

OCRA Membership Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023

Meeting Attendees (Total of 30 in-person and on Zoom) – Dee (KU4GC), KZ1X (Steve), Paul (N2XZF), Boyd (KO4GJO), Joe (K4SAR), John (N4SJW), Bob (W4FK), Bill (N8BR), Laurie (N1YXU), Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), Sam (KJ4VWG), Charlie (KD4UCZ), Mark (KR3AM), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Dave (NA4VY), Barry (K2IX), Brian (K4BMW), Patrick (KO4QLU), Aurora (KN4VXB), Sherri (WB4OSU), Doug (KA5ETS), Steve (W3AHL), Charles (KY4HU), JR (N4JQR), Fred (KN4QBZ), Banks (W4OSZ), Randy (BV8/KF4O), and Wilson (W4BOH)

Opening Comments – Bruce (N1LN)

- During the introduction of meeting attendees, Sam (KJ4VWG) indicated that he had some older Nortel 1190 phones that he would be willing to give away and help configure if anyone was interested. The phones have been tested and upgraded. Steve (KZ1X) mentioned that he had some “low price” goodies that folks were encouraged to take a look at after the meeting.
- There is a current vote that ARRL is taking related to a potential increase in annual dues. The information that is presented discusses increased costs in certain areas and requests feedback to help inform which services may be kept and those that may be eliminated. The voting began May 1 and is open to ARRL members. There are about 10 questions which may take between 15 to 20 minutes to complete, including adding personal comments. Please consider taking time to complete the requested feedback.
- Many OCRA members knew Nick Szydle (KA1HPM) who was an active ham in local groups especially in the AUXCOMM area in Chatham county. Several local hams attended Nick’s funeral services in early 2022. It is hard to relay the following information. Nick’s son, Nick Jr. (KN4QBY) passed away on May 7, 2023. His passing was very unexpected. John (KX4P) called Bruce earlier today to inform him of Nick Jr.’s passing. John is working with the family to put together the memorial service. Further information regarding the service will be communicated on the OCRA/DFMA reflector.
- To help streamline communications to the entire group, if you are not subscribed to the OCRA/DFMA groups.io. Please sign-up. This will help us ensure that everyone receives updates of meetings and other important topics.

Field Day 2023 – Dave (W4SAR)

- The Field Day overview this month is the first of two on this event. Next month’s OCRA meeting will be dedicated to final preparations for the 2023 Field Day event which will take place on June 24 and 25.

- To view the recording of the Field Day 2023 presentation, please see the video that is posted on the OCRA YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nLOMhZiqv8>. The Field Day discussion begins at the 9:24 in the video.

ChatGPT – Charles (KY4HU)

- To view the recording of the ChatGPT presentation, please see the video that is posted on the OCRA YouTube channel – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nLOMhZiqv8>.
- The ChatGPT presentation begins at 37:02 in the video.
- Charles – Thank you very much for your informative presentation!

Additional Topics

- Dan – There will be a “Jump in the Lake” exercise on Thursday, May 11, at Jordan Lake. To sign-up, contact Fred (KN4QBZ). His email is gvillof@pm.me. Please note that there will also be an exercise on May 24.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary