

OCARG EAGLE
BULLETIN OF THE
OTSCHODELA COUNCIL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3

November 2001

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 Boy Scouting. Membership is open to any and all Scouters, amateur radio operators, and Scouting and ham clubs with an interest in the Boy Scouts of America, particularly within, but not exclusive of Otschodela Council, BSA. There are no membership dues, no officers, no constitution, no newsletter charges, 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 the above Sender.

Copies of the OCARG EAGLE are sent to many interested persons in addition to OCARG members. If you feel that you have received this bulletin in error and no longer wish to receive it, please send a message so stating to the above Sender (thefred@ascent.net).

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The OCARG EAGLE is mailed only via Blind CC to cut down on your header's size and to avoid providing a ready-made list to spammers.

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2001 JOTA AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!

If the crowded bands were any indicator, the 2001 Jamboree On The Air set a record for numbers of participants worldwide. The bands were open and quiet, for a change, and QSOs were possible with about any location an operator desired. Scouting DX stations heard and/or contacted during JOTA Weekend included Russia, Lebanon, England, Scotland, Australia, Belgium, and Switzerland while stateside and Canadian stations abounded, operating from Scout Camps, camporees, and ham/Scouters' homes. In Otschodela Council, Foothills District ran JOTA from its Fall Camporee while Deerslayer District was forced to bow out of JOTA due to logistical problems at its separate camporee. The following is a report filed by Jim LeBaron WA2IAX of Troop 99, Sidney, NY:

The Foothills District Camporee was held on JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) weekend, Oct 19-21, 2001 State Land just west of Arabia, NY. Troops 63 (SM Helen Van Houton) and 50 (SM Bill Moller) hosted the event and kindly included JOTA and Amateur radio. Over one hundred Scouts attended and 52 made QSO's on Amateur Radio. Nine messages were originated with the NTS, several of which were to "Mom" asking for something good for dinner when the Scouts got home. Each Scout who talked on Amateur Radio was given a participation slip authorizing his Troop to order a special commemorative pocket patch as shown below. We were privileged to have Venture Crew 73 from Voorheesville (out of district), club callsign KA2BSA, with leader N2ZQF (Ray) join us at the Camporee. Many of the VC73 Scouts are licensed hams and were carrying HT's. Their big yellow communications van was of particular interest to Scouts. We were also lucky to have N2ZPY (Kevin) with the Maragretville communications trailer as one of the operators. Rounding out the operator corps were K2FRD (Fred), KB2EZR (Kevin, Tr 99) and WA2IAX, (Jim, Tr 99). Other events staged by the host troops centered around an overall medieval theme and included period cooking, chess, tree identification, fire building, obstacle course, jousting, archery and other problem solving contests. A campfire ceremony followed the day's events. A local pastor led Scouts in a worship service. Troops put on skits and led songs. Awards were given for the contest winners with "Clothespin Pounder" code practice kits awarded to the top 3 troops participating in JOTA.

We would like to thank the owners of the 146.85, 146.61 and 146.955 repeaters for allowing our use of them as well as many Amateurs at home who listened for us. talked with Scouts and handled our traffic. Much appreciation to our host troops for a great

Camporee and to the DEC for use of the State Land. I didn't list the stations that listened for us because there were a lot who talked with other stations but the local guys who graciously helped ME out, QSO'd my station &/or handled tfc were AB2IC, K2KN, K2EZK, N2KPR, WB3CUF, KC2CQS and WA2TTD; apologies if I missed anyone; lotta Scouts around is sometimes fast-moving!

de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

This GIF image is available from Fred K2FRD; please send an email.

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JOTA SURVEYS STILL NEEDED

The ARRL collects information from US hams who participated in JOTA. According to Jean Wolfgang WB3IOS, ARRL Field and Educational Services, very few surveys have been submitted to date. These statistics are utilized by both the Scouting and amateur radio community to measure the effectiveness of JOTA. If you made any contacts at all related to JOTA and not previously submitted through other reporters, please submit a report at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jotalog/> .

I suspect that JOTA has been seriously underreported in years past since there are many hams who conduct JOTA operations out of their homes rather than at organized events such as Camporees and don't realize that their contacts count in the overall total.

de K2FRD

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OCARG OBTAINING ITS OWN CALLSIGN

The Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group has reached the first step to obtain its own club callsign. Based on the positive feedback from many members before and during JOTA, K2FRD submitted the NVEC Form 605 to the American Radio Relay League about 24 October. (The ARRL now handles club callsigns on behalf of the FCC). The form required two signatures: the Callsign Trustee (K2FRD) and the Responsible Official (WA2IAX), basic information about the purpose of the organization, and that's it. The above "Mission Statement" was used as OCARG's purpose. On 6 November, K2FRD received the initial pool callsign KC2IQA with an effective date of 31 October 2001.

