



2003-2004 EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDENT

Darin Hinman, WA2QOM, 3013
wa2qom@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Frank Taylor, AA0ZP, 3462
aa0zp@juno.com

TREASURER

Dan Clevenger, W0VD, 4162
w0vd@sofnet.com

SECRETARY

Warren Tomme, WA4Z0P, 3718
wtomme@hiwaay.net

DIRECTORS

Jeff Kelly, K4JRK, 962
k4jrk@hotmail.com

Dallas Burgess, WU8Q, 3672

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pete, KF5RD, 2061
David, W9QX, 4376
Harlen, KA9GLX, 4223
Pete, AC7DW, 4120

MANAGER, QSL BUREAU

Dan Miller, KC0FRL, 4039
kc0frl@arrl.net

AWARDS MANAGER

Warren, Rowe, KM5EW, 3198
km5ew@hotmail.com
awards@omiss.net

INFORMATION OFFICER

Val Walker, N0QW, 4706
info@omiss.net

CHAPLAIN

Carroll, KG4AWQ, 4049

ROSTER

Fred Harlson, KC9NN, 324
kc9nn@charter.net
roster@omiss.net

EDITOR

Harry Partlow, N5VTP, 2869
editor@omiss.net

WEBMASTER

Stu Liss, K2YYY, 3203
webmaster@omiss.net

BUSINESS AGENT

Jim Moore, KF4HW, 422
jamesmoore.architect@get.net

ALL BAND NET COORDINATOR

Ron, KX2J, 307 kx2j2000@yahoo.com

BAND COORDINATORS

10M – KK6AW, Kelsey, 3830
15M – N7FUD, Ron, 1914
17M – N4SPN, Ralph, 1340
20M – KC9NN, Fred, 324
40M – KC0OZJ, Larry, 4746
80M – K4JRK, Jeff, 962
160M – W9QX, David, 4376

TREASURERS REPORT

\$ 3320.63 in bank on March 1, 2005
+ 105.00 15 new members
+ 18.00 roster fees
+ 589.00 Awards money received
+ 00.00 O'Missile Fund
+ 68.00 Bureau Fund
+ 357.52 Awards Manager Petty Cash Fund

\$4458.15

- 11.00 Bank Service Charge
- 100.00 O'Missile Printing
- 74.53 All Sports Trophys
- 10.20 Treasurer Expenses

\$4262.42 Total Funds for OMISS

DAN, KC0FRL, 4039 QSL BUREAU

The OMISS QSL Bureau is continuing to grow. We are looking at another expansion soon. Not sure where we will go from there, but time will tell. For those new members, and some old members getting back into operating, I would like to give an overview of how we operate. I have custom made the sorting bins to hold the #10 envelopes. Odd size envelopes don't work into the system well at all. We sort all of the cards alphabetically by call. It really helps when you put the OMISS Member number somewhere on the QSL card. (Even if you put it on the back!) There is a magical phenomenon that takes place after you put the QSL cards in the envelope and seal it. The letters and numbers change places, get lost, blur or smear, and do other strange things. This has to be the case, as no one would write the wrong call on the cards. When we find the results of this strange phenomenon, we try to return the card for correction. However, without knowing for sure what the call is, it helps when we have the OMISS number so we can look it up in our Roster list. When your envelope is full as determined by the amount of postage you have put on them, we send them out. When you have less than four envelopes in the Bureau, we write the number you have left in the lower left hand corner of the envelope. When you get down to one envelope, we write it in red. This gives you plenty of advanced notice that you need to think about sending in more envelopes. We hate to return cards, but we don't have the room to store homeless cards. Our space is needed for envelopes! We keep all homeless cards for thirty days before we return them to the station of origin. Not all new check-ins become members. You may want to hold the cards for a while to see if they get their member number. When the number comes over the internet, we give them their first envelope free. For existing members, you can check the "Who's Good in the Bureau" list on the home page. We want to thank every one for their continued support, and we enjoy operating the OMISS Bureau.

(Editors note): A special thanks to Roxie, KC0LLB, OM SWL 0007, Dan's XYL and a major co-worker with Dan in the OMISS QSL bureau.

