

OUARC meeting minutes
01 Feb 2007

Reminders:

1. The Rice Krispies treats were very tasty. Whoever brought them to the meeting can claim his or her glass baking dish from the club secretary in NWC 4610, where it is currently making an excellent paperweight.
2. Congratulations to our new faculty adviser, Dr. Kim Elmore! Thanks again to Dr. Pam Wilson for serving as the club's faculty adviser earlier in the academic year.
3. Next SCARS meeting: Saturday, 10 Feb 2007 at 9:30a in the City Hall multipurpose room.
4. Next club on-air meeting: Thursday, 15 Feb 2007.
5. Next club meeting: Thursday, 01 Mar 2007.
6. Severe weather operations training: Wednesday, 21 Feb 2007 at 6:30p in NWC (1313?)
7. Free storm spotter training: Saturday, 3 Mar 2007 from 1-4:30p (pre-register online at <http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2007/>)
8. SCARS amateur radio testing on Thursday, 8 Feb 2007. Paper-only upgrades on Friday, 23 Feb 2007. Register online at <http://www.w5nor.org>
9. Petty cash is now being handled by Somer. See Somer for small club reimbursements.

Meeting was held at Dr. Wilson and Dr. Elmore's house. In attendance: Kim E., Pam W., Theresa, Alex, Robin T., Jeff S., Somer E., Laura K., Matt M., Gerard J., Chris P., David G., Jason, Larry, and possibly a few others.

Quote of the meeting (2-way tie):

Stealth antenna advice from JS: "Get one of those big blow-up Santas and stick [an antenna in it]"

"They wanted to show off their blingin' shack" --RT

Old business:

- Campus radio check will happen in the near future. Any club members that want to assist with the radio check should send an email to Matt (ou.edu@ou.edu) with their class/work schedule.
- Jeff has finished adding entries (lat/lon, responsible party, comments, frequency, etc.) to Keith's new database for spotter frequencies (will soon replace the existing inefficient text file). The final step is to write a retrieval script.
- Storm spotter training on March 3rd.
 - This is distinct from the internal severe weather operations training on February 21st. This is actual storm spotter training. It is free and open to the public as part of the National Severe Weather Workshop that runs from Thursday through Saturday, but there is a fee to attend the whole workshop. See <http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2007/> for more information or to register.

Committee reports:

- StormReady/Skywarn
 - Successful housing meeting. Housing is very well prepared. They have a nearly

automatic warning system in place. They are completely willing to having the club come in and do radio checks. They can also activate the 3 on-campus tornado sirens independently of David Grizzle. They have a system where voice warnings can be played on every floor. They have a brochure that discusses their system and includes information for special needs groups such as foreign exchange students and students with disabilities.

- Gerard notes that a near-PhD graduate student in the communications department is interested in doing something to strengthen ties with the NWC. Gerard will invite him to talk at the next club meeting.
- Putting a graphic in the campus newspaper will be difficult because the decision to include it has to be made by 11p but the SPC outlook comes out at 1a. The graphics people at the campus paper might create the graphic. It is necessary to put procedures in place so that a designated person who knows about weather (OUARC member, random NWC person who will be around for a long time, or SPC employee) can contact the printing office as needed to get the graphic put in that edition. Gerard will work to establish contact between the OU Daily and someone in the weather center who can serve as the contact person. Gerard will get it started but it will have to be handed down to someone else after this semester is over.
- There is a need for identifiable and acceptable credentials for the people who will be participating in StormReady activities. The IDs are currently being designed. Any club member who will be participating in StormReady activities should email a photo to Matt (ou.edu@ou.edu) along with any qualifications they want listed on an ID. Once the wording has been approved, there are local facilities and machines for printing, although the funding is still being negotiated.
- Website committee
 - Trying to find hosting for the website that isn't Jud's computer and isn't a commercial site. Jeff has emailed OU IT with specific questions about PHP support but has not yet heard back from them.
 - OU club web space may be limited to 20 MB, but we can always scatter photos among the club members' individual university web spaces, so this should not be a problem.
 - Jeff and Laura have individually created design templates and should get together and discuss it.
- Repeater committee
 - Most recent word is that Mike has purchased ferrite clamps.

New business

- Severe weather operations training on February 21st.
 - This is distinct from the storm spotter training that will be offered on March 3rd. The severe weather operations training will focus on bringing relevant groups together to learn about internal severe weather operations for Cleveland County. It will not be publicly advertised, although anyone can attend.
 - Many of the people who attend may be affiliated with OU but not know that there is an OU amateur radio club. It would be useful to have a club presence there to show that we exist and recruit anyone who is interested.

- Chris will tell Lezlie about this training.
- CERT (Citizens' Emergency Response Team) training. Dave G. is putting together a formal volunteer program. He will be accepting a trailer and equipment and then putting the program together. The first attempt will be to capitalize on the stretcher teams and get the program going in time for the next football season. It was suggested that the resident assistants go through this training once it is written.
 - Incident command training. Anyone who winds up in a federal government post will have to do this eventually. Go to the FEMA website and look for ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800.
- Marilyn Woodruff (past OUARC president) would like to survey people who have been in charge during disasters. Robin will ask Marilyn to email the specifics to the list.
- Hamfests. Club shopping list: durable HTs. It would be useful for the club to own a few HTs to loan out to people who are licensed but don't have radios. It would also be useful emergency situations.
- Shack space in Sarkeys Energy Center. Robin will email the dean of the College of Earth and Energy to find out about the old OWL space in the old maproom. It would be harder to find space in NWC than SEC because there is already a rig in place on the roof. A person to approach in the NWC is Gary Skaggs. Finding good antenna space is the most important thing right now. We have an antenna but nowhere to deploy it.
- Robin will draft an amendment to the club constitution to cover switching faculty advisers.
- The club is eligible for UOSA funds for next year, but the budget has to be in by February 15 of this year. Example uses of funds include equipment to be handed down from year to year, funds to host events, limited travel funds (to Hamfests, for example). Anyone with ideas about events or activities for which the club can request funds should email those ideas to Robin T. (rtanamachi@ou.edu) or Somer E. (tornadosomer@ou.edu) immediately.
- The contents of the shack need to be inventoried. We need a complete list of what we have so we know what we should look for at Hamfests and what we might be able to sell as antiques to collectors. Useful information for each item would be its status (“works”, “doesn't work but can be fixed with a simple part or tool”, “doesn't work and needs a lot more than a screwdriver”, “useful source of scrap parts”) and a recommendation about whether to keep it or sell it as an antique. It would be extremely useful to have a very experienced person (someone who knows about old radio equipment) participate in the inventory.
- Robin will email Jud to find out how much money the club has on hand.
- Dave G. will be cleaning up the tornado sirens and many club members are eager to assist.
- The OU Red Cross chapter is being resurrected and could use some assistance. Anyone who is interested should contact Dave G. to find out more.
- Sources of batteries include Dave G. when he replaces the batteries in tornado sirens and batteries from cell towers (replaced on a regular basis).