

OCRA Membership Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2023

Meeting Attendees (Total of 33 in-person and on Zoom) – Dee (KU4GC), Chris (KY4OU), Paul (N2XZF), Boyd (KO4GJO), John (KX4P), Bob (W4FK), Bill (N8BR), Laurie (N1YXU), Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), Ken (KO4DHJ), Ben (KO4BHX), Sam (KJ4VWG), Charlie (KD4UCZ), Mark (KR3AM), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Barry (K2IX), Brian (K4BMW), Patrick (KO4QLU), Dave (NA4VY), Sherri (WB4OSU), Aurora (KN4VXB), Charles (KY4HU), Jose (x), Mark (KN4BTI), Fred (KN4QBZ), Doug (KA5ETS), Lenore (KF4PAB), Ed (W4AEN), Joseph (KG4JGJ), Jay (K4AAI), Mike (KN4ZHP)

Membership Introductions – Bruce (N1LN)

- Welcome to two new members – Joseph (KG4JGJ), Nyi (not yet licensed, recently took and passed the Technician exam), and Jay (K4AAI). Jay has been a member in the past and has rejoined the club.

Program Presentation – Chatham County AUXCOMM – Mike Thorn (KN4ZHP)

- Last year, we discussed rebuilding the relationship between OCRA and the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Many OCRA members are interested in learning more about emergency communications and AUXCOMM. Some members have started to take/retake the online FEMA ICS courses. In parallel, there have been questions about what the EOC might ask OCRA members to do in order to support an emergency situation. What better way to address those questions than to have a representative from the Chatham County amateur radio group give us an overview. Mike Thorn (KN4ZHP) is the Emergency Coordinator for Chatham and works very closely with the Chatham County EOC.
- To view the recording of the Chatham County AUXCOMM presentation, please see the video that is posted on the OCRA YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPeVrOwSNTU>
- Mike – Thank you very much for your informative presentation.

Additional Topics

- The NC QSO Party will take place on Sunday, February 26. This event is a very low-key, low-pressure contest that is a perfect way to start to hone your skills for Field Day. The exchange is signal report and county. This would give you the opportunity to work on timing of making contacts, testing your station and antennas, using software, and practicing your typing skills. As we heard from Mike's presentation, the Chatham County group practices frequently to ensure they are ready for an emergency situation.
- The DX Marathon was the topic of a presentation at a recent OCRA meeting. On the Monday night net, there has been a lot of discussion about how open the bands are. If you want to practice or work a few new countries, download the form for the DX Marathon, and

have some fun making new contacts. The information for the DX Marathon tracking sheet includes date, month, band, mode, callsign, and time. RST is not included.

- Officer Reports
 - Dan (Treasurer) – In the last six days, six people have renewed their memberships.
 - Laurie (Secretary) – Thanks to everyone who contributed recipes to the Christmas Party cookbook. The recipes represent dishes that were shared at the party.
 - John – We are always looking for future programs. Please step-up to the plate to present and/or let us know topics that you would like to learn more about.
 - Aurora – Especially for the newer OCRA members, if you are interested in learning more about the intersection of radio (Arduino, Raspberry Pi) and other maker skills, there is a HamPi group that meets virtually once a month. The group also likes to visit homes of the members to learn more about on-going projects. If you're interested in learning more about the HamPi group, you can email Aurora at wayferny@gmail.com. You can also send a message to the OCRA/DFMA reflector and request information.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary