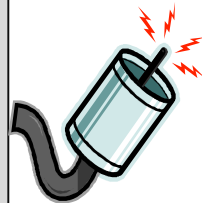




The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
February 2015



President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O

As I write this column, today is Groundhog Day, and can you believe Punxsutawney Phil actually saw his shadow today? According to tradition, this means there will be six more weeks of winter. A couple of years ago, I saw a program (probably on the History Channel) that explained the origins of this tradition. Many of the farmers living settling in western Pennsylvania were originally from Germany, and were very observant about weather conditions because they wanted to complete their planting as early as they possibly could each year. Low pressure systems would mean cloudy skies, and an early spring, while high pressure systems would bring in sunny skies, and usually meant six more weeks of winter. February 2 is the midpoint between the beginning of winter and the beginning of spring.

I like this day because I enjoy working the 80 meter band whenever I can, and I can't explain this, but for me, the band seems to improve some during the second half of winter. Of course, there are a lot of variables involved, but it's something I've noticed.

On another thought, I wanted to mention some interesting bits from our Monday night nets. During 2014, there were a total of 79 unique call signs checking in at least once during the year. Our biggest night was on September 16 (UTC) when 22 hams checked in. Our all time high-water mark was achieved in 2013, when there were 23 check-ins on two occasions.

While no one is expected to check into every single net for all 52 weeks, I wanted to specifically acknowledge 19 OCARS members or others who have checked in 17 times or more during the year:

K8NWD	Tim	KD8YTV	George
KB3QIY	Mike	KJ8O	Joe
KB8POD	Larry	N3BEL	Mike
KB8WGG	George	N8FNN	John
KD4LJT	Christopher	N8GMP	Lyle (SK)
KD8EEY	Edward	N8VY	Doug
KD8EWG	Gary	W8KRS	Ken
KD8NYB	Chuck	W8VIJ	Greg
KD8TXZ	Dan	WD8INW	
KD8VIV	John		

While these nets will never substitute our monthly meetings, a lot of up-to-date information gets passed along, and I believe by conducting this net every week, that some have actually joined our club as a result.

Something that I did last year, and not sure if it was ever mentioned or not. OCARS Monday Night is now listed on the ARRL website under two meter local nets, and will also be included in their next annual publication. Something that is not being done, and will be one of my goals for 2015 will be to send monthly net activity reports to the State Emergency Coordinator.

In closing, the K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island begins today, and I hope that our members will make many contacts.

Greg W8VIJ recommended an article for this month's newsletter, and is included. Thanks Greg.

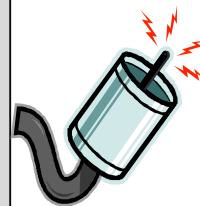
Hope to see you tomorrow night.

Thanks again.

73 de Joe, KJ8O, OCARS President



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Siren Testing:

See you in March 2015, please stay tuned

OCARS Meetings

Tuesday, February 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, do-it-yourself project night

Tuesday, March 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, N1MM and N3FJP contest software

Tuesday, April 7, monthly meeting at 7:30, tentatively a video from the FT5ZM DXpedition

Tuesday, May 5, monthly meeting at 7:30, tentatively Russ W8UZZ will bring his mobile Jeep

Meeting location:

Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford
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:	Joe Miller KJ8O	Directors:	Tim Pepper K8NWD
Secretary:	Scott Craig N2OPQ		Al Bailey K8SIX
Treasurer:	John Eldred N8FNN		Fred Holmes W1SKU
Trustee:	Brad Nowak N8SNM		Jim Vigne KB8TXZ

OCARS Net:

8:00 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,
Joe KJ8O is net control and welcomes participation from all area hams.

Checkins:

Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins:

January 6,	<u>19</u>	January 20,	<u>20</u>
January 13,	<u>21</u>	January 27,	<u>18</u>

Website:

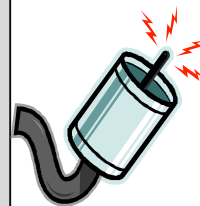
www.qsl.net/w8tno maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ

Contact information:

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



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Upcoming Hamfests

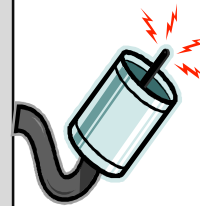
- Feb 7, 2015 Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association (HARA) Swap, Negaunee
<http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/>
- Feb 14, 2015 Cherryland Amateur Radio Club, Traverse City
http://cherrylandarc.com/?page_id=56
- Feb 15, 2015 Livonia ARC, Livonia
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>
- Mar 14, 2015 Crossroads Hamfest (new location in Kalamazoo)
<http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>
- March 15, 2015 Toledo Mobile Radio Association
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org/hamfest.php>

Upcoming Contests

- February 21-22 ARRL International DX – CW
- March 7-8 ARRL International DX – SSB
- April 18-19 Michigan QSO Party



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OCARS Meeting Minutes for January 06, 2015
Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:30pm

Meeting called to order at 7:36pm by Joe Miller KJ8O, President.

Presentation by Jerry Begel W9NPI, A History of Telegraphy – Postwar Adaptations

Jerry's slide show was third in a series he put together on the history of telegraphy. Some of the topics he covered were "The Red Menace", Sideband Wars, Surplus Equipment (30's style), and High Technology. He also explained why we have some bands that SSB uses the upper sideband and other bands we use the lower sideband. The club appreciates Jerry's presentation. Presentation was from 7:40pm to 8:20pm.

There was a coffee break after Jerry's presentation from 8:20pm until 8:45pm, then we held the business meeting.

Business Meeting

Full Feedline to be sent out 1/7, minutes from the December meeting was moved by Greg Siemasz W8VIJ, Tim Pepper K8NWD seconded. Motion carried, no one objected.

The Treasurer's report was given by John N8FNN. Ken Stuter W8KRS moved. Dan Truhn KD8TXZ seconded. Treasurer's report was accepted.

KB3QIY discussed DIY workshop. Chance for elmers to help others. Joe asked members to please bring some ideas to a future meeting.

KD8EWG won the 50/50. He gave his winnings back to the club.

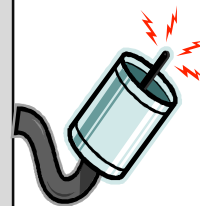
Sam brought up a discussion about grounding antennas on a house and whether you're liable if lightning strikes antenna and causes damage.

Brad brought up some DX news that KP1, Navassa Island Operation, is coming up early February for the first two weeks of February. See the website, <http://navassadx.com/>, for more information.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30



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"No Lids, No Kids, No Space Cadets"

by Jim Pickett – K5LAD

Perhaps you, like me, said in your younger days, "I'm never going to be like my parents when I get old. I'm going to be aware enough to know not to do or say THAT." Still, as you approach the age of your parents when you made such a statement as a youth, you find yourself acting and saying the same things you castigated them for saying or doing.

This example carries forward to hobbies and probably even more so in amateur radio. Beginners to the hobby often look to veteran or "old timer" hams for their examples of correct operating procedures and terminology. Learning to be a ham is a lifelong learning experience.

Having been a licensed and active ham for more than a half century I often think about the things I see and hear on the air and contrast that to "the good ole' days." I think I have become more and more, just an old curmudgeon as I tear more and more pages from the calendar. Perhaps I'm just frequently and sadly reminded of the days when hams policed their own ranks and they understood that youngsters might, and often were, listening on their parents' radios, so they should guard their language. I believe, in those days, I saw ham operators who possessed large individual quantities of good old common sense..... what we use to call "good ole' horse sense." So many ham radio operators these days are unarguably smarter than those from earlier times but I would challenge anyone to prove that they are wiser.

I sat down recently to write down a few of the somewhat irritating things I hear on the ham bands these days. I made a short list of what might be called, '**My Pet Peeves**' in reference to my ham radio activities these days. Perhaps it is only the yammerings of an old curmudgeon, but I like to think that since I've reached the Biblical number of "three score and ten" with so many years in the hobby, I've earned that title so I wear it proudly.

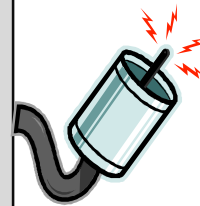
One of my peeves is the incorrect usage of the ham term, "73" which means 'best regards.' So many amateurs add an extra letter 's' to make it "73s" which would be defined as you saying "best regard-zas" and not what they really meant to say. I even see some hams writing it out in emails as "73's" with the apostrophe s ['s] changing the meaning to 'what I've written here belongs to the best regards.' I don't think that's what they really meant at all. Often it is said that "simplest is best" and that rings true for a simple "73" which, again, means 'best regards.' Also, I've heard the QSO closing comment, "Seventy-thirds to you." That's actually wishing only a 1.36986% of a best regard wish to the station to which they're signing. I can't feel like that's much of a part of a best regard. That comment seems to have migrated from the area just to the left of the 10 meter band and, in my opinion, should return to that place.

