WATTS NEWS

The Best of Amateur Radio

OARC e-Magazine

www.OgdenArc.org

Monthly Since 2004

Next Club Meeting/Activity/Events

Look Inside

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OARC e-Magazine

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AUGUST 2026

OARC Notice

OARC WATTS NEWS

NEW

NEWS LETTER EDITOR

Welcome

John Anderson

NJ6A

OARC Message from our Leaders

Craig's Corner - A Message from our President

By Craig Howe W0VRM

Hello ham family,

July 11th we held our annual Fox Hunt. It started a bit slow and picked up steam. John Metcalf K7RF was the first to arrive at the park and also to find the fox, although Justin Hall KB7LAK was a close second.

This year's hunt was a bit more challenging. In past years, the transmitter was in a location that reflected mightily off the mountains making it easy to hear and almost impossible to find.

This year it was placed where there was much less reflection. Once you were close, it became much easier to find.

All who arrived at the park were eventually able to discover its location.

On a personal note, this is my last newsletter article as president of the Ogden Amateur Radio Club. Change is coming for me as well as for the club. It has been a treasured responsibility to represent the club in so many ways and locations. This club has a great history, amazing operator members, and we have helped many over these years to receive their licenses.

I appreciate so many who regularly step up, serve, advise, and help each other. It is the membership of this club that makes it great!

I will continue to serve the radio community in several different ways, including teaching classes (next tech class this September at Weber State), assisting with exam sessions, and a greater involvement with ARES. I'm always open to receive guests, program radios, and answer questions you may have.

My wish for each of you is to enjoy your interest with radio. Learn and practice enough to assist with events and especially to help our neighbors in difficult times, should they come.

Our neighbors often look to ham operators as someone to turn to in the event of trouble. Invite them to join and be part of the solution 😊

In August we will have our annual steak fry and elections. Remember that our memberships go from August to July each year so renew early and get a free steak !! We will also have several hundred dollars worth of gift card drawings for current members.

Please contact Colleen Pike with suggestions for officers or if you desire to service as a club officer. All positions are open as each officer serves a one year term.

Know that this is not goodbye. I look forward to learning who will be a part of our new club leadership and assisting them.

73,
Craig W0VRM
Craigshowe@gmail.com
(801) 390-3958

OARC Message from our Leaders

John's Corner - A Message from your WATTS NEWS Editor

By John Anderson NJ6A

To our readers:

Many of us have greatly enjoyed our participation in club activities within the last year and for me (new to the Ogden area and to the club) I especially enjoyed operating at Field Day in June and searching for the bunny last month.

I don't drive anymore so I needed to obtain a driver in order to participate. I asked three of my friends to drive me but only Justin was able to clear his schedule for Saturday's activity. We started at 8:00 am at my Harrisville location (just north of Ogden), where we could not hear the hidden transmitter. We drove south, stopping occasionally to listen for the signal outside of the vehicle. One hour later we were very much south and very close to the county border and we still had not heard the hidden transmitter. Then at 9:00 am as promised, a hint was given over the club repeater. Gratefully, the hint was very well understood by Justin and he drove us north and west to a spot where we could hear the weak tones (and ID?) of the bunny. Being uncertain as to signal direction, Justin used google maps to locate two nearby parks. We traveled to both and found the very strongest signal at the park of our second choice. At this park we observed many club members, some having breakfast but all claiming to have found the bunny! Justin and I determined to finish up our adventure by locating this hidden transmitter. At this point the bunny's signal was so strong that it was not possible to find direction, So I removed the antenna from the transceiver making it possible to determine signal strength and this helped to indicate bunny direction, determining direction again three times as we walked for maybe three hundred feet gave us success.

The WATTS NEWS will no longer include a section called O'Bay Swap Items. More detailed and up to date information remains available to all on the OARC web site at the O'Bay Swap Tab.

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OARC Next Club Event

OARC Previous Club Event

"T"-Hunt followed by Breakfast in the Park by John Metcalf

OARC Member Contributions

Advertising Post Card

By Kent Gardner WA7AHY

By Rick Hansen N7EGA

By Dave Sanders K7RGY

Old Cartoon

OARC Remember When 5/10 Years Ago

OARC Nets & Meets

73,
John NJ6A
JohnAndersonCPA@gmail.com
(928) 531-6773

OARC Next Club Event

AUGUST 2026

Steak Fry, Officers Elections (Membership Renewal)

Location: Marriott Park 1045 S 1200 W, Ogden, UT 84404

Date: 3rd Saturday, 19 August 2026

Time: 5:00 pm

Note: Please bring side dish to share. Also, bring your own dinner-ware (emergency paper-ware provided).

