: 28.450 MHz
- 15 M voice: 21.400 MHz
- 20 M voice: 14.320 MHz
- CW: 14.100 MHz
- PSK-31: 14.073 MHz)

We would like to cover these frequencies during the weekend since they are listed in QST. Obviously we can not all be on the same frequency at the same time. Operating near the designated frequencies would be helpful.

Certificates will be awarded to stations that have two contacts in either of our counties during this weekend. They must send a large SASE and contact log to AA2RM, William Holland. Address will be in QST.

QSL card exchange will be done on an individual, station to station, basis. Participants should be willing to exchange QSL cards.

Local Contest: Delaware and Otsego county station with the most contacts wins! One prize for each county. Send or e-mail contact log to AA2RM.

-submitted by AB2IC John-in-Downsville (607)363-7303 home & voice mail; or (607)363-7617 home office

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ONEONTA UHF REPEATER

Oneonta ARC 440 repeater info:

- Repeater input 447.250MHz
- Repeater output 442.250MHz
- No PL tone on either input or output at this time.
- The call is W2SEU.

Repeater is located at Coe hill tower site on a tower owned by Tri-County Communications. The antenna is side mounted at around 130 feet. Power is about 40 watts out of duplexer.

There may be a receive and or intermod problem at this time but I will check it out shortly. Also be prepared to hear Slow Scan TV (SSTV) on it from time to time. I hope to get more stations active on SSTV thru this repeater with perhaps a SSTV net if there is enough interest, perhaps affiliated with the OARC as a club activity.

-Rick, N2NNL

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