



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings OMISS, I would like to set the record straight on a few items as it seems there are some who think the Board is unresponsive or unwilling to address the members concerns.

I will start by asking that you all please ignore all rumors of my resignation! Unfortunately we have had several others resign from OMISS positions.

WR1TX has resigned as awards manager.. K0CFI, Joe, has agreed to assume the responsibilities of this position. Please hold all awards applications until Joe get the awards material and has time to get set up. We will keep you advised via the nets. .Dan W0VD, 4162, has resigned as treasurer. Dick, KA0AK, 185, has accepted the appointment as treasurer and membership chairman. Greg, AE9W, 3331, has agreed to take over the responsibilities of the OMISS web page and Reflector.

E-QSLs - Since my appointment almost one year ago, I have received a large number of comments both for and against allowing e-QSLs for OMISS awards. At the request of members, we discussed this issue at 2 separate meetings and both times the Board voted not to allow e-QSLs for OMISS awards. Having discussed this further with some of the Board members, I believe it is unlikely that e-QSLs will be accepted under the current Board of Directors.

CHECK-INS – Check-ins via AIM or other alternate methods – During our December meeting we discussed this matter and voted to allow stations to use these alternate methods as an assist to check-in, provided the station can be heard ON THE AIR by a net control or relay. Check out via AIM or similar methods are now allowed and should be announced by net control or relay.

SPLIT FREQUENCY - DX split frequency operations are now allowed on OMISS. DX station may use AIM or other methods to inform the net of the DX transmit frequency.

OMISS REFLECTOR – This reflector was set up as an alternate method for members to receive/transmit announcements concerning OMISS and ham radio in general. It is not intended to be a platform for gripes and complaints. If any member has a gripe or complaint, please contact either me or another Board member directly. You may contact me via e-mail or telephone, (phone # available on request). Also if you would not say it on the air, please do not say it on the reflector!!

Always please remember this: OMISS is a HAM RADIO CLUB!.....not a computer club.

73, Darin

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND APPOINTMENTS

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15M – N7FUD, Ron, 1914
17M – K0CFI, Joe, 3198
20M – KC9NN, Fred, 324
40M – N0FV, Don, 4709
80M – K4JRK, Jeff, 962
160M – W9QX, David, 4376

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers report for January, 2006

1-1 Balance	4,695.88
December expense	690.00
December income	656.00
1/31 balance	4,661.08

DAN, KC0FRL, 4039 ROXIE, SWL 7 QSL BUREAU

Just a reminder to everyone, postage rates increased last January. Please be certain you have the correct amount of postage on envelopes being mailed to the bureau AND envelopes to be returned to you. Only #10 business size envelopes are accepted by the bureau for returning QSL cards to you.

QSL cards sent to the bureau will be returned to the originator after 30 days if the addressee does not have envelopes in the bureau unless the bureau has received instructions from the sender to destroy them. We regret having to take this step but it is necessary because of the volume of QSL cards being handled by the bureau.

Roxie says,
I just think the membership should know that for this past year Dan has really done most of the work. I was busy taking care of my Mom, who has Alzheimer's. Dan really pitched in and did a lot of things around home that I took care of before. In November, we placed Mom in a nursing home, so my time was once again somewhat freed up. We have just sold her house, after months of sorting and getting rid of everything.

As you can see this last year has not been easy or calm, but that's life. I just thought you should know Dan has been super about taking it all on with me. Just as a reminder, any mistakes made in the Bureau are mine. He never makes a mistake! HI! Hi! Now that I'm back on the job, things go a lot faster and smoother for us both. Thank you all for your patience.

Roxie KCØLLB

CONGRATULATIONS!

The membership voted the OMISS member of the year award to Dan, KC0FRL and Roxie, SWL8, his XYL, for their outstanding work and service to the OMISS membership as QSL Bureau Managers. CONGRATULATIONS and a great big thank you from all of us!

Also congratulations to WA4RRR who the board voted in January to receive the Joe Fish Meritorious Service Award. If you are not familiar with this award please look it up on the OMISS web site or ask one of our officers about it. This honor makes --- a permanent VIP.