- **Steak Fry (Free steaks for all paid up members);**
- **Free hot dogs for the kids of all ages**

- **Club Officers Election; (Nominations welcomed)**

GRAND DOOR PRIZE(S) TOTAL: $500

NOTE: [Must be present to win. Paid-up members only]

- **NOTE: PLEASE JOIN/RENEW online prior to this meeting/activity**

- **Membership Renewal ($15); Associate Membership ($10);**

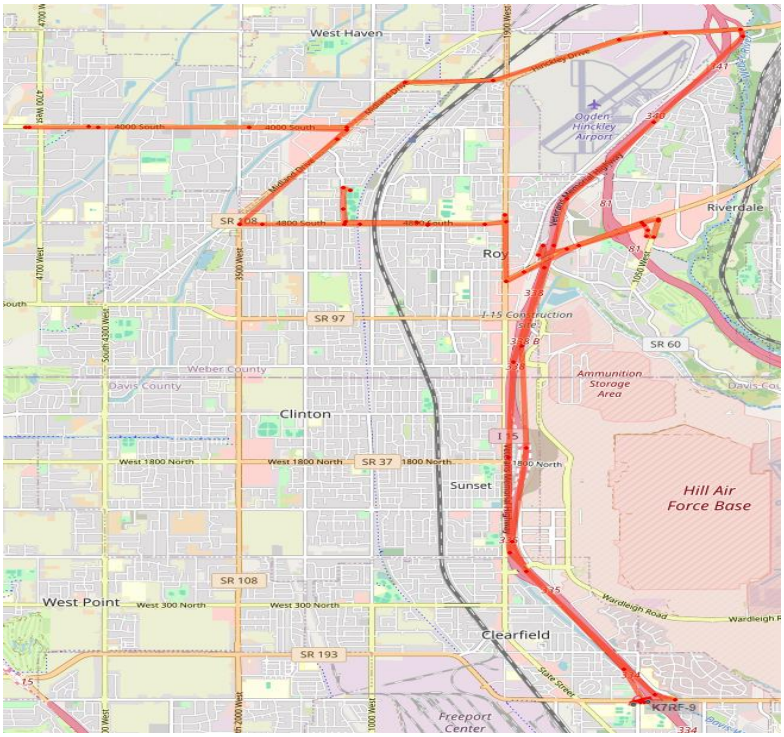
OARC Previous Club Event

JULY 11, 2026

"T"-Hunt followed by Breakfast in the Park

By John Metcalf K7RF 1st Place Winner

I started at 8:01 AM from my home in Clearfield and immediately got onto I-15 northbound in my vehicle with a mobile radio and hood mount antenna. As soon as I was on the interstate I turned the squelch full off and could faintly hear the beacon coming through the Kenwood D710's external speaker, by the time I got near the Aerospace Museum the beacon was really clear. I drove all the way to 30th in Ogden and headed towards West Haven, noticing the beacon signal strength increasing. As I drove further west the signal began to diminish so I pulled over and got a heading using a handheld radio and a directional yagi antenna that suggested East and a little South. I happened to drive to the train tracks immediately East of the park where I got another heading with the handheld and directional antenna that suggested West. I drove down the hill and noticed the park and pulled in at 8:53 AM planning to get another heading check, but I saw Craig's van and knew that this was the spot. While in the park I used my handheld and short whip antenna and no antenna with the body shielding technique. After about 15 minutes of walking around (past the transmitter at least once) I connected the directional yagi antenna and repeated the exercise, but this time tuned really far off frequency such that I couldn't hear the beacon anymore but could still see the handheld RF signal meter pegging but only when I rotated the antenna perpendicular to the ground and pointed directly at the transmitter. There was enough RF energy off in the side band for that directional antenna to be able to pin-point the location. At 9:12 AM I was literally standing right next to the transmitter when I finally looked up from the radio and saw it at my feet. I was very lucky, learned a lot, and will certainly forget most of it by next year except for the part about this being one of the most fun OARC events all year. It is so fun to see everyone with smiles and radios, and really interesting homebrew antennas, wandering purposefully around the park. I also really enjoy hearing about everyone's individual starting points and journey to find the park.


West Haven
Ogden Hinckley Airport
Riverdale
Roy
SR 108
4800 South
SR 97
I-15 Construction
SR 60
Ammunition Storage Area
Weber County
Davis County
Clinton
West 1800 North
SR 37
1800 North
Sunset
Hill Air Force Base
SR 108
West Point
West 300 North
Clearfield
Wardleigh Road
SR 193
State Street
Freeport Center
K7RF-9

The bunny.


ASK

OARC Member Contributions

By John Anderson NJ6A

The above advertising post card was received by your editor this July. OARC and I are not paid for this add and have no relation to the named advertiser. I do find the information presented timely and of general Ham Radio interest.

OARC Member Contributions

By Kent Gardner WA7AHY

Soldering Iron Kit for Apartment Dwellers (with personal news and notes from Kent Gardner)

Hi all. Greetings from Spanish Fork. Lauralee and I are now in an assisted living facility to help us in our aging years. I miss the OARC, but am continuing my ham radio activities here at our new QTH. I thought that I would share an idea that some of you would benefit from.

Many of you will remember my Morse Code Display that we used at the Golden Spike Special Events, Field Days and Boy Scout Fairs. I have arranged to have this display up all day the 27th of July in the foyer of the dining room here so everyone can stop and "Press Any Key" any time during the day. The display will also be the feature of our Church Family Home Evening that same evening. I will also be giving a history of the Church Emergency Radio over the years.

The following picture shows my preparations so far.

Stan, my Heathkit keyer from my display was lost during the move. It was the one that you thought had low audio output. I bought another one off EBay and it had low output also. Just thought I would let you know.

During my move to Spanish Fork, I had to give away or throw away 50 years of my stuff including my soldering iron etc. Craig picked up a few things that will show up at the club auction later this year. Some prospective hams came over and picked up some items, but most of the boat anchor stuff was loaded up on a trailer and taken to the dump. During the move, some connecting wires were broken and I had to consider how I was to solder them back together. I Googled soldering irons (soldering iron kit 80 watt) and found this wonderful collection that is shown below. All the things that I needed w ere in the kit for a cost of only $25.00.

For an apartment dweller, this was perfect, well almost. The included plastic wire stripper was woefully inadequate, so I had to make a trip to Harbor Freight to pick up a small diagonal cutter, needle nose plier ($3.00 each) and a do all wire stripper for $6.00. It was much better. I am still in the process of getting my TS-2000 set up in my apartment. I have yet to install some external antennas that the facility will permit. I did string up a length of speaker wire as an inside receiving antenna, but it isn't good enough to receive anything but the broadcast band. I have been in contact with the Davis Club's store to see what I can get for 2 meters and 440. I did sign up as a member of the Utah Valley Radio Club, but until my back gets some better, so I can drive again, I probably won't be able to make the meetings in Orem for a while.

OARC Member Contributions

By Rick Hansen N7EGA

What are the best types of bolts and nuts to use if I want to prevent rust and seizing from the start?

The metal most famous for preventing rust is also notorious for seizing. Tighten a stainless nut onto a stainless bolt, and they can literally cold-weld into a single, permanent mass.

If you want to prevent both problems from the start, you cannot simply grab a box of stainless steel fasteners and call it a day. Stainless steel—specifically 316 marine-grade—is the undisputed champion of accessible rust prevention. It resists oxidation even in salty, coastal environments. But it suffers from a mechanical flaw when used against itself: thread galling. When tightening friction scrapes away the microscopic oxide layer that protects the metal, the raw, exposed threads rub together and fuse. Once a stainless fastener galls, no amount of penetrating oil or leverage will break it free; you usually have to cut the nut off.

To get the rust prevention of stainless without the seizing, you have to introduce a physical barrier. The most common solution is to coat the threads in a generous layer of copper- or nickel-based anti-seize paste before installation. If you are working in an application where messy paste is impractical, you can mix metals. Pairing a stainless steel bolt with a brass or bronze nut provides excellent corrosion resistance while eliminating the risk of cold welding, because the two dissimilar metals have different hardness levels and won't fuse.

If you are building a structural outdoor project rather than assembling a polished piece of machinery, hot-dip galvanized (HDG) steel is the better choice. Unlike standard bright zinc electroplating—which is only a few microns thick and rusts away quickly outdoors—hot-dip galvanizing coats the steel in a thick, rugged layer of zinc. The zinc acts as a sacrificial

anode, slowly corroding over decades to protect the steel underneath. HDG fasteners are less prone to galling than stainless steel, and while their dull gray finish lacks cosmetic shine, they are the industry standard for decks, docks, and utility infrastructure.

OARC Member Contributions

By Rick Hansen N7EGA

Why do LED bulbs still burn out very frequently, aren't they going to last over 10 years?

The 10-year promise on an LED box isn't a lie—the light-emitting chip itself can burn for decades. What actually kills the bulb is a cheap miniature power supply cooking to death inside the base.

Unlike an incandescent bulb, which was just a glowing piece of tungsten wire inside a glass vacuum, an LED bulb is a complex electronic device. Because LEDs require low-voltage direct current (DC) but household wiring provides high-voltage alternating current (AC), the base of the bulb houses a circuit board called a driver. This driver is packed with capacitors, resistors, and transformers, all crammed into the tiny plastic housing right above the screw base.

An exposed LED household bulb shows the complex internal circuit board, or driver, required to convert AC wall power into the DC power needed by the yellow light-emitting diodes. This dense electronics package introduces a fatal weakness: heat. While LEDs run much cooler than incandescents, they still generate thermal energy. In a sealed plastic base, this heat builds up quickly. If a bulb is installed in an enclosed glass ceiling fixture or a recessed can, the ambient temperature skyrockets. The sustained heat cooks the electrolytic capacitors on the driver board, causing the liquid electrolyte inside them to evaporate. When the capacitor fails, the driver fails, and the bulb goes dark, even though the yellow diode chips are still perfectly functional.
The retail race to the bottom has accelerated these failures. A decade ago, LED bulbs cost upwards of $20 and were built with heavy, finned aluminum heat sinks to draw thermal energy away from the delicate electronics. Today, multi-packs sell for just a few dollars. To hit that price point, manufacturers replaced the aluminum heat sinks with cheap

plastic, reduced the amount of thermal potting compound used to shield the circuits, and began sourcing the lowest-grade capacitors available.

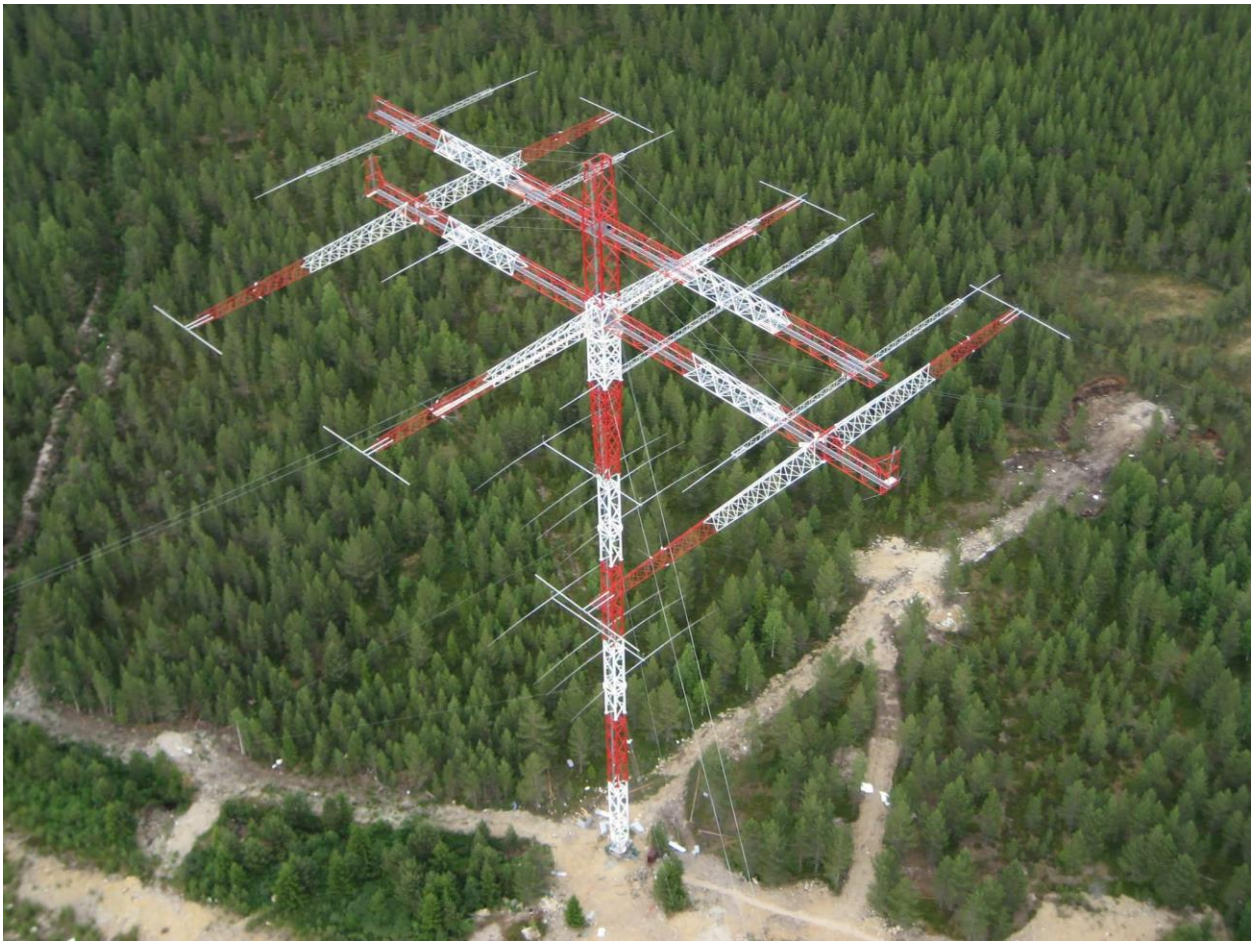
External electrical stress finishes the job. Older dimmer switches, designed for incandescent loads, work by rapidly chopping the AC electrical wave. When a modern LED bulb with a bare-bones driver is placed on an incompatible dimmer, the driver is forced to absorb severe voltage spikes thousands of times a minute, frying the circuitry long before the 10-year mark.

