

OUARC meeting
02 Nov 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". The hall of fame and shame is at: http://ouarc.ou.edu/Members/no_list.htm
2. Next SCARS meeting: 11 Nov 2006. Next SCARS party is at the Golden Corral on 13 Nov 2006.
3. No on-air meeting this month due to Thanksgiving.
4. Next OUARC meeting will be on 7 Dec 2006 at a restaurant. Robin will send an email with more information.
5. Please remember that good on-air etiquette makes a good impression for OUARC.
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:

"You talking about OKC Health Sciences? Ain't my problem." --Dave Grizzle

Minutes

Meeting was held at the Norman EOC. In attendance: Robin T., Laura K., Matthew M., Kevin H., Zac F., Geoff A., Chris P., Chad P., Jason B., Chad K., Keith B., Dave G., Mike S., and anyone else who didn't sign in.

1. Old business

- Weatherfest on 4 Nov 2006 at the new National Weather Center.
- The PREP conference focused on emergency management for people with disabilities.
- Decision on a 12 V power supply from Jeff Wyke via SCARS has been deferred. If that falls through, Laura K. has previously modified ATX computer power supplies to power 12 V devices and is willing to modify one for OUARC if one can be obtained.

2. Committee reports

- Website committee: Meeting after the Severe Local Storms conference is over.
- Skywarn committee: Currently amending the OU hazardous weather plan. Currently obtaining information from housing about what they do in severe weather. Waiting to hear from vice president Leslie. The committee will meet to discuss a proposal prior to proposing it. Dave made the point that we have authorization to operate from Boren's office and now we need to decide how we are going to do it. We need to find the earlier document about notifying RAs and sports groups before the current proposal can go ahead. Chris Pape is looking into this. We also don't want to act like we know more about it than they do. Going back to the documents in place will tell us what they're willing to do because those are the documents they signed. Dave suggested a fact-gathering trip: "Hi, I'm your local Skywarn pal, tell me what goes on in a tornado."

- Repeater committee: Mike Salem was present at the meeting and spoke in detail about the repeater on the Physical Sciences building. The repeater is not working well because of interference from other devices on the roof. He thinks that the first step to mitigate that interference is to apply ferrite clamshell filters to the cables, but he will not muck with anyone else's equipment unless they are present. He will contact Fagin in EE to arrange to go up on the roof. Mike also noted that VHF is traditionally used for people who are passing through, and believes that IRLP on VHF would not be a good idea. He suggested experimenting with putting up a secondary system on UHF for IRLP. As for restoring the autopatch, OUARC should explore what it costs to get a phone line on campus, noting that UOSA funds can be used for that purpose. Mike also noted that we all need to be careful about raising a ruckus about the interference issue (FCC, University, etc.) to avoid losing that prime real estate on the roof. Dave G. had several good suggestions about how to approach this issue in light of the Storm Ready program. The point was also raised that what we are requesting (snap on filters) is reasonable and won't affect the operation of those other devices at all. It was mentioned that a repeater work day might be in the club's future to install all 70-80 of those filters. Matt and Mike will chat over email about what needs to be done.

3. Other business

- To honor our faculty advisor, who stepped up when no one else would, we will participate in one of the leadership office programs and get a wreath and decorate it in her honor. It will hang somewhere on campus for an extended period of time and also provide good publicity for the club.
- Robin will look into Don Graham's next set of classes for aspiring hams.
- The Central VHF Society's secretary, W5NZS, joined us tonight. They're trying to put up a 10 GHz system. Anyone that wants to learn about VHF should talk to him since he is interested in anything from 50 MHz to 10 GHz. He will likely give a presentation to the club in addition to donating some radios. He noted that a past incarnation of the club showed up for a VHF event one time and that their presence was very welcome. Contact him at W5NZS@aol.com.
- Redesigning QSL cards. Jason will talk to Jud about this before he starts redesigning. Mike noted that there is a printer in town who is a ham.
- A possible future club event is the ARRL school roundup. If we can get a HF station up and running, we can participate as OU next year.
- In general, for those who are interacting with official-type people, remember that you are a representative of the entire club. Strive for professionalism. Keep snarky comments to yourself when you are talking to someone at that level. Also remember to practice good radio etiquette. Apparently, we are being looked at by a lot of people (~500 licensed hams in Cleveland County), and poor etiquette (such as using 10-codes on a repeater) is not the kind of attention we want.

4. Guest speaker: David Grizzle (KD5ZLG), Norman's emergency management coordinator.

- He looks at how Norman should react and writes it down.
- There are many state-supported social facilities in Norman. Part of his job is to plan for them in case of emergencies.
- A big part of his job is networking, bridge building (and repairing), and community events. His background is in military communications.
- Advice about getting OU to listen to OUARC: Understand what we're trying to accomplish when we go out and start talking to people. Take the attitude of "We're here to help". If we can tie our requests to things that are already in place, the requests are more likely to be successful. Work smart.
- There will be a mass immunization exercise on November 14. There is a need for ham communications. To participate in this, on November 13 from 3-5p, volunteers should be at the site at which they want to assist the next day. The purpose of this meeting is for volunteers to get their assignments and a shot if they want one. The nearest site is the Cleveland County fairgrounds.
- Skywarn training season is approaching. Galen and Dave require attendance at one of their special training sessions in order to operate in their jurisdictions. Dates will be announced.