TOPS OPS

Members receiving the monthly top op award :

Jan	KC9NN, 324
Feb (TIE)	K0CFI, 4067
	KA3FBI, 328

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

AWARDS MANAGER

Joe is still getting through all the boxes of materials and at the same time trying to process the award information that he has received.

For those that have sent in award applications prior to his taking over and have not received anything yet, he has approximately 25-30 applications (some with qsl cards) to go through, so there might be a short delay before he starts getting things out; however, members can start submitting applications for OMISS awards.

Some delay may be due to the location of his QTH. His office/ham shack is in an out building attached to their storage shed and even with 2 heaters on full force, it has only been about 45-

50 degrees inside. The insulation didn't get installed last summer, but hopefully will this year and then it will be more comfortable out there in the Iowa winters.

Applications should be mailed to:

Joe Hoepfner, K0CFI
PO Box 81
Dunkerton, IA 50626
319-822-3220

ROBERT, N5PLJ, 3263

Received my copy of O/MISSILE. Thanks a bunch. I have got out of Ham Radio, Sold all my rig and tower-Atten's. I have 95% hearing loss, hard to read lips over the radio!!

83 years young with cancer and diabetes, still very active. Do my own yard and saw my fire wood.

Also still hunt deer, turkey and fish. Very active on the internet and email. As you can see I am not sitting around feeling sorry for myself.

Would love to hear from any of the gal's and guy's I worked on 10-20-40 O'MISS nets in the past. I expect some have gone on to where the propagation is always perfect. Again thanks to O'MISS for all the pleasure in the past.

n5plj@mail.utexas.edu

PAUL, K9PEP, 4831

One night our Net Control, was explaining to a new comer, that one could work "WAS" in "no time", via OMISS.

So just to keep myself busy, I looked back, and I found that operating an average of 1 day a week, I had "worked all states", in just under 6 months, including the time for cards to get mailed to me etc.. I suspect that a "dedicated" individual could do it in much less, maybe as soon as 2 weeks.

Then there are all the other "contests", that "OMISS" has. 200 counties in 7 months. 200 grid squares in 8 months. I have even worked all states "1X3", but am unable to apply for that award as yet, because 2 individuals have failed (even after 2 and 3 requests, to QSL).

Now you may say “but I do not have an amplifier”! Well neither do I. An astute observer might have noticed that I usually receive a lower signal report than I gave. This is due mostly to the fact that I run an average 25 watts power. Now and again, it will slip up to nearly 30, but I try to keep it constant.

Many countries in fact, limit their Amateurs to 100 watts maximum input. They seem to be able to work us “fine business” running their “legal limit”. Point I am trying to make here is “do not let lack of power or some other excuse” ruin your fun, just work those that you can, and tomorrow is a new day.

Now as to all you “OLD timers” remember the new kids on the block (such as me), and check in now and again, to give them a chance at one of your QSL cards. Now for all you that can not afford to buy cards, I have received a few “Hand printed” cards, and they get the job done just as well as a fancy card would. Many of us even use our computer and print our own cards. Sure they are not “Professional”, but it can be fun making your own cards to send out. And it is not very expensive at all. The important things are the frequency worked, the time and date worked, and of course YOUR call, as well as the call of the station receiving the card. This could be hand printed on a post card, and mailed from your home to the recipient, and the postmark would confirm where it was sent from. Unless, of course if you are traveling, and send it from some where other than your home town, as I do quite frequently.

PETE, KF5RD, 2061

FIREWORKS FANFARE (BIO-TERRPR EXERCISE)

Early to bed and early to rise! Where have I heard that before? And where did all these cars come from? Never have seen so much traffic! But then it has been four years since I HAD to be up at it by 0730...

The Tulsa City/County Health Dept (THD) has a very fine amateur radio shack. I thank Dave, NB5N for asking me to help operate during the bio-terror exercise this past week. Even if we did not use the TARC super system (OKC health dept could not hit the Stillwater repeater) we as amateurs were able to come up with a system that worked. We used TRO's 444.100 UHF

repeater. W5JPI, Gorden in Stillwater acted as a relay point. We were able in the very early morning hours to be able to work on the 146.670 repeater direct to OKC but by 0830 that went away for the day. Was able to talk on HF 40 meters to WB5SYT, John the OK SM. He was at the OKC health dept as I understand it.

