OCARG EAGLE
BULLETIN OF THE
OTSCHODELA COUNCIL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2 October 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 newletter 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 Bulletin 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).

This newsletter is brought to you in Living Color, compliments of Eudora Pro 5.1.3 emailer. If you have Rich Text Format (RTF) or stylized text capability and want to see everything as it was sent, make sure your RTF or styled text Preference/Option/Control Panel/Setting is turned ON or set. If you want to see it only in black typeface, turn it off. Fonts are Comic Sans MS, Capital, and Mishiwaka Bold (with the slashed zero), available from Editor if desired.

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JOTA WEEKEND!

The weekend of 19-21 October 2001 marks the 44th annual Jamboree On The Air. In response to the challenge issued last month, Rudy Ault N2JZK answered the call and will be conducting JOTA from the Deerslayer District Fall Camporee site at Old Fort Schoharie near Schoharie, New York. Rudy is also Scoutmaster of Troop 117, Sharon Springs, NY. His family are all hams with wife Dorothy KB2LGA and Scout son Ted KC2GVS. Rudy's contact address is: N2JZK@juno.com.

Foothills District Camporee and JOTA will be on Meade Road northwest of Jefferson, Schoharie County, NY. At least four stations will work the JOTA frequencies: Jim LeBaron WA2IAX, Kevin Brown N2ZPY, Ray Ginter N2ZQF (see next article), and Fred Stevens K2FRD. Jim WA2IAX will also be passing traffic via several local 2-Meter repeaters (see article below). Kevin N2ZPY and Troop 73 KA2BSA will be bringing and operating from their respective communications trailer and van (see next article).

These are the scheduled JOTA frequencies:

3.740, 3.940, 7.270, 14.290, 18.140, 21.360, 24.960, 28.390 for SSB (voice)
and 3.590, 7.030, 14.070, 18.080, 21.140, 24.910, 28.190 for CW (code).

During a normal JOTA Saturday, the bands are crowded with Scouters from around the world vying for openings in the crowded bandspace. Listen up from the designated frequencies for local stations.

It is difficult to calculate because of the many thousands of unreported stations which participate in JOTA, but it has been estimated that 500,000 Scouts and Scouters world-wide participate in JOTA.

JOTA certificates (QSL-card size) are available at no cost from National at:

Jamboree-on-the-Air Certificate Cards, S221
1325 W. Walnut Hill Ln.
PO Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold the numbers of cards ordered. All orders must be received by 31 January 2002.

Also available at the same address are JOTA patches at $3.25 each, postpaid. Send check or money order, payable to Boy Scouts of America.

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KA2BSA TROOP 73 TO ATTEND FOOTHILLS JOTA

Boy Scout Troop 73 KA2BSA of Voorheesville, New York will attend the Foothills District Fall Camporee and JOTA on 19-21 October 2001 as honored guests of Otschodela Council and Foothills District. Scoutmaster Ray Ginter N2ZQF will bring an estimated 12-15 Scouts, some of whom will operate JOTA from the Troop's Mobile Radio Communications Van while the others participate in the Camporee's events.

Troop 73 has a proud ham radio history dating back to 1994. The Scouts' communications van is equipped for portable emergency operations and participated during the emergency last December when flood waters disabled local telephone communications in Schenectady.

Further details regarding Troop 73 may be found in the Troop's Website at:
http://members.aol.com/ka2bsa/ or
http://members.aol.com/n2zqf/hamradio.htm .

A photo of the incredible Mobile Radio Communications Van is displayed on this site.

We welcome Troop 73 with open arms! Please feel free to visit the Troop 73 van during the Camporee.

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MESSAGES MAY BE SENT FROM JOTA

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX passes message traffic during all Foothills District Camporees, but JOTA weekend becomes especially busy traffic time due to the Scouts' and Scouters' heightened awareness of amateur radio. Jim sends traffic via SSB and CW on HF, and FM on VHF,

WA2IAX's traffic schedule:

20 October: at 0900 (1300Z), 1100 (1500Z), and 1500 (3PM, 1900Z) on the 146.850 (Oneonta) MHZ repeater;

At ten minutes past the hour on the 146.610 (Cobleskill) repeater;

At twenty minutes past the hour on the 146.955 (Walton) repeater;

And at 1830 (6:30PM, 2230Z) via the OCTEN traffic net on 146.850.

Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to get their messages in to Jim at the Troop 99, Sidney Troopsite location in a timely manner. Radiogram messageforms were sent to all District Troops, and will be available at Jim's communications center.

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SPEAKING OF JIM WA2IAX...

Jim LeBaron WA2IAX celebrated his retirement last month after many (at least 36 years) from Amphonol Corporation in Sidney. Now Amphenol, previously known as LPL and, before then as most of us remember, Scintilla, Electrical Components Division of the Bendix Corporation, it is the National leader in electrical connector manufacture.

Jim's accomplishments in boy Scouting are locally legendary. He has held virtually every position within Troop 99 in Sidney since its earliest days in the 1960s. He has been Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, Assistant Scoutmaster, and is now serving in the latter position. As importantly, he has Elmered (mentored) many Scouts at they strive toward Eagle and attained their amateur radio licenses. Recent achievements include Mike Leidy KC2GGM, Dave Brush KC2GGL, and John Copeland KC2ELN - all with the double accomplishment of Eagle Scout and Amateur Radio Operator.

Jim is also the inspirational force behind Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group and the OCARG EAGLE. Without his encouragement, these entities would never have come into existance. He also served as the Guiding Light for the May 2000 K2BSA Special Event wherein Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association helped Troop 1, Unadilla celebrate its 90th Anniversary as the oldest continually-chartered Boy Scout Troop in the United States.

With his wonderful wife Judi, Jim is looking forward to continued involvement in Boy Scouting and Amateur Radio and ham-Scouting.

Please take the time to visit Jim at the Troop 99 encampment at the Fall Camporee and JOTA.

Congratulations, Jim!

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JOHN COPELAND KC2ELN RECEIVES EAGLE

Troop 99 Sidney is proud to report that John Copeland KC2ELN was presented the Eagle Scout Rank at a Court of Awards September 29th at the Sidney Congregational Church.

John's project, for Delaware County Amateur EC Paul Deandrea, WB2JOW, was to confirm repeater access in 7 county communities. Some required relay links set on hilltops. Others could make repeater contact from the simulated Red Cross Shelters directly. John reported by spreadsheet; repeater, power used, antenna type and height and location for use by WB2JOW for the deployment of Emergency communications personnell in the event of a disaster situation.

-de Jim LeBaron WA2IAX

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DON PRESTIDGE KC2GZU RECEIVES EAGLE

Donald Prestidge KC2GZU, Troop 36 Walton was presented the Eagle Scout rank at an Eagle Ceremony at the Walton United Methodist church on Sunday 14 October 2001.

His Eagle project consisted of an inventory and map, classification, color coding, and painting of the Village of Walton fire hydrants.

Don earned his Technician License in October 2000. He has been on the staff of Henderson Scout Reservation (Crumhorn Scout Camp) since 1998, experienced the Philmont Trek twice (1999 and 2001), and attended the 1997 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. He is also studying diligently for his General Class License.

His parents are Karen and Elmer Prestidge; Elmer has several commercial radiotelephone licenses for his work in the maritime business.

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VO2/K2FRD LABRADOR DXPEDITON PHOTOS NOW ONLINE

Fred Stevens K2FRD's summer DXpedition to Labrador, Province of Newfoundland, Canada are now online at: http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/labrpic1 . A total of twelve representative images and captions may be viewed on six Webpages. They have been heavily compressed for fast download, so image quality is sacrificed.

Full slide programs are planned for the 1 November CVARA meeting at the Oxford Veterans' Home, 22 October Oneonta ARC meeting at Oneonta NYSEG, and 17 November Margaretville ARC meeting at the Margaretville Phone Company. All interested persons are invited to attend irregardless of membership. Contact Fred at thefred@ascent.net for details.

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OCARG TO GET ITS OWN CALLSIGN? NEED INPUT/FEEDBACK!

OCARG is in a position to apply for and obtain its own callsign for JOTA, District and Council Camporees, and other Scouting Special Events and activities. Since the FCC simplified its club callsign rules and the ARRL has taken over the responsibility of assigning club callsigns, it has greatly simplified the application process. In fact, as far as I can tell, all that has to be done is fill out Form NCVEC Form 605 and send it to the ARRL who takes action on it. OCARG does not need to be ARRL-affiliated although this might be desirable down the road for educational/instructional purposes.

There are a number of logical callsigns available according to a Search on QRZ.com:
KO2BSA, KZ2BSA, NY2BSA, and KU2BSA are just a few which are not presently in use, but the possibilities are certainly not limited to these and we're open to suggestions.