Another of my peeves is the operator in a contest who would tell you that they are trying to work as many stations as possible to achieve a higher score. They increase the speed of their talking at the expense of clarity and in doing so, they become more difficult to understand. All the characters of their call or the numbers of the serial number of their report are spoken together, almost as if it were a single word. Oft times I hear these people being re-asked their call or the report, sometime even several times. In truth, they have taken longer to achieve that one contact than if they had spoken clearly at a normal rate.

Moving on through the 'Peeve List' there is the operator who makes a specific call so as to deliberately exclude so many others. By this, I don't mean to make a directed CQ call but to be downright mean in their exclusion. I have no problem with the amateur who calls for specific areas such as "CQ Nebraska for WAS" or "CQ Russians for the Russian DX Contest." I do get a bit upset at the station who calls, "CQ JA or Japan and all the rest of you, don't call me because I will not answer." Hey wait, would someone be so idiotic and mean as to make a call like that? Alas, yes I've heard



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just such calls. Back in the late 50s and early 60s there was a ham, I believe from the second call area, who would always issue the following call, "**CQ CQ CQ This is W2OY W2OY No lids, no kids, no space cadets.**" I'd call that fairly exclusionary. By the way, newer hams may be unfamiliar with the ham term 'lid' which means a poor operator.

By the way, if you'd like to read more about W2OY as mentioned above, see <http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=66730.0> or just do a Google search on "No lids, no kids, no space cadets." He was an interesting character indeed. Some Internet references to him also mention other additions to this particular calling statement but the "No lids, no kids, no space cadets" was only the way I remember hearing him as a youth.

One of the newer additions to my 'Pet Peeve List' is a carry-over from the CB era. There were many CB terms that were spawned (and should stay) locked within the realms of 27 MHz. Terms such as: "Ya got your ears on?," "Wall-to-wall and treetop tall," and "Come on back good buddy." Fortunately these seemed to stay back in their original birthplace but one CB term escaped to some ham frequencies, probably transported by those who 'saw the light' and upgraded from CB to amateur radio. That term is 'personal' as in "What's your personal?" or "The personal here is Ignatius," etc. The actual term is 'name.' It's shorter and easier to say (only one syllable rather than three) and it's the correct ham term to use. Using 'personal,' to actually mean name, is NOT a ham term and should not be used on the ham bands. I've even heard newer hams with higher-class licenses incorrectly use this term. It's totally CBish. When I hear a ham use the term 'personal' to mean name I know, at once, that they started their radio career on the CB bands and never got weaned completely away from the idiotic terms often used by that group. Call me an old fogey or curmudgeon if you like but I prefer to think the CB terminology should have been left behind when an individual upgraded to ham status. Sort of like saying, 'a higher-class terminology for a higher-class radio operation.'

Another minor entry on my list is the ham who seeks to make contact with a foreign ham station and calls, "CW Dog Xray." This is not so much an irritation as it is an event to make me chuckle. Phonetics are used to clarify a word or letter so the receiving station can be sure they heard correctly. If a word, term, or letter is obvious then there should be no need to use a phonetic. Who would mistake the call of 'CQ DX' as anything but what it sounds like? If you were somehow able to line up all the hams in the world and make sure they all understood the language of the question, how many of those hams would say, "I heard you calling 'CQ DX' but I didn't understanding what message you were trying to convey." To carry that a bit further, why not key your transmitter and say, "Charlie Queen, Charlie Queen, Charlie Queen?" Some things don't need to be 'phoneticized.' (Hang on; let me write that down..... I think I just invented a new word)

These have been the ramblings and musings of an old man, an old codger, if you will. I did, however, confess to that at the beginning of the article so it should have come as no surprise to you. When you have reached a ripe old age with multiple decades in the ham radio hobby, perhaps you too will look back and see, or even share, all the changes you have seen and wish would not have happened.

If, however, you are offended or irritated at the things I have listed here, come back on April first and re-read the article and look at it in an entirely different light. I'm now going to take my medications and return to my cave.