

## **OCRA Membership Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022**

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**Meeting Attendees** (Total of 23 in-person and on Zoom) – Dee (KU4GC), John (KX4P), Bill (N8BR), Dan (KR4UB), Randy (KF4O), Doug (KA5ETS), Bob (W4FK), Karen (KD4YJZ), Paul (N2XZF), Dave (NA4VY), Chris (KY4OU), Pete (N4KW), Laurie (N1YXU), Mark (KR3AM), Bruce (N1LN), Dave (W4SAR), John (KQ4DCE), Fred (KN4QBZ), Ken (KO4DHU), Lenore (KF4PAB), Sam (KJ4VWG), Banks (W4OFZ), and Boyd (KO4GJO)

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### **Meeting Topics –**

- **Opening Comments**

- At each meeting, members are hearing updates from the various teams that have been formed to manage the club. For example, we have the Membership Team, the Christmas Party Team, the Repeater Team, and the Programs Team. Thank you to all the work that is being accomplished. It is truly appreciated.
- If you have specific requests for activities and/or programs, please bring them up. The club will continue to grow only when we all participate.

- **OCRA Badges**

- As lead of the Membership Team, Dee recommended that we have badges available at all in-person OCRA events – membership meetings, VE sessions, Field Day, Christmas Party, and others. Dee brought his recommendation to a recent Board Meeting, and it was enthusiastically supported.
- Badges have been made for those OCRA members who have attended recent membership meetings. As more people attend the meetings, additional badges will be made.
- Those who attended the September Membership Meeting were given their badges to wear during the meeting. The badges will be collected at the end of the meeting and brought to the next event. This process will help minimize lost badges and confirm the attendance at meetings since collected badges will be used to cross-reference the attendee list taken during the meeting.
- The badges include name, call sign, and home location of the individual.
- The badges for new OCRA members have a horizontal orange stripe under the person's name to help everyone easily identify new members and help welcome them to the club. Let's all make sure that we take time to recognize and welcome our new members!
- Adhesive backed name tags and marker will also be available at OCRA events to allow guests to make a name tag for themselves.

- **Christmas Party Update**

- The Christmas Party committee has been put together. The members include Bill, John, Wilson, Laurie, Patti (Bill’s wife), and Jean (Dan’s wife).
- The party will be held on Monday, December 12 (in lieu of the December Membership Meeting, as is our tradition). The location for the party has been confirmed as Union Grove Methodist Church in Hillsborough.
- A site visit to the location is being coordinated in order to ensure that the committee understand the layout of the facility and other logistics to consider.
- After the site visit, a Zoom meeting will be set-up for the full committee to discuss next steps in the planning.
- More information will be communicated to the full membership as the planning progresses.

- **Annual Club Dues Update**

- An email was sent to the OCRA/DFMA reflector on September 2 announcing the increase in OCRA annual dues with an effective date of November 1, 2022.
- It is important to understand why the dues are being increased. You’ll recall from the July Membership Meeting presentation from Dan and Bruce that the current total dues collected do not cover our current annual expenses. Given that, it became evident that the dues needed to be increased. It’s also interesting to note that the annual \$12 dues have been in place since 1992.
- There have been some reactions to the email and the increase in dues. You may be surprised at what they have been – “It’s about time” and “that’s not enough of an increase”.
- Note that the increased dues will not be used to react to a potential repeater issue or replacement build. There are other options and opportunities that are being pursued for that type of funding and support.
- Below is the chart that details the current and new rates (effective November 1, 2022) for varying types of annual dues.

<b>OCRA Annual Dues</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>New Rate (effective 11/1/22)</b>
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	\$12.00	- \$10.00 (50% off full rate)
Members		- Renews at \$20.00

- **Presentation – N1LN Station Simplification (Bruce)** – To see the video recording of this presentation, please use the following link - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGa\\_tUeukJE&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGa_tUeukJE&t=8s)
  
- **Officers Reports**
  - Treasurer’s Report (Dan) –
    - In anticipation of a future need for a replacement repeater, over the last several years, major items have been purchased including some that are no longer available and needed.
    - In addition, several contributions of equipment have been made to the club toward the replacement repeater build. We are sincerely grateful for these donations.
    - Based on a Board decision, additional major items to start the build of a repeater replacement have been ordered. The parts may start to be received beginning in September. These items will cost about \$2,400. Our current treasury balance supports this expenditure.
    - The build is being completed to allow a tower crew to bring up a field replaceable unit to swap out if there is an issue. This minimizes the number of times the tower climbers would need to go up and down the tower. As a result, it would minimize our expense.
    - Dan has also secured a 70cm repeater frequency that is close to the current 442.150 to allow us to bring up the second repeater, tune it, and then swap it out for our current repeater. To make sure that it’s a working, warm spare, it will be located in Chatham County at an antenna site to make sure that it’s working, if it is needed.
    - Sincere thanks to Dan and the Repeater Team (Fred, Mike, Paul) for their work in maintaining our repeater capability and for their foresight in planning.
  - Secretary’s Report (Laurie) –
    - Your feedback is requested regarding the information that is posted on the club’s website ([ncocra.org](http://ncocra.org)). Monthly Membership Meeting minutes are posted as well as the minutes from the monthly Board Meetings.
    - We also have a YouTube channel that has a growing number of videos. The videos include presentations from the membership meetings as well as additional training. Please take a look at the YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyW4G022PI1bphYHFZ78ONQ>

- **Additional Items**

- Programs are planned for both the October and November meetings. Our December “program” will be the Christmas Party.
- For 2023, please provide Bill and John your suggestions for program topics for the membership meetings. These could be areas that you currently have interest in or areas that you would like to learn more about.
- Several OCRA members are currently attending a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training by Orange County Emergency Management. The course is focused on communities being trained to be self-sustaining for 72 hours after an emergency to allow officials to respond to areas in order of severity of damage. This may be an area that we can explore for OCRA training in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Meier, N1YXU  
OCRA Secretary