

OCRA Board Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2023

Board Meeting Attendees – Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), Aurora (KN4VXB), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Dee (KU4GC), Wilson (W4BOH), and Laurie (N1YXU)

The meeting minutes from the April BOD Meeting were approved.

The meeting minutes from the May Membership Meeting were approved, after incorporating a wording change recommended by Dan.

Discussion Topics:

- Old Business
 - Air Filtration for Membership Meetings at the Efland Baha'i Center
 - Dan completed an extensive review of multiple air filters and emailed the results to all board members a few hours ago. If you have not had the opportunity to read the details, please do.
 - Based on Dan's analysis, Bruce recommended that we agree to purchase a few filters that meet the appropriate criteria (one to use and one to have as a spare) and to install one at the next OCRA Membership Meeting. The filters will cost about \$20 each.
 - Dan is planning on ordering the same type of filter for his home. He will add a few additional filters to that order which will be used at the Baha'i Center. Dan will be reimbursed for the filters.
 - Dave will look for a place at the Baha'i Center to store the spare.
 - When the initial filter is installed, it will be marked with the installation date to ensure we can track how effective the filter is over a period of time.
 - Currently, there is a contract with a group that periodically changes the filters at the Baha'i Center.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will find out the schedule for changing the filters to ensure that they are aware of the filters that we will install and/or that they may be able to directly purchase the filters we will use and be reimbursed.

- This item will remain open until we hear back from Dave on the contracted schedule for changing filters and also until we reimburse Dan for purchasing the filters.
- Steve Ahlbom's (W3AHL) Trailer – Bruce
 - This item is closed.
 - We made a decision as a club that we are not interested in buying the trailer due to potential maintenance and/or insurance issues if someone were to be injured.

- A few folks in the club voiced an interest in buying the tower; however, they have changed their minds.
 - Steve is going to deal with selling the tower.
 - This decision will not impact the OCRA/DFMA Field Day setup since Wilson's tower will be used.
- Field Day
 - Field Day Friday Night Potluck Dinner – John (KM4MDR) has sent several updates to the OCRA/DFMA reflector with information regarding the dinner and requests to those who will be attending. Everything seems to be well in hand for the event.
 - General Field Day Planning – Dave
 - At the last DFMA Board Meeting, Dave brought up the topics of insurance and porta-potty needs for the event. A motion was passed that OCRA and DFMA would split the costs, as has been done in prior years.
 - Typically, Wilson has purchased the additional insurance coverage directly and then has been reimbursed.

ACTION ITEM: Wilson will call his insurance agent to have the appropriate coverage added for Field Day. He will then provide the cost of the additional coverage to Dan and Jack (KM4MBG), who are the Treasurers of ORCA and DFMA, respectively.

ACTION ITEM: Dan will send the contact information to Wilson for the company that has been used to rent the porta-potty. Wilson will work with the company to schedule delivery.

- Membership Meeting Programs
 - June – Dedicated to Field Day Planning (Dave)
 - July –

ACTION ITEM: Dan will follow-up with John (N4SJW) to make sure he is prepared to give a DRM focused presentation.

Note: Bruce and Laurie will be attending the July 10 OCRA Membership Meeting remotely since they will be in New York. Bruce can facilitate the meeting via Zoom.

- August – Drone Presentation (Dave) which may start with a demonstration outside and then move inside for the final piece. Aurora will attend and can show the demonstration “live” on Zoom as a Zoom attendee. Dave is also

going to research if he could get pictures/video directly from the drone that could be shared.

- September – Current placeholder is an SX-88 that will be given by John (KX4P)
- October – John is also following up on radio astronomy related topics for a presentation

ACTION ITEM: Bruce took the action item to follow-up with a neighbor and fellow ham (Dave Wright – W4LMW) who is involved in a local IEEE van. Dave (or another member of the group) would be more than happy to come to a future meeting and do a presentation about the van which is a sophisticated communications vehicle. Bruce will follow-up to get him on the schedule.

The issue is that a special class driver is needed to move the vehicle, and given the time of our membership meeting, it is highly unlikely that a special class driver would be available. In lieu of bringing the vehicle to the meeting, they will provide a schedule of dates and times when the vehicle is going through maintenance or “shake down” activities which would be open to visitors. FYI – The van was at the recent RARSfest at the State Fairgrounds. Aurora may add the IEEE van tour to the HamPi activities. She will send the HamPi activity schedule to the OCRA/DFMA reflector to make sure everyone is informed regarding planned activities.

- Repeater Reachability Testing
 - At the last BOD meeting, the suggestion was made to get more folks to participate in the testing. Bruce offered to work with DFMA members to include results from their testing in the overall information. At this time, there has been no additional activity.

- Repeater Activities
 - The critical need to complete knowledge transfer from Steve Ahlbom (W3AHL) before he leaves the area. There are three primary areas of focus –
 - Ability to complete radio mapping – Ed Nealy (call sign) has done some runs that have been validated by Steve. Dan has completed two runs and feels comfortable with the process. Currently, there is lack of coverage in southeast portions of Orange County based on the current testing and topography data. Scenarios are being considered to improve coverage in this area. Updated charts will be made available to allow everyone to understand the holes and inform scenarios of where to place additional repeaters.

- Ability to use Steve's spectrum analyzer to make measurements on the spare repeater
- Getting the repeater that is currently in Dan's basement to the point that it can be powered up and spectrum analyzer work can be done – There have been some supply chain issues associated with the initial supplier; however, alternate sources have been used to get the needed parts. Note that the repeater will be built with software that could be enabled (with an internet connection) to link to other repeaters in the area. This could be a solution that would strengthen and integrate coverage in multiple counties in our area.
 - Bruce received feedback from Ian Fowler (Orange County EOC) that there is no room on any Orange County tower to house a repeater. This is very disappointing news and will require a pivot in direction for the Tri-County Repeater Plan. Recall that the OCRA membership approved purchasing a spare repeater to act as a backup to our current repeater or other purpose that would benefit Orange County. We need to continue to focus its contribution toward supporting Orange County.
- Additional reports/comments
 - Dan – Our membership looks good with 111 members (108 currently paid, 3 expiring). The annual club insurance of \$450 has been paid. The premium is unchanged from the prior year's amount.
 - Dave – On June 10th, there will be an exam session at the Baha'i Center.
 - Wilson – There are several transceivers that are available from Nick's estate. An inventory with suggested prices will be put together and posted on the reflector.
 - Dee – Since there is a lot of overlap between DFMA and OCRA, there are several folks who have already participated in the repeater testing. There are a few folks who are only DFMA members and can be contacted to ask for participation. The effort will be put off until August which will allow everyone to focus on Field Day and other current priorities.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laurie Meier, N1YXU
 OCRA Secretary