

# ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

## Minutes of Meeting – January 15, 2009

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:32 PM, on Thursday, January 15th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves.

The minutes of the November 20, 2008 and December 18, 2008 meetings were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report was given. Treasurer Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS reported the new cavities have been paid for along with some other bills. The checking account now has \$420.81 in it and there is \$62.00 in petty cash. The savings account has \$3551.67 in it. The total balance is \$4,034.48. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris (W4NEK) is recovering from some surgery. David Elmore N4OOE said that the next ARES meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 27th, 2009. The ARES meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

REPEATERS: President Jim McKinnon KB2EZN reported that the new cavities are at OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates' WA4EWL home. Some new cables and a few other items are needed for a first class installation, and these items are being procured. Larry Filzen WB4CGD mentioned that the site where the transmitter is located is only accessible from 8:00 am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday.

RAM WATCH: David Elmore N4OOE reported that Ram Watch was not activated during the last Christmas season, but that members are available if they are needed. A discussion followed about some concerns and problems with Ram Watch; in particular who can ask for Ram Watch participation. Christian Davis KB0VB mentioned that Bob Cheney N4NEV has asked to be replaced as the contact person, but he still is performing the contact person duties. No one has volunteered to take over his responsibilities.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS (VE'S): David Elmore N4OOE said there would be a testing session at Orange Park High School on Saturday, January 17th, 2009. The testing starts promptly at 8:30am.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

One of OPARC's bi-annual auctions will be held at the February meeting. Bring in that old stuff that's been lying around the shack. What is no longer of use to you may be just what someone else is looking for.

Lydia Filzen KD4BVV announced that she had a novel published, and signed copies are available.

The Orlando HamCation is being held February 13th, 14th & 15th. This is both an amateur radio and computer affair, held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.

President Jim MacKinnon KB2ECN announced that the position of OPARC web master is open. Anyone with the necessary skills is encouraged to apply. *(Secretary's Note: Tentatively, the position is now filled.)*

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 07:54 PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by your friendly and helpful OPARC Secretary, Christian Davis KB0VB.

The meeting re-convened at 8:09PM.

Frank Cates WA4AWL provided the evening's technical program. Frank loves old radios, and brought a number of them in for club members to see. One old radio was a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. There were two Drake models; one a TR-4 transceiver and the other a Drake 2-B receiver. The radios were displayed at the front of the classroom. The radio that Frank talked about most was an

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old military radio, a R-390A receiver. Also, Dick Bennett K2LJZ brought in an unusual, old radio. It was a Solar six-meter tube transceiver that could run on six, twelve or 120 volts. Dick said that no more than 300 of the radios were made. All in attendance enjoyed the information presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary

# **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

## **Minutes of Meeting - February 19th, 2009**

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:35 PM, on Thursday, February 19th, 2009 in classroom numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves. All seats were occupied; this was a very well attended meeting.

There was a departure from the usual OPARC meeting agenda. Sgt. Major Earl Salmons from the Marine Corp League presented OPARC with a framed award for its contribution to the Toys for Tots campaign. Sgt. Major Salmons expressed his appreciation to the club, and he received a round of applause from club members after he finished.

The minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS stated that the checking account has \$253.87 in it, and the savings account \$3,890.11. There is \$83.05 in cash-on-hand, so the total balance is \$4,227.03 The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

Rudy brought up a question about the change of club web sites, since the quarterly dues for the old site are due next month. A short discussion followed. It was mentioned that the dues to the old site include the use of the club web site domain name. President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN said he would look into the discrepancy and take appropriate action.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris W4NEK said that the state wants ARES to host the C.E.R.T. Academy at a date to be determined later this year. Also, Section Manager Paul Eakin, KJ4G will be an instructor again. The next ARES meeting will be Tuesday, February 24th, 2009.

REPEATERS: President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN reported that the new cavities are installed in the two-meter repeater and they are working well. Some applause was heard from around the room.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

VOLUNTEER EXAMNEERS (VE's): Chris Jacobs WB5TWK announced that there would be a testing session on March 21st, 2009. Contact the VE's if you or someone you know would like to upgrade or enter the fascinating hobby of amateur radio.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The annual St. Johns River clean-up will be held on Saturday, March 21st, 2009. This activity also has a local charity function. Canned goods and books are accepted for later distribution to those in need. Contact Carol Pangborn at 904-264-9663 for details if you wish to help clean up the river or if you have items to donate.

OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates WA4EWL is continuing with kit building and other electronic construction projects and activities. Contact Frank if you wish to participate.

Berte Anlage KF4OOK asked if there is any interest in getting together for dinner before the Thursday OPARC meetings. The time would probably be about 6:00 pm. Contact Berte if you are interested in doing this.

Break was called at 07:57 PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN. Jim kept five dollars for gas for his motorcycle and donated the rest of his winnings to the club.

The meeting re-convened at 8:15pm. The equipment auction began immediately and continued until adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

# **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary

## **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

### **Minutes of Meeting – March 19, 2009**

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:31 PM, on Thursday, March 19th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves. Jim MacKinnon personally welcomed visitor Arved Grass KF4UCQ.

The minutes of the February 19th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS stated that the checking account has \$253.87 in it, and the savings account \$4262.43. There is \$62.00 in cash-on-hand. The total balance is \$4578.30. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris W4NEK said that next weekend, March 28 & 29th, will have the State C.E.R.T Academy. Clay County ARES is tasked with communications and providing instructors for ham radio.

REPEATERS: Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN said that the 440 machine's echo link is working well and more hams should try using it.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): David Elmore N4OOE reported that there would be a testing session at Orange Park High School this coming Saturday, March 21st, 2009.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chris Jacobs WB5TWK said that the St. Johns River Clean Up is moving ahead and that just enough hams have come forward to fill the needed positions. Contact Chris if you would like to participate. Canned goods and books are still accepted for the charity part of the activity. Bring these items if you have some you wish to donate.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 07:45 PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by OPARC Vice President Frank Cates WA4EWL.

The meeting re-convened at 8:02PM.

Ian Wollen W3UZI provided the evening's educational program. Ian projected pictures on a screen of an exceptional ham station he visited in Tasmania. The station belongs to Doug VK7DK, who lives on that far away island. Everyone in attendance enjoyed Ian's presentation. After Ian finished, Henry KG4ZXY showed a mini-beam antenna he built from scratch. The antenna is a KJ5VW design. Henry said it took him about three days to build the antenna.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary

# **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

## **Minutes of Meeting – April 16, 2009**

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:30 PM, on Thursday, April 16th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves.

The minutes of the March 19th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS was made. Rudy reported that the checking account has \$193.87 in it, and the savings account \$4,262.43. There is \$144.00 in petty cash. The total balance is \$4600.30. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports:

ARES: Vern Ferris (W4NEK) reported that the C.E.R.T. Academy was a success. ARES provided two instructors for the event, thus providing a service to Putnum and St. Johns counties.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen WB4CGD said that the two-meter repeater is having intermittent noise problems. Some discussion about the malfunction followed. There seemed to be consensus that the noise is related to wind speed, and that the antenna and/or coax at the installation may be in need of replacement.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): No report was given.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Adrian Gray KJ4BOT mentioned that May 9th, 2009, is the date of the annual MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) cross band radio test. MARS stations will talk with amateur radio stations using the cross band feature. More information can be found on page 86 of the May, 2009 issue of QST. Also, Adrian will provide more data at a later date.

Rudy Hellmold said that the 2009 Mug Race will be held on Saturday, May 2nd. Five amateur radio operators are needed to help with communications for the race. Contact Rudy at 269-7960 or via e-mail at dasboot@bellsouth.net if you are ready and willing to participate in this activity.

Bob Ivey KE4YQR announced that a local ham, Frank Ingle KG4CQK, has had an article published in the May, 2009 issue of QST Magazine. The article is titled "Build a Docking Station for Your Handheld", and may be found on page 45.

NEW BUSINESS: Field Day is fast approaching. OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates WA4EWL has agreed to be Field Day Chairman. Berte Anlage has agreed to be in charge of food and refreshments. Thank you, Berte. The club trailers are at two separate locations, and will have to be retrieved and brought to the Field Day site. The usual problems of obtaining computers and radios will have to be solved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 8:00PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by Adrian Gray KJ4BOT.

The meeting re-convened at 8:18 PM.

Frank Cates WA4EWL made a presentation about antenna analyzers, several different types of volt-ohm meters, clamp-on ammeters, and the trusty ole' Bird model 43 wattmeter. Frank has lots of stuff in his shack.

Dick Bennett K2LJZ gave a presentation about the new digital TV channels, and problems associated with them. The digital signals

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pose new reception problems.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis KB0VB  
OPARC Secretary

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## Minutes of Meeting – MAY 2009

No DATA



## ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

### Minutes of Meeting –June 18, 2009

Vice President Frank Cates WA4EWL convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:34 PM, on Thursday, June 18th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves. The club personally welcomed visitor Perry Ward KE4BHU. Vice-President Cates then spent several minutes describing the various aspects of amateur radio and the fact that amateur radio is fun.

The minutes of the May 21st, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold, KC4WWS stated that the checking account has \$4.53 in it, and the savings account \$2,819.14. There is \$84.00 in cash-on-hand. The total balance is \$2,907.67. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership. Rudy noted a concern about the decreasing size of the club's accounts.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris, W4NEK reported that Clay County ARES participated in "Clay Prepares EXPO" on Saturday, June 13th, 2009. The event was held at the Fleming Island Teachers Training Center. Assisting were Scott, KG4LUG, Mike, KJ4FEQ, Adrian, AJ4BOT and Vern, W4NEK.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen, WB4CGD said that the club repeaters were working well.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): It was announced that there would be a testing session at Orange Park High School on Saturday, September 19th, 2009.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ian Wollen W3UZI announced that he was looking for a high impedance mic for an old Heathkit radio. If you have one and are willing to part with it, contact Ian.

OLD BUSINESS: Pete Lynch, N6PRS said that he had made reservations at the Golden Corral on Blanding Boulevard for 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 27th, 2009. A hearty breakfast is a good way to start Field Day. Also, Pete asked the membership if they wanted to reserve the Golden Corral's back room for our Christmas Party. It was agreed that the club did want to hold the event there and Pete said he would reserve the room for Thursday, December 17th, 2009. The Christmas Party is scheduled to start at 7:00 PM. This proves that OPARC is capable of long range planning. Hihi. J

On another subject, Pete said that Mr. John Green Jr., Vice-Principal of Lakeside Junior High School, has requested that he needs adults that are willing to become mentors for students. Those interested in doing this can contact Mr. Green at 213-2980.

Berte Anlange says she will need at least five ice chests on Field Day. You can fill them with ice if you wish, but she will take them with or without ice. So – if you have a cooler lying around the house or garage, bring it to Field Day. Berte again said that spouses and other family members are welcome. Those coming should bring a salad, desert, or covered dish. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM Saturday, June 27th, 2009.

Bill Anlange, KB7MSC reminds everyone that Field Day pictures can be found at [myclaysun.com](http://myclaysun.com).

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 08:01 PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by John Love, NZ4QJ.

The meeting re-convened at 8:17PM.

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Larry Filzen, WB4CGD mentioned that his wife has written another Civil War era novel and the story has been made into a movie. To find out more go to: [www.lydiahawke.us](http://www.lydiahawke.us) or call 904-272-0726.

Vice President Frank Cates told a strange story concerning amateur radio and some other happenings. All present enjoyed Frank's tale. (Secretary's note: I'm not going to try to repeat his story here.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary

# ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

## Minutes of Meeting – July 16, 2009

Vice President Frank Cates WA4EWL convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:33 PM, on Thursday, July 16th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves. The club personally welcomed several visiting amateurs and a potential new ham named Jared, who is eight years old.

The minutes of the June 18th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold, KC4WWS stated that the checking account has \$17.03 in it, and the savings account \$3,733.41. There is \$106.00 in cash-on-hand. The total balance is \$3,856.44. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris, W4NEK reported that the next ARES meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July, 28th, 2009 in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center.

REPEATERS: The question was asked if the 53.190 six-meter repeater is owned by OPARC. The answer is no; the device is owned and maintained by Jake Jacobs K5WTA, Roger Pangborn WA4UKJ and Dudley Davis N4DPD. The group has the name "Clay County Sixers". A web site for the repeater can be found at: <http://www.qsl.net/k4six/>

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): It was announced that there would be a testing session at Orange Park High School on Saturday, September 19th, 2009.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jake Jacobs, K5WTA stated that he will be bringing in some good gear for sale at the next club auction and all monies earned will go to the club. There will be minimum acceptable bids on some gear. Bring money and be ready for picking up some good gear. (Secretary's note: The next club auction will be held at the upcoming August 20th meeting.)

Dan Weisenburger, KW4T announced there is a Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz.

Larry Filzen, WB4CGD mentioned that his spouse Lydia, KD4BVV has had a novel she authored made into a movie. It is to be shown at the Orange Park Community Theater located at 2900 Moody Avenue in Orange Park. The show times are: Friday, July 31st at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 1st at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 2nd at 3:00 p.m. To find out more go to: [www.lydiahawke.us](http://www.lydiahawke.us) or call 904-272-0726.

Barbara Farrar, KI4DJK mentioned this date, July 16th, was Bob Farrar's birthday. A round of applause was sounded for Bob, K4EJJ.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The question came up of why the club has two web sites. The question does not have an easy answer. The old site, which is found at: [www.OPARC.net](http://www.OPARC.net), has proven to be difficult to maintain and has a sixty dollar per quarter cost connected with it. It is a true web site. The new site, which is found at: <http://oparc.weebly.com/> is easy to maintain and use and has no cost connected with it, but is not a true web site. By giving up the old site OPARC may be giving up the OPARC.net name. Mike Hendershot, KJ4FEQ said he would look into the new and old site issues. (Secretary's Note: Ian Wollen, W3UZ1 is the web master for the new site. The old site, which requires considerable computer knowledge to maintain, was recently cleaned up and updated by Chris Jacobs, WB5TWK. A vote of thanks is needed to both of these people for devoting time to their respective sites.)

Bob Farrar, K4EJJ, brought up the topic of receiving digital TV. It appears a lot of hams have tried different things, and have had varying degrees of success with receiving and converting the new digital TV signals.

Larry Filzen, WB4CGD mentioned that Field Day was a success because of the contributions of many, but particular mention should

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be made of the efforts of Berte Anlange and OPARC Vice President Frank Cates, WA4EWL. Frank said that preparation is important, so that problems can be overcome before it is time to put the radios on the air. (Secretary's Note: Others that contributed more than their share of time and effort were Jim Iori, NU4Y and Larry Filzen, WB4CGD. Larry's scissor lift makes putting up towers and antennas much easier.)

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 08:03 PM.

There was no Pot-O'-Gold drawing.

The meeting re-convened at 8:13PM.

Vice President Frank Cates started a "show and tell" sequence that went on for over an hour. Everybody has a story to tell. Most of the talks were about ham radio but a few were not. All were enjoyable.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary

# **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

## **Minutes of Meeting – August 20, 2009**

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:29 PM, on Thursday, August 20th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves.

The minutes of the July 16th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS was made. Rudy reported that the checking account has \$17.03 in it, and the savings account \$3,722.41. There is \$143.50 in petty cash. The total balance is \$3,882.94. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: ARES will be meeting at 7:00 PM next Tuesday, August 25th, right where we are meeting now, in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen WB4CGD said that all repeaters are working well but there have been some problems with the associated echo link feature.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): David Elmore N4OOE stated that the next testing session will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 2009 at the West Campus of Orange Park High School. Testing starts at 8:00 am in the morning.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Larry Filzen WB4CGD thanked all those that came to view the movie shown at the Orange Park Community Theater.