OARC Member Contributions

By Dave Sanders K7RGY

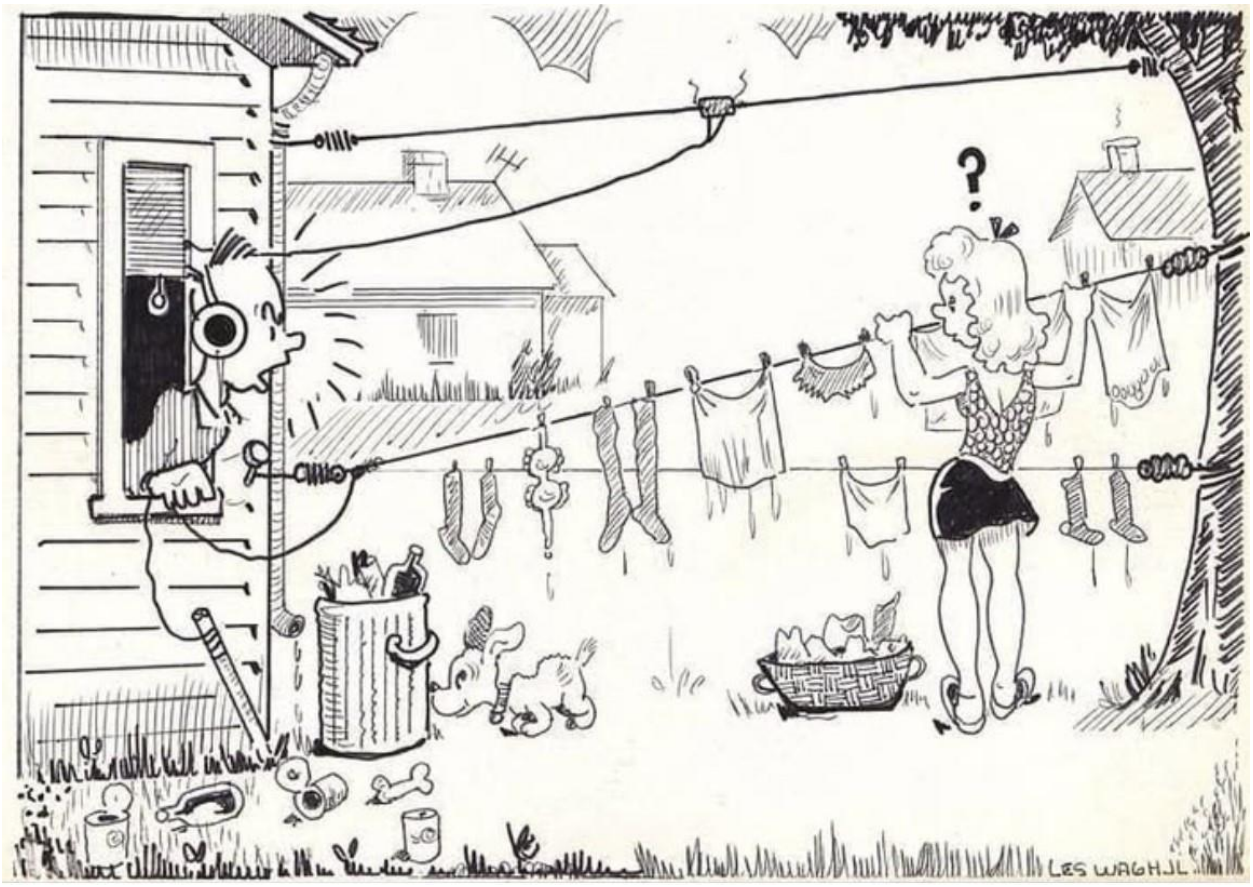
Finland Radio Arcala Tower

This massive tower belonged to Finland Radio Arcala, OH8X, and it was designed by a professional engineering group that designs bridges.
The 330-foot tower weighed 40 tons and was fully rotatable, thanks to a large motor of the type used for turning cargo ship propellers. The guy wires were three levels of large slip-ring bearings. In addition to two M2 full-size beams for 40 meters, the tower had a three-element antenna for 160 meters and a five-element antenna for 80 meters.
In November 2019, a severe ice storm brought the tower down.



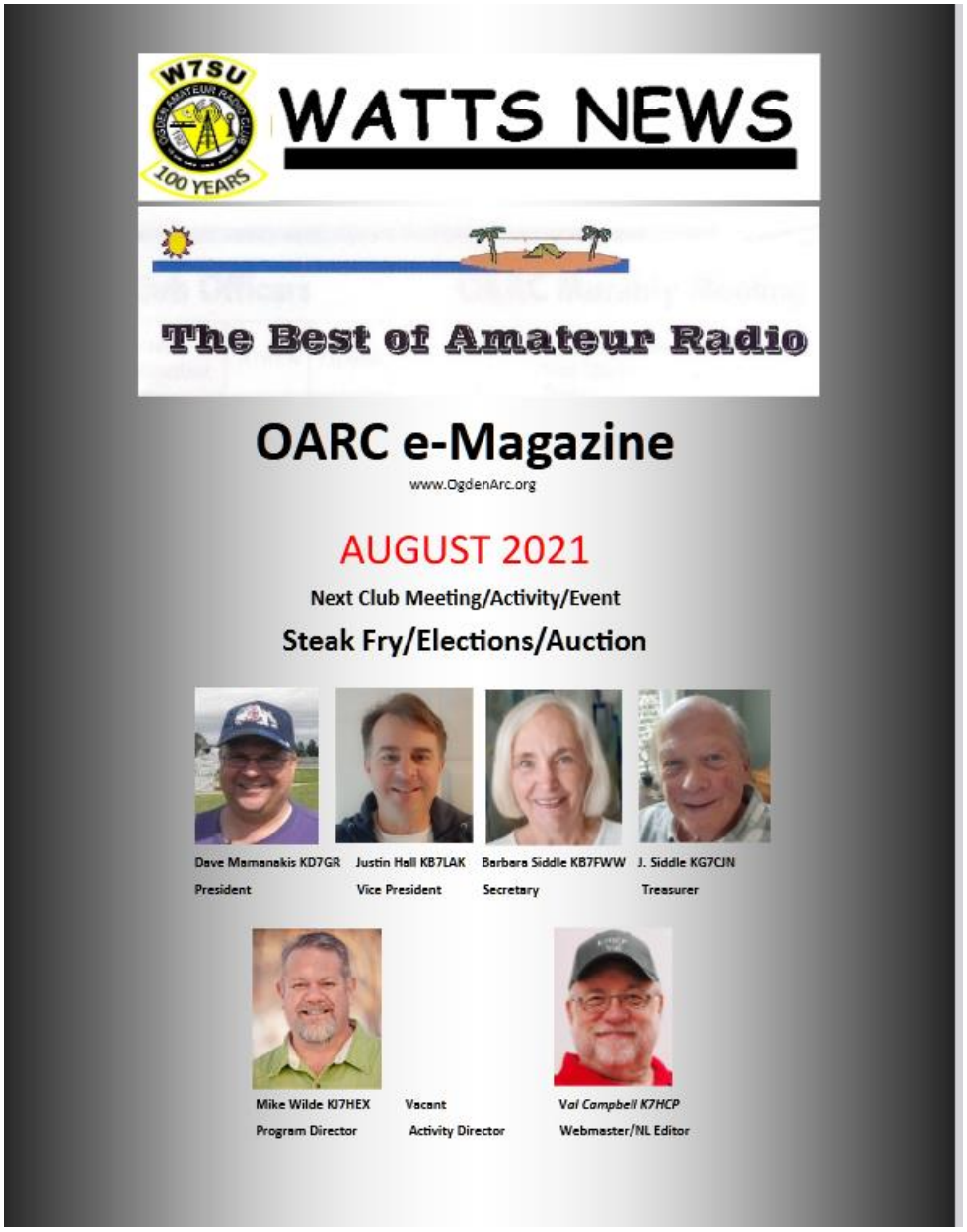
OARC Member Contributions

Submitted by Dave Sanders K7RGY



OARC Remember When

5 Years Ago - August 2021



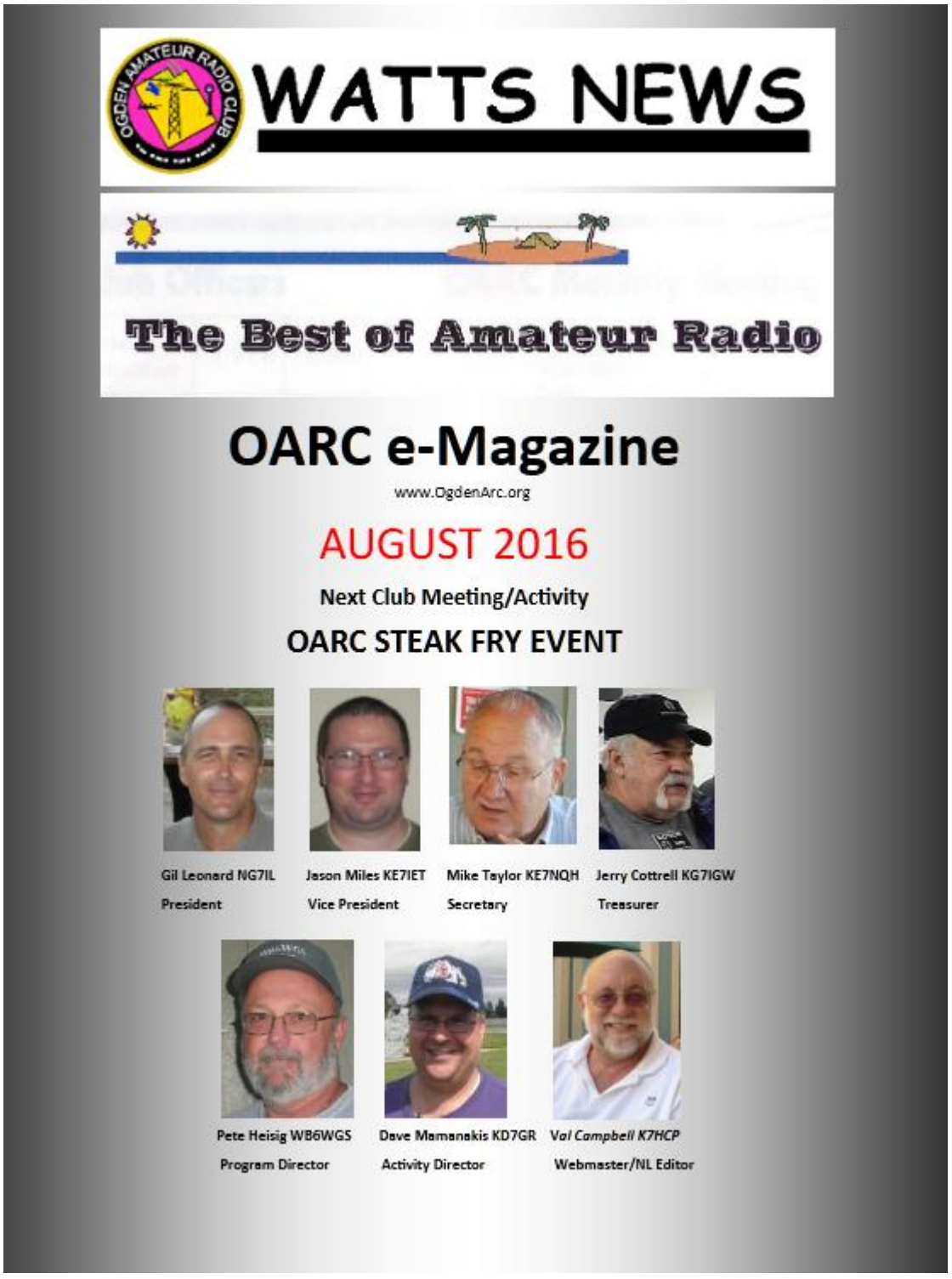
OARC "T"-HUNT 2021

“T" Hunt winner - Robert Disque KJ7UFM

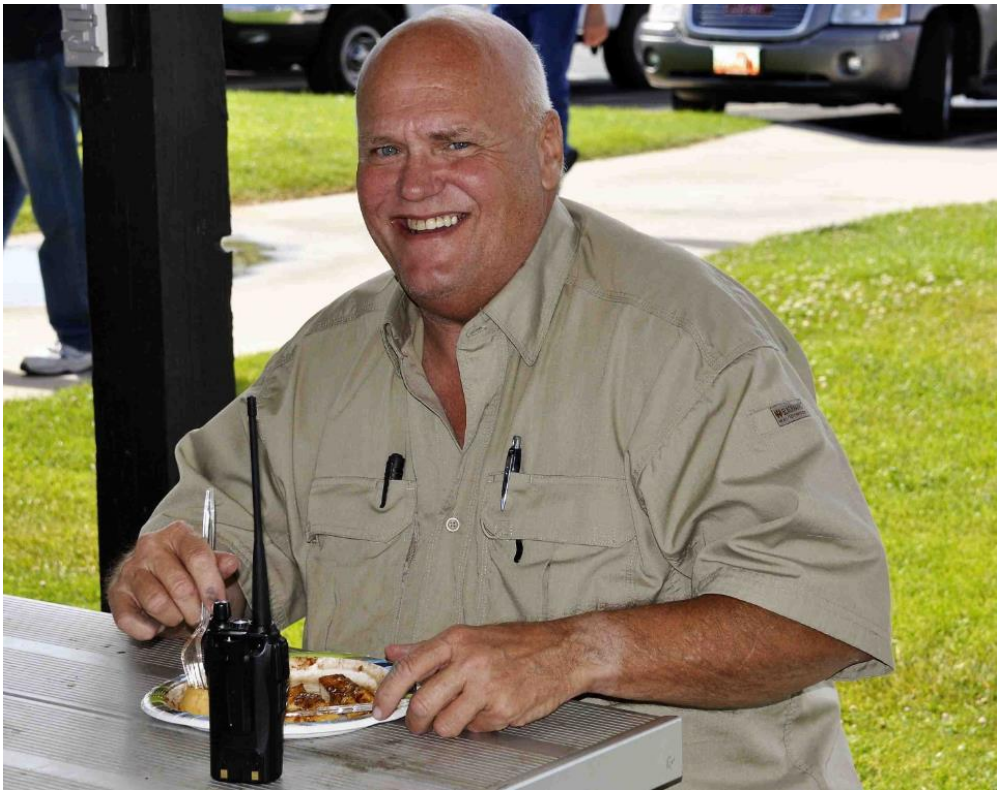
Congratulations for being the first to find the 2021 bunny!

OARC Remember When

10 Years Ago - August 2016



Photos by … Ceva Cottrell KE7IEV




2012

OARC Nets & Meets

HAM and EGGS Net

Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 PM Mountain Time

Mt Ogden 70 cm repeater 448.600 MHz (- offset, 123.0 PL Tone)

New, Intermediate & Old Timers. Elmering, Education, General Ham Discussion and Rag Chew.

New hams encouraged to check in. Get connected, learn new things and ask questions.

Net Control: Stan Sjol (W0KP), stansjol@xmission.com

Kenny Pronschinske (KI7UFN), kennypron@hotmail.com

Bryce Draper (KI7YZU), brycejill@outloook.com

Mark Berger (KK7YAC), mark@bandfec.com

Stan Sjol

W0KP

Kenny Pronschinske

KI7UFN

Bryce Draper

KI7YZU

Mark Berger

KK7YAC

10 Meter Net

Thursday Evenings at (18:30) 6:30 PM MT

10 Meters HF - 28.375 MHz SSB (USB)

Purpose is to promote activity on the 10 meter band (especially during low sunspot activity).

To give technician class operators an opportunity to operate phone, and to provide a venue for conversation and experimentation with antenna and ground wave propagation.

NOTICE: "Work toward getting your "10 on 10 Award"

"Work toward getting your "10 meter WAS Award"

Questions and Net Control: by rotation

Net control is passed around to regular check ins.

“YL” Ladies Only Net

Monday Evening (19:00) 7:00 PM MT

70 cm Repeater - 448.600 MHz (neg offset, PL=123)

Purpose is to promote the “YL” lady operators an opportunity to mingle together (without men operators bothering them—Hi Hi).

Net Control: Colleen Pike, KJ7EAY

Ham & Eggs Breakfast

Each Wednesday, <u>at a very early</u> 8:00 am, some of the club members meet for an informal breakfast get-to-gather. Everyone is welcome.

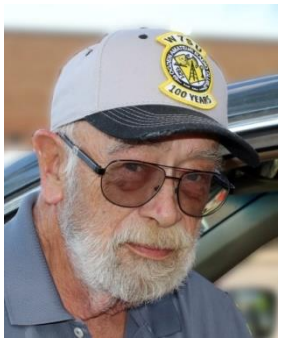
Now at:

The Rusted Spoon-Ogden (previously The Stagecoach)

1310 Wall Ave, Ogden, UT

NOTE: See you there … <u>if you can get up that early</u>.

73, Dave KJ7DAD



Dave DeHeer KJ7DAD

73 de W7SU

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www.OgdenARC.org

w7su@arrl.net

PO Box 3353 Ogden UT 84409