We also had other amateurs deployed to the fairgrounds. We did hour and half hour radio checks with Stillwater and the fairgrounds. I operated two days (Wednesday and Thursday) while some only operated on Thursday. On Wednesday I logged my own call at the THD station but on Thursday I had an amateur (XYL no less) that works for THD as my logger. I tried to get her to take the mike but no dice!!! I got to meet some folks that I have talked to over the years and had up to them never meet. One was KC5FM, Lloyd from Prior, OK. He came to the radio desk and shook my hand but would not let go of it. He knew my name but I sure did not know his. I asked if he was an American Airlines retiree? Nope! I saw no name badge on him so I asked are you an amateur radio operator? YEP!
OK give me a hint...what is the call sign!!!

Did get to work ONE new County on 20 meters at the close of the Thursday exercise. The HF was poor most of the two days we were there...

Being an amateur radio operator I would like to see the next exercise run where ALL cell phones were impounded for the day!!!!

JOE, K0CFI, 4067

A Bit of DX Fun for Fifteen Months

What does someone in the US military do, when they draw a 15 month assignment to a 16x11 mile island in the middle Atlantic? Well fortunately I was a ham, and at the time being involved in AF MARS, I was able to find another ham that was stationed there and Mike (CU3LF/KB3RG) told me of the fantastic opportunities that I could have.

So, I departed the US just after July 4, 1992 and arrived in the Azores on the 7th. My first weekend there was spent visiting Mike at his home, and getting the paperwork finished so we could send it off the next week. Since I was in processing at a new assignment, I had a bit of

time, so Mike and I went and took the paperwork to the Portuguese Communications Officer on the base. You couldn't do anything without their approval anyway. After a short conversation, and finding out he was also a ham, but I don't remember his call now, he made a call to Lisbon, and within the next 30 minutes, written permission had come back from Lisbon for me to operate as CU3/N0FHL (my former call) until my hard copy license (CU3LG) had arrived. So in the next several evenings, Mike and I proceeded to set up an R5 and a dipole on the roof of the building I was in. We at first set up a KWM2A (one advantage to being in the MARS program) that Mike had as an extra radio, and I was on the air. Not the best set up, but it was better than nothing, and since I was working a rotating shift, I could get on the air almost anytime that I wished.

Two contests later, and about a week, I was moving into a new dormitory on the base. Fortunately I had my choice of rooms, and opted for the one on the third floor. Since this was a fairly new building, there was no way to put the antennas on the roof, so we were back to square one, of operating from Mike's location, when he would let me. Then one night at Angra on the other side of the island, at the local ham club house, we talked to one of the local amateurs who actually worked in another part of the unit that Mike was assigned to, and since that was Civil Engineers, both he and Mike came over to my room. We actually figured that if we could somehow put the vertical out the window, that I should at least be able to get on 10-20 meters. So we took some measurements, and the next day when I answered the knock at my door, Jose brought in the mount and some wood (so as not to damage the walls). We took out the screen in the window, and placed the bracket over the window frame, put the R5 on a couple of 5 foot masts and put it on the bracket. I was now on the air again. We did some creative work, and managed to seal up the remainder of the window, so it would keep the weather out, and I was in Ham Heaven again.

It may not sound like the best station, but to give you an idea, Lajes Field in the Azores, was at about 100 ft above the ocean, my dorm was at the top of a 200 foot hill about 1/2 mile from the edge of the island, and I was on the third floor. I had upgraded the rig to a Drake R7 with external VFO which I had talked Mike into selling me (you can see my operating position at qrz.com under my call). From here I worked the world on my days off, only stopping to go to eat meals

or to sleep/shower and other necessary things. Until it got too much to handle, I also flooded the Military Post Office with incoming mail to me. When it got too many to handle at one time, I enlisted the help of a stateside qsl manager to handle the confirmations. All I had to do was mail copies of my logbooks every two weeks to Frank (WA1ECA). Yes all my 7 log books and a 5 subject narrow ruled spiral notebook were full of contacts that I made in my 15 months, and I didn't have a computer for logging, nor an internet connection to send Frank digitized logs.

