

OCRA Board Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2022

Board Meeting Attendees – Bruce (N1LN), Bill (N8BR), Dan (KR4UB), Wilson (W4BOH), John (KX4P), Dee (KU4GC), Mike (KN4ZHP), Lenore (KF4PAB), Jack (KM4MBG), Aurora (KN4VXB), and Laurie (N1YXU)

The minutes from the July 6 OCRA Board Meeting were approved.

Note: The August 8 OCRA Membership Meeting was canceled.

Old Business –

- **OCRA COVID Policy –**

- The policy was distributed to all on the OCRA/DFMA reflector.
- There was no feedback as a result of the policy being distributed.
- This item is now closed.

- **OCRA Annual Dues Increase –**

- There was significant discussion among the Board members regarding the proposed dues increase, timing of the increase, and planned communication to the OCRA membership.
- The table and notes below summarize the Board agreement. [Post Board Meeting comments: (1)The information was communicated via the OCRA/DFMA reflector on September 2 and (2) the increase was reviewed at the September 12 OCRA Membership Meeting.

OCRA Annual Dues	Current Rate	New Rate (effective 11/1/22)
Individual Membership	\$12.00	\$20.00
Family Membership (all family members live in the same house)	\$24.00	\$35.00
Newly Licensed Hams	First year free	- \$10.00 (50% off full rate) - Renews at \$20.00
New OCRA Members	\$12.00	- \$10.00 (50% off full rate) - Renews at \$20.00

- Note: If anyone wants to pay for multiple year renewals prior to November 1, only the first year renewal will be \$12.00. Any additional years will be based on the new annual amounts, outlined above. This applies to current member renewals, new club members, and family memberships.

- **Badges for OCRA Membership Meetings and other Face-to-Face Events**
 - Thanks to Dee for his recommendation to have badges at OCRA meeting and events
 - As a result of Dee's suggestion, Bruce and Laurie would like to put together a badge design that would be used to show a person's name, call sign, and home location. The badges would be printed on card stock and would be put into plastic badge holders with clips.
 - Badges for new OCRA members would be designed slightly differently (e.g. different color card stock or have a horizontal color stripe under the person's name) to allow current members to easily identify new members and welcome them to the club.
 - The badges would be used at membership meetings, Field Day, the annual Christmas party, and other events.
 - The preference is to have the badges distributed at an event and also collected at the end of the event. This will help minimize lost badges and the need for replacements. Collecting the badges will also help validate those who have attended the events as a secondary roster.
 - For guests and others that don't have printed badges, we will make sure there are adhesive name tags and markers available at our events for them to use to identify themselves and to ensure we greet them and make them feel welcomed.
 - Separately, Bruce contacted the Sign Man of Baton Rouge (thesignman.com) who has previously made badges for OCRA members. The Sign Man is a frequent vendor at hamfests. He has an OCRA design that can be used for badges. Members can order them from the Sign Man for a cost of approximately \$15.00 (plus shipping and tax).

- **Tri-Fold Brochure**
 - Last month, the Board discussed putting together a tri-fold brochure highlighting information about OCRA. The brochure could be distributed at VE sessions to those taking exams, new members, hamfest attendees, Field Day visitors, and our membership.
 - It may be possible for the basic information in the brochure to be altered to be adopted for other local radio clubs or updated to include information for multiple local clubs. Examples of shared information could include local repeater information, schedule of club meetings, schedule of nets, information about VE sessions, and club officers.
 - There are many ways to design a tri-fold. Laurie volunteered to mockup a version for Board review. She will use a template that is in a PowerPoint format and work to having a prototype for review at the September Board Meeting.

- **Programs for Upcoming Membership Meetings**

- September – Simplification of the N1LN Station (Bruce)
- October – DX Marathon (Bill)
 - Bill contacted John (K9EF) to confirm that the event will be taking place in 2023, and it will be under new management. Bill also told John that a presentation would be given to OCRA members as an informational and educational overview.
 - John asked if the date for the meeting was set and was interested in participating in the Zoom part of our membership meeting in October. He sent Bill a complete set of slides that could be used in a presentation. John will get back to Bill within a few weeks to confirm that he will be able to attend the October OCRA Membership Meeting via Zoom.
- November – Topic to be determined (Wilson)
- December – Christmas Party
 - The Christmas Party committee members are Jean Eddleman, Patti Bischoff, Wilson, John, Laurie, and Bill.
 - A Zoom meeting will be setup soon to have the committee come together and discuss plans for the party. Bill will send the Zoom invitation to the committee.
 - A visit of the location for the party, Union Grove United Methodist Church, will be scheduled to allow the team to see the site and better understand how the party will be setup. Dan indicated that the site visit will be especially important for the core team (Jean, Patti, Laurie).
- **Repeater Component Proposal (items, cost, additional information)**
 - As a follow-up to discussion at the prior Board Meeting, Dan sent a summary and detailed spreadsheet regarding the build of a spare 442.150 repeater. The timely building of the spare will allow replacement in the event of a failure, and it will allow the failed unit to be swapped for the replacement in one trip by a tower crew.
 - Two cost figures are detailed in the analysis –
 - The 2022 cost of items to build a replacement of the 442.150 repeater. This is the list of items that need to be purchased now. Their cost totals \$2,434.
 - Total cost that includes items already donated or purchased and also those items listed in the first bullet above. The total value of items is \$4,736.
 - In order to compile the list of items and their costs, Dan reviewed past documents and order records to make sure the list was complete and correct.
 - Dan would prefer to have the repeater on the air in a clean, air-conditioned environment. He has secured a coordinated frequency (442.075).
 - Danny Hampton (K4ITL) is donating a UHF pass band cavity for the project which would cost approximately \$600 if we were to purchase it.

- Due to supply chain issues, some items have weeks to months in terms of lead time. The required power supply delivery could extend into January 2023. This does not impact the beginning of the build since Dan has an extra power supply on hand that will allow the build to begin.
- The Board approved the spending of \$2,434 for the additional items required to build a replacement of the 442.150 repeater. There is an allowance for minor changes due to price fluctuations and additional requirements (e.g. polyphaser, SWR monitor). At the last Board meeting, we agreed to allow up to \$3,000 for the project.

- **New Business**
 - CERT Training – Rick (KN4E00) sent an email to the OCRA/DFMA repeater announcing a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training that will be conducted by Orange County EOC personnel. It starts on September 6 and ends on November 15.
 - Wilson mentioned a “Stop the Bleed” course that he has taken. The course was motivated as a result of school shootings. The course lasts about 3 hours and focuses on serious bleeding incidents.
 - Elections were held at the last DFMA meeting, Jack welcomed by Dan as an at-large member to the Board. Two new members to the club were elected to the Board. Bob (W4FK) is the new Vice President. Pam (KO4YAR) is the new Secretary. Congratulations to all!
 - The DFMA address has changed to a virtual mailing address service. The third-party will scan mail, if requested, and forward the information. The cost is less than having a true mailbox. Jack will provide an update regarding how this service compares to having mail delivered directly.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary