

OCRA Membership Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023

Meeting Attendees (Total of 35 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), Sam (KJ4VWG), Charlie (KD4UCZ), Mark (KR3AM), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Barry (K2IX), Brian (K4BMW), Patrick (KO4QLU), Sherri (WB4OSU), Doug (KA5ETS), Ed (W4AEN), Mike (KN4ZHP), Randy (KF4O), Pete (N4KW), John (KM4MDR), Keith (KQ4CXU), Steve (W3AHL), Al (KK4MEG), Wilson (W4BOH), Ryan (N7RYN), Tim (KC1TWR), Rusty (no call sign), Chris (KG4CFX, Orange County Emergency Operations Management), Ian Fowler (Orange County Emergency Operations Management)

Opening Comments – Bruce (N1LN)

- Thank you to Mike (KN4ZHP) for the time he took to put tonight's presentation together and for working with many club members to ensure the Zoom presentation would work with the WinLink technology.
- Welcome to all who are attending the meeting – both in-person and on Zoom.

Program Presentation – WinLink Use in Chatham County AUXCOMM – Mike Thorn (KN4ZHP)

- To view the recording of the WinLink AUXCOMM presentation, please see the video that is posted on the OCRA YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBzWivWSP08>
- Mike – Again, thank you very much for your informative and interactive presentation.

Additional Topics

- Immediately following the March 11 AUXCOMM training net, there was a Zoom session that Mark (KR3AM) managed. The attendees went through seven different repeaters to understand who was able to bring up the repeaters and the strength of their signals. The repeaters are located in Chatham, Durham, and Orange counties. This exercise was prompted from a discussion during the February OCRA membership meeting regarding the need to refresh the list of local primary and secondary repeaters. The current list was compiled several years ago and needs to be updated. The same exercise will take place on Saturday, March 18. Instructions will be sent to the OCRA reflector. The goal is to have several people to get involved and to allow the results to be compared to the topographic information that Dan and Steve compiled last year and presented as part of the Tri-County Repeater Analysis. This work also aligns with a conversation that Bruce and Ian Fowler (Orange County Emergency Operations Management) had earlier in the week regarding the rebuilding of the relationship between OCRA and the Orange County EOC. The Orange County EOC has the goal of including AUXCOMM and CERT with their emergency communication capabilities.

- Dan indicated that he heard folks on Sunday continuing to test their capabilities to hit area repeaters. This is a clear indication that the more we do, the more visible we are. Dan also sees an uptick in membership requests directly following a membership meeting or a club activity like the repeater exercise. In addition to new folks asking about membership, our club's activities also drive current members to renew. Thank you to the membership for everything you do to build the club.
- There are openings for upcoming meeting presentations. Please reach out to John (KX4P) or Bill (N8BR) if you have a topic that you would like to share. Know that there are several folks who can help put together the detailed slides for your presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary