



The Feedline

Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
November 2017



President's Message, by Scott Craig N2OPQ

As the weather keeps changing, we're reminded to prepare for the upcoming Winter. This could mean finishing up outdoor antenna work or it could be preparing for a contest. For me, it also reminds me of my first exposure to amateur radio and what I'm about to talk about fills in some gaps from my story I told in the February 2017 issue of The Feedline. I had a couple things that made me aware of amateur radio, but only one person who introduced it to me in person. Back in the late 1980's I was in 6th or 7th grade when I had my first home computer, a Commodore Vic-20. I saved up money from yard work to get the computer. Then I saved again to get a 300 baud "Vic-Modem". I first began to be a user of CompuServe, then I discovered free local dial-up bulletin board systems. One particular BBS was one specializing in Ham Radio, located in Poughkeepsie, NY as I lived not far from there. I cannot remember the name. I saw some things noted but I had no idea what they were talking about. Unfortunately I don't recall an FAQ or an Introduction to what ham radio was all about there. After a year or two, I would go to Radio Shack to purchase floppy disks (once I got the Commodore 128 and a dual-sided floppy disk drive) and I also recall seeing some things on the shelf about ham radio. Someone told me it was an expensive hobby so I avoided picking up any of the books to read about it. As time went on I got more involved in computers and even bought a used AT&T 7300 PC that ran Unix before Linux was ever thought of. I taught myself using books on how to use and program it. I made more friends through the cyber space of that time and after I turned 18, I was invited to join up with a friend to assist in his talk at Surveillance Expo in Washington, D.C. At the event, we ran into an old friend of his who was also really into computers, but little did I know (for an hour or so anyway) that he was a ham radio operator. This was around the Winter of 1989-1990. His callsign, November Four Space Cadet Yankee as he would say, N4SCY and his name is Robert Osband (he preferred we call him Ozzie). He had a Radio Shack Model 100 portable computer that had a couple LCD lines on it and fit into a backpack.

He also had an Icom 2AT HT or something similar. Very personable guy. As the four of us ended our day at the conference we wanted to go to a restaurant for dinner. We started walking around not finding anything obvious. We didn't have smart phones or google maps at that time. Ozzie took out his HT, found a repeater, joined into a conversation introducing himself with his callsign and that he was from out of town and was looking for suggestions to eat. They were very friendly and helpful to us. I was like "Wow! That's so cool!". Later he showed us how he could connect to amateur radio bulletin boards from far away using multiple AX.25 digipeaters and we were able to just be outside with his TRS-80 Model 100 and an HT and didn't have to incur any long distance charges, and it was legal. Again I was like "Wow! Where do I find out more". He told me to check out the Gordon West books commonly found at that time at Radio Shack to find out more about licensing and so I did. He showed me that getting started with ham radio didn't have to be expensive. I believe that studying for the technician license also taught me how to study, or at least things clicked at that point. I realized that I was doing it wrong in high school. As I did practice tests from the book I kept track of my progress (on paper). I drove a couple hours to take the exam. Not only did I pass but someone offered to sell me their older Icom 2AT HT. I don't recall the exact price I paid, but it wasn't much. I was able to take it home and listen while I waited for the mail to arrive with my FCC License and callsign. Just like that Vic-20 that I had purchased and then saw ads for getting online I wanted to get my PC on the air much like Ozzie did, so I saved up for an AX.25 packet modem. I discovered what some called a radio wormhole I could reach through digipeaters from my home QTH to NYC and then jump over to London. I believe it was this one: <http://www.rat.org.uk/lonny/>. Note the 30 Rock reference at NBC. I also got into TCP/IP over AX.25 and had an ampr.org address. Apparently there's still evidence out there: <http://qsl.net/pp5ats/host> (search for N2OPQ). Once connected into London I could see bulletin boards that were using 70 MHz. That was my first DX, long before I had an HF radio. Ozzie and I stayed in touch for a while.



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President's Message (continued)

He had a deep interest in the space program and amateur radio especially in the Phase3D amateur satellite. He volunteered to help out with that as he was in the area. He also worked at PacCom for a while which is where I got one of my packet modems from. Amateur radio also let me know about Civil Air Patrol as it was noted in the exams at the time. Within a year I got my technician plus, and volunteered to be the squadron communications officer for Civil Air Patrol. A couple years later, right before moving to Michigan, I passed my General exam. Another interesting note about Ozzie, he is the reason behind area code 321 as in the countdown for liftoff at NASA. You can read about it here:
<http://spaceideas.com/publicity/chronology.html> .
 Hopefully others can recall their moments leading up to their amateur radio involvement as fondly as I can. See you at our next meeting!

73 de Scott
 N2OPQ

 Editorial Comments by Joe Miller KJ8O

With the recent switchover back to standard time for the next four months (remember when daylight savings time lasted three months and standard time ran for nine months?) it was already dark outside when I left home for work tonight. The good news, if you are a fan of the Top Band (160 meters), Medium Wave Broadcast Band DXing, or listening to non-directional beacons (airport) which transmit between 198 and 520 kHz using slow speed CW, the next few months should be fun. I have been listening for NDB's for about the past 15 years and to date, have logged 285 beacons, some as far away 1,900 miles.

There are special interest e-mail reflectors as well as a website devoted to this activity. My guess is there about 200 such listeners in North America, and differences in listening posts are no doubt as varied as the many ham shacks in the area.

One listener in particular, whom I shall call Steve, lives on the west coast and has logged well over a thousand such beacons not only from North America but from many of the islands in the Pacific Ocean as well. His station set up includes two beverage antennas, one a north-south long wire, the other runs east-west. Beverage antennas were developed by Harold Beverage in 1921 and are used in the low and medium frequency radio bands. One end of this long wire is connected by coax to the receiver and the other is terminated through a resistor to a ground. Antenna pre-amps and audio filters are optional of course.

With the advent of two new ham bands, 630 meters (472 – 479 kHz) and 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz), there will be a lot of room for experimentation, not only for receiving signals, but more importantly, for transmitting as well.

While most of us in the metro Detroit area do not have the luxury of running 500 foot wire antennas, I think there will be some experimenting in the next few years, and as these two new bands catch on, undoubtedly new commercially available products will be on the market.

If anyone has tried this, please feel free to share your experiences with the rest of us. Most importantly, don't feel intimidated by these new bands. For listening, most ham radios will tune these frequencies (my Icom 718 & 7410 both tunes to 30 kHz) and many signal should be heard by using any amateur radio antenna. Good luck and happy DXing.

VY 73 de Joe KJ8O



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Siren Testing: None are scheduled until Saturday, March 3, 2018. Please stand by.

Upcoming OCARS Meetings

Tuesday, November 7, monthly meeting at 7:30,
Tuesday, December 5, monthly meeting at 7:30, annual elections
Tuesday, January 2, monthly meeting

Meeting location: Bethany Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford (between Cooley Lake & Commerce Rds.)
doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30

Social Gathering: Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant
S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford

Officers and Directors:	President:	Scott Craig N2OPQ	Directors:	Tim Pepper K8NWD
	Secretary:	Ken Stuter W8KRS		Al Bailey K8SIX
	Treasurer:	John Eldred N8FNN		Fred Holmes W1SKU
	Trustee:	Brad Nowak N8SNM		Jim Vigne KB8TXZ
	Editor:	Joe Miller KJ8O		

OCARS Net: 7:30 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,
Larry KB8POD and Chris KD4LJT are both alternate net control operators, and
welcomes participation from all area hams. The OCARS net is now accessible
through Echolink node W8JWB-R.

Net activity:	<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Net Control</u>	<u>Check ins:</u>
	Routine #40	10/02/2017	17 minutes	KD4LJT	not reported
	Routine #41	10/09/2017	14 minutes	KD4LJT	not reported
	Routine #42	10/16/2017	17 minutes	KD4LJT	not reported
	Routine #43	10/23/2017	36 minutes	KD4LJT	not reported
	Routine #44	10/30/2017	30 minutes	KD4LJT	12

Websites: www.gsl.net/w8tno maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ
<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/oakland-county-amateur-radio-society>
www.qrz.com/db/w8tno And on Facebook!!!

Contact information: w8tno.ocars@gmail.com or kj8o.ham@gmail.com (for an immediate response)

Great Lakes Division: <http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>

Michigan Section ARES: <http://ares-mi.org/>



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Upcoming Hamfests (all see flyers at end of this issue)

- Dec. 3 The L'Anse Creuse ARC club's 45th Annual Swap, Madison Heights
http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/swap_flyer_2017.pdf
- Jan. 28 HPARC Swap, Madison Heights <http://hparc.org/>
- Feb. 18 Livonia ARC's 47th Annual Swap & Shop
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 2 SKYWARN Recognition Day <https://www.skywarn.org/>

Contests and Emergency Exercises

- Nov. 18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB) www.arrl.org
- Nov. 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

Please see Page 93 of the November QST for a full listing of amateur radio contests.

Traders Net

No listed items this month. Please feel free to bring items to our monthly meeting.



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**OCARS Meeting Minutes 09-05-2017
Kenneth R. Stuter W8KRS Secretary**

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:30
Meeting called to order at 7:31 by Scot N2OPQ, president
We had 25 in attendance

Business Meeting:

Secretary's Report:

Prior meeting minutes accepted by Doug, N8VY
Seconded by Rick, KD8ZMX

Treasurer's report was given by John, N8FNN
Motion to accept by Ned, KD8FCB
Seconded by Al, K8SIX

Old Business:

Polo Shirts \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ

New Business:

Code class is starting Sept. 11 at the Orion Center on Joslyn Rd. Orion Twp. Cost is \$5.00. Time is 6:30 to 8:30. Straight keys were bought by the club.

Items were brought in by Tim, K8NWD to be given away for free.

Break: 7:40 to 8:07

Presentation:

Doug, N8VY talked about the upcoming GLHam Convention. He volunteered to be the club contact. He asked for volunteers to work the convention and sent around a sign up sheet. He also asked for a show of hands of members that are planning to attend. The GLHam convention is on 10-07 and 10-08 2017.

50/50 Raffle:

\$52, Chris, KD4LJT drew the winning ticket of \$26 and the winner was Tim, K8NWD.

Ned, KD8FCB motioned that the meeting be adjourned and was seconded by George WD8INW.
Meeting adjourned at 8:23.



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OCARS Meeting Minutes 10-3-2017 Kenneth R. Stuter W8KRS Secretary

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:30
Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Scot N2OPQ, president
We had ___ in attendance

Business Meeting:

Secretary's Report:

Prior meeting minutes accepted by Jim, KB8TXZ
Seconded by Ned, KD8FCB

Treasurer's report given by John, N8FNN
Motion to accept by Chris, KD4LJT
Seconded by Dan, KD8TXz

Old Business:

Polo Shirts \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ
Doug, N8VY updated information on the GLHam Convention

New Business:

Larry, KB8POD is looking for volunteers for siren tests
A discussion was brought up on a need for volunteers needed for presentations needed for
our meetings. Doug, N8VY for Nov. meeting
Chris, KD4LJT reported that the Clarkston repeater status is good

Break: 7:56 to 8:14

Presentation:

Greg, N8GAS did a presentation on Great Antenna Shootout

50/50 Raffle:

\$62, Chris, KD4LJT drew the winning ticket of \$31 and the winner was George, WD8INW

Meeting adjourned at 8:51