

OCRA Membership Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2025

Meeting Attendees (Total of 26 in-person and on Zoom) – Bob (W4FK), Paul (N2XZF), Boyd (KO4GJO), Laurie (N1YXU), Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Fred (KN4QBZ), Jerry (KR4DTD), Randy (KQ4RRO), Matthew (KQ4ZYW), JR (N4JQR), Juan (KR4EQW), Bill (WW1H), Tim (KC1TWR), Ken (KO4DHJ), Dave (NA4VY), Brad (WZ4BSS), Dave (K4DJW), Ron (KO4RON), Charles (KQ4TNF), Mark (KR3AM), Paul (N0US), Daryl (W4AIR), and Wilson (W4BOH).

Meeting Topics –

- Opening Comments –
 - The entire meeting is focused on discussing the OCRA/DFMA Field Day event that took place from Friday, June 27 through Sunday, June 29. This will be an opportunity for everyone to share preliminary results, what worked well, and what might be improved for future Field Day operations.
 - As the OCRA/DFMA Field Day Coordinator, Dave (W4SAR) will lead the discussion.
 - Each of the Field Day band captains will give an update related to their stations.
 - Everyone is asked to share comments regarding their Field Day experiences.
 - The Succession Planning discussions for the OCRA Treasurer and Vice President positions were initially scheduled to be presented tonight. These discussions have been rescheduled to the August Membership Meeting.
- Dave (W4SAR) – Preliminary Field Day 2025 Results and General Comments
 - Propagation was definitely challenging this year.
 - Despite the challenges, everyone had a good time and worked together well. Those who were new Field Day operators were encouraged to participate.
 - While the *preliminary* QSO total count is relatively flat from last year (2025 at 1,903 vs 2024 at 2,002), there were larger year-over-year changes at the band level. CW QSOs increased from 2024 while SSB QSOs decreased. Digital QSOs had a very slight increase from 2024.
 - In terms of the *preliminary* overall score for Field Day, the 2025 total points are 7,354 as compared to the 2024 total points of 7,038.
 - Thank you to all who participated in this year's Field Day event!
- The band captains provided individual station overviews. To listen to the full presentations that each band captain made, please reference the YouTube video of this meeting. The link is provided below.
 - Dave (W4SAR) reviewed the results and operations of the digital operations.
 - Wilson (W4BOH) discussed the challenges and results of the CW stations.

- Bruce (N1LN) gave the overview of the 40/15 SSB station results. Joe (K4SAR) and Bill (KI4RAN) were the band captains for this station; however, neither of them was able to attend the meeting.
- Bill (WW1H) discussed the operations of the 80/20 SSB station.
- Dave (NA4VY) gave an overview of the results of the 10 meter SSB/Digital station.
- Additional comments that were discussed include –
 - Check out equipment prior to setting up at the Field Day site. If the club operates as Class D again next year, the work to check out the stations can be done at any time and is not constrained by Field Day rules.
 - One of the major challenges that is a recurring theme is that we need more “butts in seats” to operate. For example, traditionally there are several more licensed amateur radio operators who attend the Friday evening pot luck than the number who operate during Field Day. Please consider operating next year.
 - There is a lot of work involved in getting the Field Day site and surrounding area ready for the event. Thank you to all who helped with the preparation. Many hands make quicker work. Please consider volunteering to help in this area.
 - Several folks commented that they enjoyed the social aspect of Field Day this year even more than in past years. If you haven’t, take a look at the pictures that have been posted to the OCRA website from Field Day. The website is ncocra.org.
 - Matthew (KQ4ZYW), who had not operated at a Field Day event before, truly enjoyed being able to operate and being able to get to know other OCRA/DFMA members better as a result.
 - Ben (KO4BHX) and Sherri (WB4OSU) have both been working to learn CW, make CW contacts, and increase their sending and copying speeds. The work has been self-driven for both of them. They were part of the CW team this week and contributed contacts to the station.
 - Juan (KR4EQW) and his seven-year-old son came out to the Field Day site after sleuthing the internet to find the location. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and are looking forward to participating next year.
 - Special thanks to John (KM4MDR) who managed the logistics of ensuring food and drinks were provided throughout the event! One of the key social events during Field Day, the Friday night potluck, was a tremendous success.
 - While we’re on the food topic, thanks to Dave (W4SAR) for providing pizzas Saturday evening for the station operators.
- The YouTube video for the full meeting can be found at the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4qz8nh3iFw>
- The August OCRA Membership Meeting will take place on Monday, August 11.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laurie Meier, N1YXU
 OCRA Secretary