It got to the point; it seemed that every time I turned on the radio, I could create a pileup, especially when I got on the WARC Bands. I continued to operate from this location until around September of 1993 when I had to pack the equipment and antenna for shipment to return stateside. Now I had to go to the base MARS station if I wanted to operate, but no problem as I was one of the volunteer operators for there, and had the access code to get into the building. So now I had the Base MARS radios with amplifiers and the dipoles (on 80 foot telephone poles) on the top of a 300 foot hill at my disposal. Most of the time if I was operating from there, I would operate between 10 and 20 until we opened the station around 4 pm in the afternoon, and then would switch to 12 or 17 so as not to interfere with the MARS operations on 14MHz. Although sometimes the 17 meter ops would have to subside until the phone patch was complete, I'd go again, once the patches were done.

I was kind of disappointed when it came time to return to the states, other than knowing that in that 15 months I'd qualified for DXCC with over 200 confirmed DX entities, WAS on 20 and about 10 shy on 15, and 25 shy on 10, WAC, and around 15 - 20 short of WAZ. It was difficult to just rag chew on the bands, but occasionally I'd run across friends I had made on the bands and could take the time to chat with them which was a pleasant change from the constant 59 Azores, and move to next contact.

I will say that I had a good experience on the other side of the DX and I think that experience has made me more tolerant when trying to work DX stations from the states. I would recommend that if any of you have the opportunity to try DX from some location, it is really fun.

As of this writing, Mike and I are working on plans to Nunavut (VY0) in Canada but I can't say for sure when we are going to try this one.

We are just in the planning stages right now, but be assured, that if we do get it off the ground, OMISS will be one of the first to know, and I will try to bring it on during one or more of the nets.

CHARLIE, W0MWU, 2603
September, 1918 – October 11, 2005

Our 'old timers' will be sorry to learn of Charlie's passing. He loved OMISS and was our treasurer from 1993-1999. He was one of the most regular voices on 40m. He had a strong signal and when he wasn't net control, he was always available to assist the net controller. Your editor's first contact with him was on October 16, 1990. Charlie and I never met but we immediately became good friends. The same year he lost his wife, he lost his antenna in a winter storm and he began to have health problems and he never returned to ham radio. Afterwards I phoned him several times and always enjoyed chatting with him but for several reasons I could not get him to return to the ham shack.

RICK, AJ5L, 3126

We recently learned of Rick's passing. Many of you will remember Rick. He was an 18 wheeler over-the-road driver, KE7EV when he joined OMISS. A few years ago he moved to Texas, KK5BR, and upgraded to become AJ5L. He spent a lot of hours helping many of us get our WAS and he was a friend who will be missed.

FRED, KC9NN, 324
ROSTER CHAIRMAN

Anyone want to work all states? Try being a net control, it is easy and fun and you can work those hard to get states wthey they check in and you can hear them.

I'm the net coordinator for 20 meters and have been a Net Control Station (NCS) since the fall of 1981 and I'm still doing it on 20 meters on Fridays. We are always in the need of additional NCS and alternates. If you are interested in

giving it a try just drop me an email at kc9nn@arrl.net.

Fred is also our roster chairman and ask that any one relocating, or upgrading to please let him know.

JUST A REMINDER

All OMISS nets operate on UTC time and net times do not change with daylight saving time.

160 meters, 1.880, Fri & Sat 0400 (Closes 3/28/04)
75 meters 3.940.5, 0200 daily
75 meters 3.940.5 , 0500 Fri & Sat
40 meters, 7.263.5, 0100 daily
40 meters late net, 7.263.5 0300 Fri & Sat
20 meters, 14.29, 1830 Mon through Sat
17 meters, 18.165, 1900 Sat and Sun (Closes 3/28/04)
15 Meters, 21.360, 1700 Sat & Sun, and Holiday Mondays.
10 Meters, 28.665, 1800 Sat and Sun

EDITORIAL, N5VTP, 2869

Many thanks to our contributors, it is only with the help of your input that this newsletter can be published. The next issue is due to be published in August, so put your thinking cap on and send me something to include in that issue.

73, Harry