

OUARC meeting
05 Oct 2006

Reminders

1. Dues (\$15/year) are still due to Jud Ahern's office in the Geology department, located in Sarkeys Energy Center. Make checks payable to "OU Amateur Radio Club".
2. Remember to think like Mr. Rogers when doing anything in or near the Cross Center. See "Other business" below for more information on neighborliness.
3. Committee members: please remember to email the OUARC list when stuff gets done or when seeking feedback from other club members. This helps keep everyone up to date.
4. For those who are interested in attending a SCARS club meeting, the next one is on October 14.
5. Open house/weather festival is November 4 at the NWC.
6. Questions? Comments? Nasty remarks? Send email to ouarc@ou.edu and Jud Ahern will forward it to the right person.

Quote of the meeting:

"What makes you qualified to be the Skywarn coordinator?" "I volunteered." --Jeff Wyke

Minutes

In attendance: Robin T., Chris P., Keith B., Matthew M., Zac F., Somer E., Chip L., Jeff S., Pam W., Sarah B., Gerard J., Laura K., Dave G., Jeff W. (guest speaker) and anyone else who didn't sign in.

1. Antenna raising day report

- Cleaned the shack and tested equipment. Currently in the process of ascertaining which items to keep and which to sell as antiques.
- Raised a dipole antenna (donated by Chip).
- Jud is looking into a 12 V power supply for the 2m rig as well as an interface to the dipole antenna. Until the interface is procured, we won't know if the dipole antenna works.
- Jeff Wyke has a 12 V power supply in his garage (probably from SCARS) and will check to find out if it can be loaned to OUARC.
- Chip has since spoken with K9KK, who originally donated the repeater that is sitting in the shack. It's a 440 repeater and it was functional at the time of donation. Chip has his email and is contacting him to find out more, since he is probably the only one who knows how to hook it up. K9KK is also very excited about getting the club involved with ATV, for which Gerard will donate a pair of rabbit ears.

2. Committee reports

- Website committee: Traded emails. Currently scheduling a time to meet to discuss the website.
- Skywarn committee: Met with assistant vice president, who said that we should figure out how the club wants to fit into the university plan. Basically, we will probably spot for them. Robin, Chip, and Chris are meeting with her again next week.

- Repeater committee: Mike is aware of the problem (cell towers are interfering with the receiver). It is not known when it will be fixed. Currently pushing to find an alternate site because right now the club effectively has no repeater.

3. Other business

- Some of the employees who work on the first floor of the Cross Center were unfamiliar with OUARC. Specifically, they did not recognize club members and were understandably concerned about the open door on antenna day. Robin has spoken with them and provided them with her email address to prevent another unpleasant email from the landlord. **ALL MEMBERS should take note of the following:**
 - **Enter through the CESL door (on the other end of the building) during normal business hours.**
 - **Don't use the 1st floor bathrooms.**
 - **Be cordial, be patient, and be nice to the people who work here.**
- Possible future club visit: the radio station in the Norman forecast office (Kevin Sharpenberg (sp?))
- Possible future club visit: meet at the EOC next month? (Dave and Robin will look into this)

4. Guest speaker: Jeff Wyke (KT5OK), Skywarn coordinator, talked about Skywarn in Norman and Moore.

- For more information, go to www.w5nor.org and click the Skywarn logo.
- One does not have to be a meteorologist to become involved with Skywarn. Basic knowledge and training is provided at spotter workshops, which are held in early spring.
- Ways to become involved:
 - Training check-ins on Tuesday evenings (ARES net)
 - If a local calamity occurs (including severe weather), turn on the radio and be available.
- Skywarn isn't storm chasing. Skywarn is for people who are willing to put aside their egos and take a spotting assignment.
- Advice about 145.410, which is listed as a "listen only" repeater
 - If the weather net has been activated, there is a special announcement that the repeater is reserved.
 - During periods of severe weather, call in any reports to the net. The net controller will aggregate reports and pass them along to the NWS. Call in reports to 146.82 (146.88 backup) in the OKC area.
 - NWS takes reports from the linked system (see handouts).
 - Discretion is key. If the net is not activated but there is isolated severe weather that no one is expecting, one can certainly report it on 145.410 if there are no phones available.
 - The point is that if you run across something that is a concern or needs attention, report it any way you can.
- GPS is helpful. If reporting GPS coordinates, only provide up through the first 2 decimal places.
- APRS is considered to be a toy and a gadget right now. No one has gotten very

serious about it because the NWS isn't serious about it. Part of it is expense.

- Often, Jeff and others are monitoring the weather but will not have activated the net. This is because there is a commitment to not falsely alert or worry anyone by activating the net unless it is necessary. When the time is right, they will activate the net.
- Note that "911 is still a real good number". If you have something to report, don't hesitate to use 911, especially if it is your only resource. Be sure to mention that you are a trained severe weather spotter if you are one.
- Norman EOC number: 292-7008. Calling and getting the answering machine is generally a good thing since it means no one is there because there is no emergency. Call this number first. Don't call the weather service directly.
- When the EOC is functioning, this email address is being watched: normaneoc@normanok.gov. Don't email Dave or Jeff directly-- sent it here so someone can attend to it!