What I would like to discover is whether or not there is support for this action. Please email me with your comments at thefred@ascent.net.

de Fred K2FRD

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STEVE CORNELL KC2IJP NEW HAM-SCOUTER

Congratulations to Steve Cornell, KC2IJP who earned his Technician License last month. Steve is a 17(?)-year New York State Trooper, assigned to Troop C in Sidney. He lives with his wife and family near Guilford, Chenango

County. In 1984, he was the original Scoutmaster of Troop 56, Guilford. After he joined the Troopers about that time, he remained on the Troop Committee for several years. His primary interest in amateur radio is CW and is diligently studying code for his General Exam under the tutelage of Ray Darling K2DAR. Steve is also a member of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association.

We welcome Steve to our Ham-Scout ranks!

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TWO OCARG MEMBERS ACTIVATED FOR TRADE CENTER ATTACKS

Two members of OCARG were activated during the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Dennis Klimowski KC2IKQ received orders for Active Duty as a New York State Guardsman and, as far as we know, is still on extended Active Duty at an unknown location. The New York State Guard is relieving members of the National guard who were likewise activated.

As previously reported, Fred Stevens K2FRD was activated on 22 September to assist in the disaster relief effort as an amateur radio operator. He returned home late on 26 September after the amateur radio role in New York City ended. He was assigned to Respite One at "Ground Zero" to provide primary and backup communications for the firemen, policemen, American Red Cross, and other emergency agencies working toward rescue and recovery of the attacks' victims.

If anyone knows of other local amateur radio efforts during this crisis, please post us a message.

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ON COMPUTER VIRUSES AND VIRUS ALERTS

Computer Viruses are a fact of everyday life, at least for some of us. For whatever devious reasons perverted minds design and distribute viruses, they may ruin the day of unsuspecting victims. Last checked, there are more than 57,000 viruses of one type or another running around the Internet, scrambling peoples' machines and minds. Approximately eight new viruses are discovered every month.

Virtually ALL viruses target Microsoft Windows products, primarily through Microsoft's Outlook Express emailer application. Other operating systems such as MacIntosh and Linux are generally not affected; there are only 60 known viruses targeting MacIntosh. Further, MacIntosh's particular one-tailed and closed-source coding makes it considerably less susceptible to virus attacks.

There are two major virus detection companies, McAfee and Norton (Sysmatics) which produce anti-virus programs. Importantly, both send out "Virus Alert" email messages to those who subscribe to this free service. Significantly, Microsoft, IBM, Cisco Systems, and other software manufacturers do NOT send out virus alerts. However, there are thousands of "Paul Reveres" who contribute to, and complicate the virus problem by Forwarding "Virus Alerts" almost on a weekly basis. In 98 percent of these non-official alert messages, they are hoaxes, cleverly written to convince the receiver that a new virus has been detected for which there is no protection and which will destroy the unwary's hard drive, citing Microsoft and/or IBM as the authority. They also implore the reader to "Send this message to everyone in your address book." thus perpetuating the hoax.

The people who Forward these false virus alert messages are almost as bad as those who originate true viruses. The phony alerts are annoying, misleading, clog a recipient's Inbox, and otherwise waste peoples' time. They also demonstrate the sender's ignorance of computers, of viruses, and of how normal virus alert systems work. In all instances, the person Forwards the bogus alert without checking to discover whether it is genuine or not. It takes only a few seconds to click on and download either McAfee's or Norton's virus library page at:

    http://vil.mcafee.com/default.asp?
    http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/ .

These sites will confirm or refute a virus alert's validity. Save yourself from embarrassment; don't be a "Paul Revere" and pass along phony virus alerts. For that matter, don't pass along ANY virus alerts; computer-savvy people already have installed virus protection programs and/or subscribe to official virus alert programs and have already received a genuine virus alert message if a real virus threatens.

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As always, this newsletter is being posted via Blind CC to reduce the size of your header and to prevent spammers from obtaining a ready-made spam list. If someone wants a copy of the OCARG EAGLE mailing list, please post an email to: thefred@ascent.net .

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to: thefred@ascent.net .

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Fred Stevens, K2FRD
Please visit VO2/K2FRD's 2001 Labrador DXpedition Page:
http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/labr1
Or, Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group's Homesite:
http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/homepage
Or, K2FRD's personal Page:
http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/k2frd
LABRADOR PICTURES ARE IN! Click on:
http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/labrpic1 .