The second step in the process to obtain our own unique vanity callsign is direct application to the FCC. I had hoped to have the new callsign as of the publication of this month's OCARG EAGLE by electronic application to the FCC. However, after several days spinning my wheels on the FCC's ULS Website and numerous phone calls to the FCC, it finally occurred to someone down there that their application process works only for Windows-based computers, leaving us Macintosh (and UNIX, LINUX, SUN OS, and others) system users out in the cold. Our request is now in the mail and hopefully won't be slowed down by any more anthrax outbreaks.

de K2FRD

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OCARG LOGO REPLACEMENT

The above logo on the OCARG EAGLE masthead is a temporary replacement for the earlier Fleur-de-Lis and ARRL diamond combination. Because we are not ARRL affiliated, it was felt that this earlier design was inappropriate. It also wasn't unique to OCARG. I've been playing with logo designs and sent a number of ideas out to the membership with no clear consensus in response. However, during the process of researching different Fleur-de-Lis designs, I found a codicil (fine print) near the bottom of one of BSA National's homesite stating that the use of the Official BSA Logo is restricted to "Council use", whatever that means. This restriction applies to both the old gold and new red/white/blue logos, so any design must exclude either of these unless we want to get into a flame war with National.

If ANYONE, member or not, can come up with a better unique logo design, we would be more than happy to use it. I am not an artist and am somewhat colorblind.

de K2FRD

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EAGLES AMONG US

Perusing the OCARG membership list, I was struck by the numbers of Eagle Scouts who are also amateur radio operators. The following is the list of KNOWN Eagle Scouts:

- Bob Benton N2RXK
- Dave Brush KC2GGM
- Steve Campbell WA2WVU
- John Copeland KC2ELN
- Dennis Klimowski KC2IKQ
- Frank Lawler N4MAI
- Mike Leidy KC2GGL
- Don Prestidge KC2GZU
- Tom Roy WA2EFE
- Fred Stevens K2FRD (10).

ScoutRadioYouth List. This is a new eList with only 11 members to date. As its name implies, it is for Scouts (of any flavor: Boy, Cub, Explorer, Girl, Pathfinder, Cadet, etc) who have an interest in amateur radio.

To obtain more information, click: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ScoutRadioYouth> .

There are other Ham/Scout eLists with many/most targeted to individuals associated with specific Troops, Venture Crews, Explorer Posts. Both Yahoo and QTH provide means for Searching through these lists to determine if you might be interested. With a few exceptions, these eLists are open to all although some require approval from the "List Mom" (moderator or majordomo) before receiving traffic.

aa

UPCOMING EVENTS

This column needs more input. So far, the only upcoming event of which we are aware which involves Scouting and ham radio is:

25-27 January 2002 Foothills District Winter Camporee and Klondike Derby; message handling, Scout contacts, and internal communications.

ff

NEW OCARG HOMESITE NOW ONLINE

Now that Netscape is closing its Webhosting sites.central, we were forced to relocate OCARG's home site on very short order late last month. OCARG's new homepage is:

<http://www.ascent.net/thefred/ocarg.htm> .

I would appreciate any feedback, criticism, suggestions for improvement, additions, etc. I am NOT an artist (obviously) and am somewhat color blind, limiting my creative capabilities. However, the forced move resulted in my education in HTML and I now are a expert! HI!

AA

EMERGENCY EMAIL NETWORK

The following is a paste from the Emergency Email Network. I subscribe to this List which sends me Skywarn and weather emergency alerts as well as crucial events of immediate importance. For example, I learned of the attacks on the World Trade Center about 15 minutes after they happened. It is NOT a headline news reporting service. Signup is easy and no password/login is required and there is no fee for the service.

de K2FRD

"We are attempting to immediately increase our presence in NY... We ask that you pass on signup information to family and friends if you feel it would benefit them. Signup Page at <http://www.emergencye.com/> Suspicious Mail and Package info: <http://208.184.24.125/DefaultMailAdvisory.asp> ..Network NEWS... 10-17-2001 The Emergency Email Network has been named to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee. Other members include AOL Time Warner, IBM Corporation, Verizon and Microsoft."

- As always, if you feel that you have received this newsletter in error, please send an email to thefred@ascent.net and we'll remove you from the subscriber list.
- OCARG membership and subscriber lists are available from thefred@ascent.net .