TOPS OPS

Members receiving the monthly top op award were:

Jan	WA2QOM, 3013
Feb (TIE)	N4JTE, 1440 KK6AW, 3830
Mar	KC0OZJ, 4746

Every member of OMISS is eligible and encouraged to vote for the individual you believe was the best all around operator during the month. Members may vote by voice during any net, via email or U.S. Mail to any officer, director, ban net coordinator, net controller, or the awards chairman. All votes must be cast by the last day of the month

Net Controllers:

4th Qtr K4JRK, 962

Voting for the Net Controller of the Quarter will be voted on by the V.I.P.'s of OMISS and all Net Controls who have served the entire three month period. Voting is done through the all band coordinator, but votes may be cast on the air, by e-mail, U.S. mail or using the on-line ballot available at www.omiss.net.

FRED, KC9NN, 324 ROSTER CHAIRMAN

Fred is our roster chairman and would like anyone with a change of State, County, or grid to please send him their information at kc9nn@arrl.net.

He says this summer it is time to change his beam. "I think I am going to a Mosley six band beam with a 24 foot boom, not real sure yet on the beam.

I have a problem with an area to start from to put up the beam. My driveway looks like the best place because of trees and phone wires and more trees.

What I am going to do is put up two 2/4, ten foot long on the tower to tie ropes on to make a track to slide the beam up.

Anyone having an idea of what to use as far as anything other than a two by four or what kind of rope let me know

The beam I am thinking of has and 40 element, 20, 15, 17, 24 and 10 meters.

MY wife Nolene has a pace maker and I can't have any wires over the house under 35 feet so the beam will take care of 40, now comes 80 and that leaves a problem I don't have a very big lot and 160 is out of the question unless there is some configuration that has the 80 and 160 together with coils to make up the length difference, again any ideas?

It is good hearing all of you on 20 and after I get the beam I will be able to get on other bands.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO KELSEY, KK6AW, 3830

Just last month Kelsey was honored to receive the 2004 OMISS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD and he recently added to his excitement by finished working the newest OMISS award, the Flag Award. Kelsey worked all 48 plus Alaska and Hawaii (twice) in 47 days! In other words he worked all states 5 times in 1.5 months!

PAUL, K9PEP, 4831

Hello all,

Frequently, I have noticed that several members are trying to check in at the same time. One trick that I, have learned is to key the mike and say "this is", (or something similar), then let off and listen a second. If no one is talking, quickly key up again and resend your call sign, of course if someone is talking, wait until they are clear, then retry. You will most likely get your call through. Of course the net control operator has to be listening more than talking, or nothing will get through.

ALASKA INFORMATION

Two basic forms of local government exist in Alaska: the city and the borough. The borough is similar to the areas referred to as counties in

most other states. Alaska is unique, among the states, because most of it has not yet been organized into political units such as boroughs or cities.

BOROUGHS, NOT COUNTIES; The United States Constitution does not define local government. Instead, this function is left up to the states.

Counties are a local unit of government within a state. All but two of the states are divided into counties. Alaska is divided into boroughs and census districts and Louisiana is divided into parishes. Governing responsibilities are similar to counties.

Traditionally, counties performed tasks mandated by the state, such as property assessment, property and vital statistic record keeping, maintenance of rural roads, administration of local election and judicial functions, and support of the poor. Today, counties may be responsible for these function, more or less, but the responsibilities of country governments vary from state to state.

Alaska is unique among the states. It's extremely large, much of the state is sparsely populated, and much of the state has not been divided into local governing units in the manner of counties. Instead of local divisions of government established as counties, Alaska is divided into a group of boroughs and geographical census areas.

http://www.netstate.com/states/government/ak_government.htm

PAUL, K9PEP, 4831

The AS-2 Spiro antenna.

I do not have enough room on my small lot, to put up a 160 meter antenna. So I decided to look into different antenna styles, to see what I could do. I have for 50 years built my own wire antennas, but when I spotted the AS-2 Spiro, for \$69.99, I decided to try one.

Placed at about 50 feet up, with the ladder line all unrolled and stretched out, the antenna loads up well on 160, 80, and 40, the only bands I use it for. I am now able to make 160 meter

contacts, a feat I had never been able to do before.

This antenna is only 70 feet long tip to tip. I ordered the companion BALUN with it. The antenna comes with 100 feet of "ladder" feedline, and the manufacturer told me to "coil up the extra". I tried this, and it did not work. I then uncoiled the ladder line, tied a rope to my neighbors tree, tied the other end to the ladder line, about mid point, and pulled the ladder line into a "sideways V".

It is winter here, and that means a lot of wind. So as you might expect, the ladder line broke right where it was fastened to the BALUN. After I repaired the broken connection, I took a piece of wood lathe and taped it across the BALUN and about a foot of the ladder line, to "re-enforce" the joint. It has functioned well ever since. (a trick I learned from the same problem with a G5RV).

So if any members are wondering how to get on 160, here is one of the many.

JIM, K9GI, 4698

78 Years young Jim retired after 12 years on the Omro city council in February 2004, saying it was time for someone younger to take over; however, he didn't rule out running again one day as he says it gets in your blood. When asked what he will be doing he said he would keep occupied with his passion for amateur radio as he spends about 5 hours a day in a room in his house he calls the "HAM shack" communicating with other amateur radio enthusiasts around the world.

Jim started in amateur in 1975 when he went to a class in Neenah with two of his daughters. He took the class, passed the test and stayed with it. He's a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and says he'll do it forever as long as his ears hold up.

Jim and his wife are involved in many service organizations, "my wife and I are in the volunteer mode, I don't sit around much. There is always something to do."

PAGE, WA3EOP, 3031

On February 5, I mobiled to the Capital of Delaware and got on the 20 and 40 meter OMISS Nets. I gave KL0WX in Alaska state # 50 (think it was 50 but maybe #49) Anyway Alaska to a Mobile in DE has got to be a good contact, even on OMISS. On 40, I gave N0SJ in ND a much needed DE QSO. I worked a couple others on the net but its really satisfying to be a last state for someone which I've done at least a dozen times from the mobile in the last few years.

PAUL, K9PEP, 4831

Well I had every intention of trying to work the OMISS contest from Honduras this week, but I developed a bleeding disorder and due to quite a large loss of blood, I was unable to go with the group this year, because of that. I went to a new doctor yesterday, and he found the cause. He thinks it is now under control, but it was too late for me to go with my group. So no contest, and no Honduras contacts from me! Maybe next year?

My HF antenna has been tied up with the "winlink" setup that will be used to send e-mail traffic into and out of the villages we serve there in Honduras. It was packed, sent and is being set up in Honduras, in the close vicinity of La Ceiba, Atlantidas, by Jim KG6EFT. It will be operated by my replacement, who is Steve, KE7RR, so I now can try to get on the lower frequency bands again!

Steve will also be operating the 40 meter net, on various frequencies. They start on 7.292, and move as required to avoid the QRM that is always present on 40 meters. Normally to 7.272, or 7.252, or as deemed appropriate by the net control station. In Honduras, the allowable "phone" frequency is different than in the USA. They can use voice down to about 7.050, so if you hear them, and want to make a contact, be sure you are within YOUR frequency limits. Also I might ask that you make sure their business has been concluded BEFORE you call them. Making radio contacts is fun for all of us Amateur Radio Operators, but the group in

Honduras does have a priority mission. After that, they can play to an extent.

KEN, WI7B, 5193

Want to complete your Nevada State Flag Certificate? How about working a truly unique Special Events Station? The opportunity will occur between August 29th and September 5th, 2005. With the help of another OMISS member from the Reno-area, I'm sponsoring N7B ("Nevada-7-Burn") the first special events station at Burning Man.

Burning Man is an arts festival that attracts 30,000+ in building a community for one week in the middle of the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. It's an event that epitomizes the word "self-expression"...

⇒ <http://www.burningman.com/>

For the past few years, I've volunteered as an EMT in Burning Man's Emergency Medical Service, where I've used the "Burning Hams" organization's 2m repeater. This year the time is ripe for some HF gear in the desert...

⇒ <http://n7bweb.net/>

Our plan is to run a tribander and dipole from a 50 foot tower backed by a 500W linear. We will make a special effort to be available on OMISS nets during the week that N7B is authorized. So, mark your calendars!

HAM RADIO IN INDIA

Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation
By Rama Lakshmi

PORT BLAIR, India -- About one month ago, Bharathi Prasad and her team of six young ham radio operators landed in this remote island capital with a hobbyist's dream: Set up a station and establish a new world record for global ham radio contacts. In the world of ham slang, it was called a Dxpedition." "It is a big honor to come to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and operate.

There is no ham activity here because it is considered a very sensitive area by the Indian government," said Prasad, a 46-year-old mother

of two from New Delhi. In fact, the last ham activity in these scattered islands in the Bay of Bengal, 900 miles east of the Indian mainland, occurred in 1987, when Prasad set up a station in Port Blair and made 15,500 calls. "I had always wanted to come back and break that record," she said. This time, Prasad set up an antenna in her hotel and turned Room 501 into a radio station. She made more than 1,000 contacts every day and said she operated "almost all day and all night, with just three hours of sleep."

In the early hours of Dec. 26, while the other hotel guests were fast asleep, Prasad's room was crackling with the usual squawks and beeps. At 6:29 a.m., she felt the first tremors of an earthquake. The tables in her room started shaking violently. She jumped up and shouted, "Tremors!" into her microphone. Then the radio went dead. She ran out and alerted the hotel staff and other guests. But with that one word, she had alerted the world of radio hams, too.

Within a few hours, the extent of the damage was clear to everyone in Port Blair. But the tsunami had knocked out the power supply and telephone service of the entire archipelago of 500 islands, leaving the capital virtually cut off from the rest of India. Undaunted, Prasad set up a temporary station on the hotel lawn with the help of a generator -- and put the city back on the ham radio map. "I contacted Indian hams in other states and told them about what had happened. The whole world of radio hams were looking for us, because they had not heard from us after the tremors," she said later. "But I also knew this was going to be a big disaster. I immediately abandoned my expedition and told all radio operators to stop disturbing me. I was only on emergency communication from then on."

While news of the death and devastation caused by the tsunami in other parts of India was quickly transmitted around the world, the fate of the Andamans and Nicobars was slow to unfold.

Prasad kept broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could hear her radio. Over and over, she repeated that there was no power, no water, no phone lines. On Monday morning, she marched into the district commissioner's office and offered her services. "What is a ham?" he asked her. After she explained, he let her set up a radio station in his office, and a second one on Car Nicobar, the island hit hardest. For the next two days, as the government grappled with the collapsed communication infrastructure, Prasad's ham call

sign, VU2RBI, was the only link for thousands of Indians who were worried about their friends and families in the islands. She also became the hub for relief communications among officials. "Survivors in Car Nicobar were communicating with their relatives in Port Blair through us," she said. When the phone lines were restored on Tuesday, Prasad's team in Car Nicobar radioed information about survivors to her team in Port Blair, whose members then called anxious relatives on the mainland to tell them that their loved ones were alive and well. Prasad also helped 15 foreign tourists, including several from the United States send news to their families. Offers of relief aid poured in from around the world through her radio, and she directed them to government officials. She also arranged for volunteer doctors to be sent from other Indian states. Now she has become so popular in the islands, and in the ham world, that she said she has been affectionately nicknamed the "Teresa of the Bay of Bengal." When the earthquake occurred, Prasad's worried husband called her from New Delhi and asked her to return home immediately. "He reminded me that I have two children to look after back home," she said, laughing. "I told him that as a ham radio operator, I have a duty in times of disaster." Under India's strict communications laws, a ham cannot leave home with his or her radio without going through an elaborate bureaucratic process to obtain permission from various ministries. Prasad said that after her first expedition to Port Blair, she spent 17 years begging and badgering officials before she was allowed to return. Now she hopes her work in the aftermath of the tsunami will ease the path for other hams in India. "She looked like a simple housewife when she checked in," recalled Ravi Singh, the hotel manager in Port Blair. "But now I marvel at the courage she has shown."

Editors note: Sorry, I lost the information on who provided the above article but I knew all hams would be interested in the article.

JUST A REMINDER

All OMISS nets operate on UTC time and net times do not change with daylight saving time. (40m, 75m, 160m nets are held the next day in many areas of the United States.)

160 meters, 1.880, Fri & Sat 0400Z (Closes 3/28/05)
75 meters 3.940.5, 0200Z daily
75 meters 3.940.5, 0500Z Fri & Sat (Sat & Sun Zulu time)
40 meters, 7.263.5, 0100Z daily
40 meters late net, 7.263.5 0300Z Fri & Sat
20 meters, 14.290, 1830Z Mon through Sat
17 meters, 18.165, 1900Z Sat and Sun (Closes 3/28/05)
15 Meters, 21.360, 1700Z Sat, Sun & Holiday Mondays.
10 Meters, 28.665, 1800Z Sat and Sun

EDITORIAL, N5VTP, 2869

Many thanks to our contributors, it is only through your participation that this newsletter is possible. The newsletter is published twice a year and as you read the articles, keep in mind that I could have used a page and a half more – maybe next time? I hope it will encourage you to consider writing an article for the August, 2005 issue.

73, Harry
