

OTSCHODELA COUNCIL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP BULLETIN #3, NOVEMBER 2000

Scouting Hams and Hamming Scouters--

Otschodela Council Amateur Radio Group (OCARG) is dedicated to the advancement of amateur radio in Boy Scouting and the enhancement of the Scouting Program through amateur radio. It is open to any and all Scouters and amateur radio operators with an interest in the Boy Scouts of America, particularly within Otschodela Council, BSA. There are no membership dues, no officers, no constitution, and no organized meetings. All that is required to join is an interest and an email to the above Sender.

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NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome two new Group Members to our ranks: Ray Ginter KA2BSA of Troop 73, Voorheesville, NY (slightly out of Council, but definitely welcome!) and Kevin Brown N2ZPY, a recent graduate of Explorer Post 500 of Bovina Center (Delaware County). We hope you both enjoy this Group and news Bulletin and all they represent.

ANOTHER NEW HAM IN THE FAMILY!

Don Prestidge, Troop 36, Walton (Delaware County, Foothills District) passed his Technician test at the VE session in Cooperstown on 3 October and, as of 13 October, is now KC2GZU. Don, as most of you know, has been on Henderson Scout Reservation Staff in the Scout Skills Program Area for the past two summers. We welcome Don into the proud ranks of Amateur Radio! Congratulations!

USEFUL WEB SITES FOR AMATEUR RADIO

Several have asked about Web Sites on the Internet related to Amateur Radio. In fact, there are THOUSANDS of such sites. There are, however, certain sites which are more useful than others or provide major links to other ham sites. These are some of my favorites:

http://wtbwww05.fcc.gov:80/default.sph/UlsQueryApp.exe?FNC=query_type_Ahome_html . Useful for looking up FCC database callsigns and for new licenses. May NOT work from all servers.

<http://www2.arrl.org/htdig/bigindex.html> . Site Index for all amateurs, including non-members, for all American ham information including locations of hamfests, club info, callsign look-ups, VE test locations and dates, operating awards, etc. This is the TEXT ONLY url, so it downloads quickly since it has no banners, windows.

<http://home1.gte.net/kb7mmv/page2.html> . Lots of links, interesting statistics.

<http://www.qth.net> . Lists dozens of ham-related email mailing lists that can be joined for people with specialized interests in amateur radio, e.g. JOTA, old ham radio books.

<http://www.qrz.com/callbook.html> . Industry standard for QSL look-ups, but also has great links for other ham information. Easier to use than Buckmaster since it requires fewer clicks, no scrolling. Buckmaster has more DX listings, however.

<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/genmen/index.htm> . Index for all FCC links. Ever notice that there's no such thing as a short government Web site address?

If you have any trouble with accessing any of these sites, drop me a message. There may be still be a typo even though these have been proof-read.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP

Mike Leidy, KC2GGL is now firmly ensconced as a Freshman at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts. I'm sure he would appreciate a message from the Home Council. Email address is: michael_leidy@hotmail.com .

Dave Brush, KC2GGM just got on the air with an RCI-2950 (Ranger)10-meter 25 watt mobile rig, working CW and SSB on the Novice part of 10m. Looks like to accommodate his parents, he'll have to use the swimming pool as a ground-plane for an antenna. Should make for an exciting swim!

Rudy Ault, N2JZK sent out an interesting multiple-recipient email on 10 October. Seems that he got carried away with the first snow of the season and the youthful exuberance (known as the Peter Pan syndrome), common among amateur radio operators who are in Scouting, caused his message to have the subject, "Let It Snow, Let It Snow!" . We received about 3/4 inch of the white stuff here in Guilford and, I must agree with Rudi, it brought a leap into my heart. I couldn't wait to go outside and make the first snowball of the season to throw at my telephone pole. The downside to all this is that sooner or later, we're gonna have to shovel it.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

I've attached an updated version of the OCARG Roster. The format is JPEG which is a universally used application for opening images. So, virtually anyone with a computer and browser can open it. If for some reason, you can't, send me a message and I'll send it in some other format. Also, I'm trying to fill in the blanks; if there is a blank spot on your listing, let me know. Similarly, if there is an error or change or update, please let me know.

JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR (JOTA)

As of this writing, JOTA won't happen until this coming weekend, at least officially. Some of you who have been working HF may have noticed a few stations working JOTA, e.g. V01VZ out of Newfoundland. As a practical matter, not everyone can operate JOTA during the designated "Official" International JOTA weekend due to other commitments, so work it when they can. Scouting and ham radio are not restricted to a single weekend, so any time we can get youth on the air and introduced to ham radio can be considered a JOTA. There are few other avocations (and in many instances, vocations) like amateur radio which support and often require the twelve points of the Scout Law to be observed. Certainly, ham radio's emergency services exemplifies the best execution of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Again, JOTA weekend is 20-22 October 2000. Foothills District incorporates JOTA into its Fall Camporees and will have five stations operating at the Hancock Camporee Site on Anderson Flats. Deerslayer District doesn't have JOTA directly at its Camporee, but many operators choose to operate at their home stations. I hope everyone in OCARG spends a little time this weekend talking with Scouts from around the world.

For those who do participate in JOTA, please send me a brief report on your JOTA weekend, including numbers of Scouts who talked over radio and numbers who attended demonstrations. We'll forward this information to BSA National Headquarters in Texas and ARRL Education Division, both of which track this information.

A full report will be in next month's OCARG Bulletin.

And, don't forget the Girl Scouts! They're part of JOTA too!

USING A MACINTOSH?

I'm curious: is anyone else out there using a Macintosh computer besides Tom WAZEFE and myself?

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEWS!

As usual, if you have any information and/or news that you would like to share with the other OCARG Members, please feel free to pass it along.

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