Chris Davis KB0VB, OPARC Secretary announced that a Nominating Committee will need to be formed at the next OPARC meeting. The normal club election procedure is that the nominating committee is formed at the September meeting, then the nominating committee makes recommendations at the October meeting. The elections of 2010's officers will follow at the November meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Joe Burnett W4BUR asked a question about why the club is paying \$240.00 per year for the old club web site. This was discussed at the previous (July) OPARC meeting but not resolved. Many members seemed to agree that this situation needs attention. President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN spoke on the subject for several minutes explaining some of the technical and legal problems that are involved with ownership of domain names. A motion came from the floor to form a committee to investigate solutions to the convoluted problems and then report back to the club on the best available solution. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. OPARC members that volunteered to be on the committee are: Ian Woolen W3UZI, Mike Hendershot KJ4FEQ, Jim Portwood KH6OU, and Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN. Hopefully, the committee will have recommendations as to the best course of action at the next OPARC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 7:52PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold was won by OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates WA4EWL.

The meeting then went to its main feature for the evening – the club auction. A lot of items changed hands for reasonable amounts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

## **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

Christian Davis KB0VB  
OPARC Secretary

# ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

## Minutes of Meeting – September 17, 2009

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:31 PM, on Thursday, September 17th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves. A special welcome was made to Dick Bennett K2LJZ, who was back from his summer cottage in Maine.

The minutes of the August 20th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS was made. Rudy reported that the club made \$225.00 from the August meeting's auction. Most of this sum came from several individuals that donated all of their auction sales to the club. OPARC thanks these kind folks for their gifts. The rest of Rudy's report went on to say that the checking account has \$305.03 in it, and the savings account \$3,722.41. There is \$133.00 in petty cash. The total balance is \$4,160.44. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Clay County ARES will support C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) Advanced Training on October 17 and 18 at the Salvation Army Camp on SR 100 in Keystone Heights. All ARES personnel, or any other ham that is interested in this activity, should contact Vern W4NEK by e-mail by September 24th. Vern is the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Clay County and can be reached at: [w4nek@arrl.net](mailto:w4nek@arrl.net).

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen WB4CGD said that all repeaters are working well.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): David Elmore N4OOE stated that the next testing session will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 2009 at the West Campus of Orange Park High School. Testing starts at 8:00 am in the morning.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN stated that some progress has been made in resolving the problem of OPARC having two web sites. Mike Hendershot KJ4FEQ, went on to say that eventually OPARC will once again have just one web site.

As was announced at last meeting, the club's by-laws call for a Nominating Committee being formed at the September meeting to create a list of recommended candidates for the club's elected offices. President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN asked for volunteers. Larry Filzen WB2EZN and Dick Bennett K2LJZ volunteered, and now constitute the 2009 Nominating Committee. The recommendations will be made at the October meeting and elections will follow at the November meeting. *(Secretary's Note: Nominations for elected offices may also be made from the floor at the October meeting, or before the balloting starts at the November meeting.)*

### NEW BUSINESS:

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN stated that several club members have suggested changing the eating establishment used for the Saturday morning breakfast. Some folks have suggested Whitey's Fish Camp. If you feel that you would like to try eating at the new establishment, e-mail or call Jim and voice your opinion on the subject. *(Secretary's Note: If you wish, you can send your thoughts on the subject to your friendly secretary. I will pass them on to Jim.)*

It was brought up that it has been a long time since a club roster was made available to the general OPARC membership. The last time this was done some complaints were heard concerning privacy violations. So, it was decided that club Secretary Christian Davis KBOVB and Treasurer Rudi Hellmold KC4WWS are going to ask members if they wish to be included in the roster and then compile the resulting information into a roster available to all members.

Break was called at 7:54PM. Shortly afterward the lights went out.

The lights came on about the same time as Pot-O-Gold drawing. The Pot-O'-Gold was won by OPARC President Jim MacKinnon

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WB2EZN. The lights being out didn't have anything to do with it Jim winning. Honest.

The meeting re-convened at 8:07 PM

The main feature for the evening was a presentation by OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates WA4EWL. Frank brought in a number of old and new amateur radio books. As per usual with one Frank's presentations, listening to Frank's enthusiasm for all things pertaining to amateur radio was entertaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Christian Davis KB0VB  
OPARC Secretary



# ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

## Minutes of Meeting – October 15, 2009

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The Treasurer's Report from Rudy Hellmold KC4WWS was made. Rudy reported that the checking account has \$405.03 in it, and the savings account \$3,722.41. There is \$62.00 in petty cash. The total balance is \$4189.44. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Membership.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Adrian Gray KJ4BOT said there would be some C.E.R.T. Training this coming weekend.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen WB4CGD said that all repeaters are working well except for the two meter which seems to be a little cranky at times. Larry is also the Nominating Committee Chairman and asked if there were any volunteers for the office of Secretary. There was silence, but the topic came up later in the meeting, after the break.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): David Elmore N4OOE stated that the next testing session will be held in November. A question was asked about the availability of amateur radio classes. The only class known at this time will be offered by the Red Cross sometime after Christmas. Perhaps there will be more information on this subject at a later club meeting.

Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN stated that he received a lot of comments and opinions about the different breakfast serving establishments OPARC is considering using for its Saturday morning breakfasts. The majority of people want to continue to hold the breakfasts at Golden Corral.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

In a change from the usual meeting format of presenting educational programs after the break, Vice-President Frank Cates WA4EWL gave a short talk about testing capacitors.

Break was called at 7:46PM.

There were two Pot-O'-Gold drawings. The first was won by Dan Weisenburger KW4T. The second was won by Adrian Gray KJ4BOT. Adrian's winning was a digital volt-ohm meter.

The meeting re-convened at 7:59 PM

Larry Filzen WB4CGD, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced that his committee's list of nominees for next year is as follows: President: Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN, Vice President: Frank Cates WA4EWL, Treasurer: Rudi Hellmold KC4WWS, and Secretary: Adrian Gray KJ4BOT. For Board of Directors the nominations are: Ian Wollen W3UZI, and Dick Bennett K2LJZ. (Secretary's Note: Nominations for elected offices may also be made from the floor at the November meeting, before before the balloting begins.)

The main feature for the evening was an outstanding presentation by guest Frank (Sandy) Ingle KG4CQK. The topic was setting up and connecting generators for emergency use.

Sandy has also authored an article entitled "Build a Docking Station for Your Handheld" that may be found in the May, 2009 publication of QST magazine.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

## **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis KB0VB  
OPARC Secretary

# ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009

## Minutes of Meeting – November 19, 2009

President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN convened the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club meeting at 7:30 PM, on Thursday, November 19th, 2009. The meeting was held in classrooms numbers five and six of Orange Park Medical Center located on Kingsley Avenue. All members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves.

The minutes of the October 15th, 2009 meeting were presented and accepted as written without amendment.

Treasurer Rudy Hellmold was absent from the meeting and the Treasurer's Report was not given.

The meeting proceeded to standing committee reports.

ARES: Vern Ferris W4NEK said that there would be no ARES meetings in November and December.

RAM WATCH: No report was given.

REPEATERS: Larry Filzen WB4CGD said that there have been problems with the 146.67 repeater. Several amateurs present voiced concern about the continuing problems with the unit. The repeater is not available for use much of the time. Jake Jacobs K5WTA said those needing a two meter contact should use the 146.925 repeater instead. President Jim MacKinnon said that Jim Iori NU4Y is waiting for availability of a spectrum analyzer. Access to the repeater site is only possible during 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday. For those that work, this presents a serious problem.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINEERS (VE's): David Elmore N4OOE stated that an amateur exam testing session will be held this coming Saturday, November 21st, 2009 at 8:00 AM at Orange Park High School. No other exams are planned until 2010.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The usual OPARC breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, December 5th, at the Golden Corral on Blanding Blvd.

The OPARC Christmas Meeting will be held on December 17th, 2009 at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Blanding Blvd. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

On Saturday, December 19th, 2009 there will be a kit building and experimenting happening at OPARC Vice President Frank Cates' (WA4EWL) home. Contact Frank for details.

Ian Wollen W3UZI read a nice letter appearing in the Club website from Tony, N5TB, that praised OPARC.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The topic of OPARC having two web sites was brought up. After some discussion a motion was made to discontinue the old web site. The motion was seconded and then passed on a voice vote. When President Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN asked for any nays, there were none.

After voting to discontinue the old web site, the consequential question of the whether the club wanted to continue ownership of the OPARC.net name was put forward by Jim MacKinnon. After discussion, a motion was made to discontinue ownership of the OPARC.net net name. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. When any nays were asked for, there were none.

The election of OPARC officers for 2010 was the next Old Business topic. Control of the meeting was passed to Nominating Committee Chairman Larry Filzen WB4CGD. Larry put forth his committee's recommendations for next year. They were: President: Jim MacKinnon KB2EZN, Vice President: Frank Cates WA4EWL, Treasurer: Rudi Hellmold KC4WWS, and Secretary: Adrian Gray KJ4BOT. For Board of Directors the nominations were: Ian Wollen W3UZI, and Dick Bennett K2LJZ. Larry asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Voting followed. When asked for all in favor there was a resounding "Yea". When asked for any Nays, there was silence. The Nominating Committee's slate of officers was elected to office.

Larry asked for nominations for Ham of the Year. Four OPARC members were nominated. The four were JimMacKinnon KB2EZN,

## **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

Vern Ferris W4NEK, Frank Cates WA4EWL and Chris Davis KB0VB. With four nominees a ballot election was needed. Blank cards were handed out and members were asked to vote for the OPARC member that they thought had done the most for the club during the last year. The cards were collected and counted during break.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Break was called at 8:15PM.

The Pot-O'-Gold drawings was won by Ian Wollen W3UZI.

The meeting re-convened at 8:30 PM

The winner of the Ham of the Year Award was Frank Cates WA4EWL. Congratulations, Frank.

Those in attendance were then treated to one of Frank's presentations. Frank talked about his early beginnings in amateur radio as a teenager, using equipment that is now considered collector's items. As per usual, everyone in attendance enjoyed Frank's tales of amateur radio, even if it occurred long ago.

As the meeting was getting close to closing time it was announced that OPARC's Field Day results were in the December issue of QST magazine. The club's call sign was K4BT. Chris Davis KB0VB made the comment that it was Jim Lori NU4Y who was responsible for turning in the data to ARRL for computation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Davis KB0VB  
OPARC Secretary

## **ORANGE PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2009**

### **December Dinner Meeting Summary- December 17, 2009**

There was no call to order, no Treasurer's Report, and no approval of the November meeting minutes. People were busy introducing their spouse or date to those around them, getting good food, then eating and conversing with fellow OPARC members. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the ambiance of the occasion. All that could be heard was the continuing clatter of silverware and dishes, and the constant roar of many voices in a constant state of conversation. The December, 2009 Dinner Meeting of the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club was underway. The starting time was somewhere around 7:00 PM.

Around 7:30 pm President Jim MacKinnon (KB2EZN) rose and addressed the group. He presented OPARC Vice-President Frank Cates, WA4EWL with the Ham of the Year Award. As anyone that has been at the monthly meetings knows, Frank is deserving of this honor.

A large pile of OPARC member-donated presents occupied a space near the dining room doorway. Everyone seemed in a good mood, in keeping with the Christmas Season.

I left the festivities shortly before 8:00 pm accompanied by my XYL and the next Secretary, Adrian Gray, WJ4BOT. We transferred the club's documents from my vehicle to his in the Golden Corral parking lot. Adrian and I discussed the subject briefly, and then decided that I would write the December, 2009 dinner-meeting minutes as my last official act as OPARC Secretary. The Secretary's job is fun, but it does require time and effort. I have no doubts that Adrian will do a fine job. For me, it's time for other things. As Secretary, I now QRT.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Cheerfully submitted,  
Christian Davis, KBOVB  
OPARC Secretary - finis

NB -- A good job very well done!  
Ian W3UZI